



**WESTLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL**  
Aspiring & Achieving Together



[www.shaw-education.org.uk](http://www.shaw-education.org.uk)

**HEADTEACHER: MR CARLTON BRAMWELL** *BEd (Hons), MSc, NPQH*

22 June 2018

Dear Parent or Carer

### The Rebranding of Westleigh High School

The academisation of Westleigh, in partnership with the Shaw Education Trust, promises to be an exciting period of change and a valuable opportunity to move into a positive future for our students.

Academisation is a relatively modern concept; it rethinks the way some things have always been done and challenges old practises, introducing new ideas more appropriate for a modern way of learning, embracing new developments and casting away old impediments.

Academisation acknowledges that we, who live and work and were often born and raised in this area, are far better placed to decide what our school wants and needs. Therefore, as an academy, we will be have more power to decide our own future – giving us the autonomy to do what is right for our school, staff and students.

To support us in our mission to raise students' aspirations, Westleigh will be joining the Shaw Education Trust, a growing multi-academy Trust which provides quality education across all phases, all sectors and all communities. The values of the Trust are well-aligned with those of the school and, given the vast amount of expertise and opportunities the Trust can offer both staff and students, we felt that the Trust was a good fit for the school and its needs.

As an outward symbol of the new beginning that academisation represents, it is our intention to rebrand the school as part of the conversion process; including changing the name of the school.

We are proud of the local area and want to ensure that the school remains a key feature in the Westleigh community, while demonstrating a fresh start for the school. For this reason, Westleigh High School will be changing to **The Westleigh School**.

To further identify the school as part of the Westleigh community, the school's historic 'badge', which is indicative of the area, will remain the same.

As well as this, we also plan to change Westleigh's uniform. The school has had the same uniform since 1976, in which time the community and school has undergone several changes, so we think it is time for a new uniform that belongs to children of a new era, rather than one that is defined by the past. This new uniform will represent all the good things that Westleigh means today as a progressive school in a modern age.

We take the views of parents, students and staff very seriously and a consultation with all stakeholders has taken place and has the full support of the Parents and Friends of Westleigh forum. The new blazer proposed has proved a popular choice when trialled with our students. The fabric that the blazer is manufactured from is also known to be more resilient and hard wearing than that of the old blazers so they will look smarter and will be easier to maintain.

Continued overleaf

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 @WestleighHigh

Our current accompanying burgundy jumper will still be optional. This is a nod to Westleigh's proud heritage and tradition. New ties are also proposed with each year group being assigned its own colour.

There is no other change to uniform, ie skirt, trousers, shoes, coat remain unchanged. Also, there are no plans at the present time to change the PE kit.

What will the changes in uniform mean for parents?

All students will receive a new blazer and tie at **no extra cost to parents**. It should be noted that funding has been ring-fenced for this purpose and, therefore it cannot be spent on other resources.

If you have recently purchased a blazer, we have agreed that this can be returned to the local supplier for a refund.

The new uniform is seen as an integral part of our school's development plan and as such the changes to blazer and tie will be fully funded by the Shaw Education Trust. I have attached an example of the blazer and the tie on the photograph will be for Y11 Student Leaders only. Each year group will have a different coloured tie, details of which will be confirmed.

To help parents with the process of obtaining a new blazer, all students will be measured in school, and the blazer will be available for collection before we return in September. Further details regarding this process will be made available before the end of the school year.

If you have any concerns regarding the proposed rebranding plans, please contact:  
Mrs Gillian Reiersen, School Business Manager or email: [enquiries@admin.westleigh.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.westleigh.wigan.sch.uk).

A copy of this letter is available via the school's website: [www.westleigh.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.westleigh.wigan.sch.uk) and we invite you to regularly check the website for updated information.

Yours faithfully



**C BRAMWELL**  
Headteacher