

17 December 2024



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Smestow is officially one of the most improved secondary schools in the country!

I am delighted that we can now officially celebrate our wonderful GCSE exam results from last Summer as the performance tables have now been published by the Department for Education. As we thought, we are one of the most improved schools in the country for pupil Progress (21st most improved Progress 8 score out of over 3000 secondary schools), and we have moved from being 4th worst for pupil progress in Wolverhampton (out of the 20 secondary schools) to 6th best in the space of one year! Please see below link:

[All schools and colleges in Wolverhampton - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#)

Please see below table to summarise our Headline figures for last year in comparison to previous years:

Year	Progress 8 score	GCSE Grade 5+ in both English and Maths	GCSE Grade 4+ in both English and Maths
2019	-0.48	28%	48%
2022	-0.33	33%	55%
2023	-0.35	34%	56%
2024	+0.31	44%	61%

I would also like to thank parents for their support in continuing to help us improve attendance at school as we have now surpassed the national average figure from, once upon a time, being one of the worst attending schools in the country. Our 3.5% increase last academic year from (85.4% To 88.9%) has now been followed by a 3.4% increase so far this year to 92.3%. A true example of 'Success achieved together', where less of our children will have gaps in their learning and will be able to maximise their achievements and progress.

Updates for the end of term arrangements and the start of the new term

End of term:

The school term ends on Thursday 19 December 2024 with pupils being dismissed at 12:30pm. The 751 bus will be collecting pupils at this time.



Smestow Academy
Windmill Crescent
Castlecroft
Wolverhampton
WV3 8HU
West Midlands



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01902 539500

Smestow Academy

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If your child is entitled to free school meals, a packed lunch will be available to collect from the school canteen when pupils are dismissed. If you wish for your child to have a packed lunch provided on this day, please request one through postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk no later than 2pm on Wednesday 18 December 2024.

Start of term:

The new term starts on Tuesday 7 January 2025 for all year groups.

School closures for training:

Please can I also draw your attention to the remaining training days this year, when school will be closed to pupils:

Friday 20 December 2024

Monday 6 January 2025

Friday 11 April 2025

Monday 21 July 2025

Uniform

A reminder that our uniform consists of:

- Black blazer
- White school shirt
- School tie in house colours (minimum of 6 stripes to be visible)
- Black 'V' neck long sleeve jumper (optional)
- Black tailored trousers or black formal skirt (appropriate length)
- Black socks or tights (not patterned)
- Plain black leather shoes
- One pair of small stud earrings to be worn in the lower lobe
- No facial piercings, nail varnish, false lashes or false nails
- Natural hair colour only
- No shaved lines in hair/eyebrows

Recently we have had an increase in pupils wearing unsmart white socks and of a small number of girls wearing inappropriate length skirts. We ask for your support in addressing this. Pupils not upholding the correct standard of uniform following the Christmas break will be sanctioned.

More detail for clarity on the expected standard of uniform (including appropriate skirts) can be found at <https://smestowacademy.co.uk/uniform/>

Please ensure that your child has a calculator for Maths lessons, these are available to buy from the school shop.

Other reminders

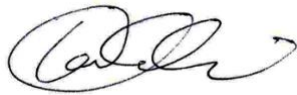
If you need to contact school regarding your child, please call and select appropriate House office to get in touch with your child's Head of House. All parental contact comes through the House office for consistency. If you would prefer a meeting, please do call and book in advance and not arrive in reception and expect to be seen. Heads of House or senior leaders may have lessons or other meetings already booked.



If you have any changes to contact details or you move address, please ensure you inform school for most up to date contact details.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and wish you and your family a happy new year.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



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