

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Dear parents and carers

We have had a busy start to the year, with pupils and staff adjusting to the new routines. I am delighted by how well our pupils have adapted, and I have spoken to a large number of young people who are glad to be back. Year 9 have shown real resilience, having not had a chance for a transition before the summer.

A key message from me is that we will be insisting on *lanyards being worn all the time*, and that they must be visible. The lanyards are so that we can make sure that year group bubbles stay apart, and so is a central part of our health and safety procedures.

Please support your child by having an *evening routine* that includes packing and checking their bag. Make sure they bring in the resources they need as we are unable to share many resources. Could I also give a reminder about all pupils bringing in a *good supply of water* and a packed lunch if possible. A very small selection of lunch options are available, but with a short lunch break it is important for pupils to have some time to socialise.

Could I ask that you do not deliver items to your child at the school. If your child has forgotten their lunch, please call the school and let us know. Please do not deliver equipment, including a PE kit. Thank you.

Mrs Clark Year Leader for Year 9 said:

'On Wednesday we welcomed the new Year 9 cohort to Wootton Upper School. I was hugely impressed by their attendance, work ethic, and attitude to towards staff and peers. They show great potential as a year group to achieve to their full potential. I spent time in each of the classrooms throughout their first day, and was pleased to see how well they conducted themselves. A great start to the year following such uncertain times.'

Year 10 joined us on Thursday

Mr McNerney and Mrs Strickland would like to say a big welcome back to year 10 students. We know things are going to be different, but are excited to see you now commence your options as you begin your new journey! On Thursday morning students met their form tutors and were taken to their learning zones, all students have been made aware of the new school routines and what we are all expecting from them in order to protect themselves and their fellow peers. It has been a pleasure to see so many year 10 engaging with tasks they have been set and we are looking forward to seeing the outstanding progress they will make moving forward. Ensure you all continue to work hard, be resilient and overcome the challenges that lie ahead. Well done!

Year 11 joined us on Friday:

I am delighted to see Year 11 again. I have been overwhelmed with pride at their mature and positive approach to school. They have been so resilient and adaptable to the new systems, and I feel they have set the standard for Wootton Upper School pupils. They deserve every success this academic year. Well done! Mr Kane.

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Looking back and looking forward

We are so glad to be reopening for all of our pupils. We are excited to try to get back to 'as normal as possible'. Some of our pupils will not have been in school since March and some came into school almost every day and worked in our key worker provision. Staff applauded as these pupils left on the last day. We also planted a tree in our Peace Garden to acknowledge this challenging period of time.



We would like to thank Kempston Nursery for kindly donating a Sorbus tree and planting materials. Upon hearing that it was to mark the challenges faced by many in our community, as well as the engagement of the children of key workers, they were happy to help.

More information on the nursery can be found at <https://www.kempstonnurseries.co.uk/> and the Trust is incredibly grateful for their generosity.

We encourage families to share any information to enable us to support your child. We have planned to focus on areas within PSHCE and Guidance such as: strategies to support mental wellbeing, revisiting study skills and supporting each other through themes such as gratitude.

A message from Mrs Enser, our Designated Safeguarding Lead

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bedfordshire CAMHS have been adapting their provision to provide as much support to the children, young people, parents/carers and professionals we work with. In addition to the work of the CAMHS School Team, there is now a crisis support line for all people, available through the NHS 111 support line. We would like to share that self-referrals can now be submitted from young people and families, a referral form can be accessed online, as follows: <https://camhs.elft.nhs.uk/>

Wishing you all a restful weekend

Mrs McMorn
Head of School