



Winchmore School

learning to realise potential

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Headteacher: Jim Owen

Dear Students and Families,

Enhancing School Safety and Security

Our top priority is the safety and security of our school community. To strengthen our “culture of vigilance,” we are emphasising the importance of **Visual Verification** - the ability to identify, at a glance, that everyone on site is a member of our school. Following recent staff training, student assemblies, and the introduction of new safety posters, we are writing to ask for your continued support in keeping our school secure.

Sadly, history has shown that intruders can access school grounds by blending in. By dressing like students and walking casually, they can bypass security. With nearly 2,000 people moving through our corridors daily, we cannot rely on facial recognition alone.

To ensure our environment remains secure, we require the following without exception:

- Sixth Form: Students must wear their official lanyards clearly and correctly.
- Years 7–11: Students must wear the full school uniform or PE kit at all times.

These items are the clearest signals that a person belongs in our community. They allow staff and students to immediately distinguish a current student from a visitor or an unauthorised adult. If everyone follows these expectations, an intruder becomes instantly visible, allowing us to intervene seconds faster.

The Leadership Team is currently exploring the possibility of all students, including those in Years 7–11, wearing lanyards in school. We would value your input on this potential change. Please share your thoughts with your child’s Head of Year.

Please ensure your child leaves home every morning in their full uniform/PE kit or wearing their lanyard. By doing so, you are helping us protect our community while maintaining a welcoming environment for our invited guests.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support, particularly in relation to keeping our school safe.

Yours faithfully,

The Leadership Team