

Dear Parents/Carers

Wootton Academy Trust News

Children in Need and Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal

Today, we held a mufti day at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College with the proceeds being shared equally between Children in Need and the Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal. Our Trust has supported these two charities for many years. Donations from pupils and students were £2 and from staff £5. Everyone has lived up to our motto 'The pursuit of excellence' because it has been business as usual in terms of learning! We thank them all. The staff and pupils at Wootton have raised a phenomenal **£1625.60 so far**, with more promised for Monday. We will further update you with the final Trust total next week.

In our special edition on Monday, we mentioned that pupils had written poems in their English lessons last Friday.

We have included a poem by Harvey West in today's letter for you to read:

A Poppy, Blood Red

The Noise of the battle, Report from the guns,
Gave sad soldiers shell-shock, from battles lost and won.

No-Man's land between trenches with the stench of the dead,
One plant growing through all, a poppy, blood red.

In the time between battles, the worn soldiers sat,
Mostly cleaning their rifles or getting food in the mess,
Using time to shine boots, sometimes avoiding a rat,
They lived in fear and boredom, some lucky ones played chess.

And when the war was over, some soldiers went home,
The officers and generals, the most purebred,
The rest of the soldiers lay dead in the field.
now nothing left of them, nothing but bones,
One plant growing through all, a poppy, blood red.

By Harvey West

All our pupils have attended an outstanding assembly this week led by Miss Powell. She spoke movingly about Wootton and Kempston residents who fought for us and lost their lives in World War 2. She linked the well-known quote 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today' to the charities supported by the British Legion as well as those supported by Children in Need. In particular she mentioned charities local to us that support families in our community.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

MK Theatre – Glyndebourne Opera trip

On Thursday 14 November a group of Year 9 – 11 pupils attended a trip to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch Glyndebourne's production of Donizetti's *L'elisir D'Amore*. The plot centres around a peasant boy, Nemorino, and his love for the beautiful and wealthy village girl, Adina. Nemorino is left chasing and longing for her to accept him but to no avail. That is, until the charming and persuasive Dr Dulcamara arrives in town with a guaranteed love potion. After much fuss (and a superb performance of the renowned 'Una furtive lagrima'), Adina and Nemorino find love for each other and promise to remain committed to each other forever.

For many pupils, this was their first experience at the opera and what a magical time it was! The piece was hugely comedic, with a superb set design, a talented cast and magnificent orchestra - they even got to meet the cast after the show! Mr Hooper would like to thank all of the pupils who attended this trip. They represented our Trust superbly - they were polite, engaged, incredibly well-behaved at all times, well-presented and an utter delight for the entire duration. Mr Hooper has also asked that all of the staff who accompanied the pupils on this trip are thanked for giving up their time, and finally a very big thank you to Mr Stewart for organising the event.

Wootton Academy Trust Christmas Concert

The Music Department is now working flat-out for the Christmas Concert on Thursday 12 December 2019 which will start at 7 pm. The choir sounded really good on Tuesday afternoon. Pupils are putting in lots of work to ensure that it will be a really enjoyable and festive evening. Please make a note of the date and come along and support the Trust's musicians; the newly formed trumpet quartet will be a star item!

Wootton Academy Trust Governing Boards

Both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College each have Local Governing Boards to oversee the running of these institutions. The Multi Academy Trust Board is keen that parent governors play a significant role on each Local Governing Board. Later in the Newsletter there is an update on vacancies for parent governors.

Staff News

Over the last two weeks two members of staff have been on paternity leave; Mr Josiah and his wife became parents to a baby girl called Daisy May and Mr Foster-Smith and his wife welcomed their son, Robin Alexander, to the world. We are delighted for both colleagues and their wives.

News from Wootton Upper School

Wootton Upper School Parent Governor Vacancy

One of Wootton Upper School's parent governors, Mrs Lesley Noble, has resigned after two and a half years' service to the governing board. Mrs Noble's new job prevents her from attending LGB meetings. We are very sad to lose Mrs Noble from the Board and thank her for her service. Mrs Noble has taken a particular interest in Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance We wish Mrs Noble every success in her new role. **Over the next week or so, we will write to parents to invite them to consider putting themselves forward to become a parent governor.** Today, we are announcing the vacancy so that parents can think about whether they would like to apply for this important role and if they would like to find out more about what is involved, to give them an opportunity get in touch with Mr Gleeson before the vacancy goes live.

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Wootton Upper School Christmas Services at St Mary's Church

One of our other Christmas traditions is our annual visit to St Mary's Church in the last week of the autumn term. We have started planning for the services; our theme this year should be popular with pupils, as it is the number one issue voted by young people across the East of England namely, saving our environment. We are very grateful that the Reverend Canon Peter Ackroyd has agreed to build the Christmas Story service around this theme.

Our senior students have already started to write their contribution to the service. If any parent/carer does not want their child to take part in this service, please write to Mr Gleeson or email wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Similarly, each year some former Wootton Upper School pupils, now attending Kimberley College always ask if they can come along to one of the services. We would be delighted to welcome them but ask that they give their names to Reception at Kimberley College.

Year 10 Parents Evening

Over 60% of parents booked appointments within twenty-four hours of the site going live this week. Some teachers' appointment schedules were booked up by the end of this timeframe.

Royal Marines visit Wootton Upper School

On Wednesday 6 November 2019 the PE Department welcomed the Royal Marines to talk to GCSE PE pupils about possible career pathways into the Military. Pupils took part in a presentation and Question and Answer session about the life of a Royal Marine covering areas such as travelling, training, team work and resilience, and were then put through their paces with a gruelling fitness session. The Marines were very impressed by the effort levels and attitudes of our Y11 students.



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News from Kimberley College

Kimberley College Parent Governor

We are delighted to announce that **Kirstie Loveday**, parent of a Year 12 Kimberley College student, has been appointed to the Kimberley Local Governing Board. Ms Loveday was the only person who was nominated for the vacant position and therefore, there is no need for a ballot. Ms. Loveday is a qualified accountant and holds the National Diploma in School Business Management. She has broad professional experience both in industry and not for profit organisations including over ten years in a variety of educational organisations ranging from post-graduate university to a village primary school. Ms Loveday has experience of being a parent governor at Bedford Free School; she very much welcomes the opportunity to support the college and play a part in its' future development.

Deep Dive!

Over the last two weeks, governors at Kimberley College have undertaken two "Deep-Dives" spending time at the College meeting students and staff as well as undertaking a range of visits to lessons with teaching staff. "Deep Dives" provide governors with first-hand experience of how the college operates. The governors have asked that all the students and staff they met during their visits are thanked for their help and support; the governors have also commented on how much they learned from their visits to lessons!

Road Victims Trust Talk on Road Safety at Kimberley College

This week, students at Kimberley have been attending road safety talks which cover key causes of road traffic incidents and injuries: driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs; driving whilst not wearing a seat belt; driving whilst using a mobile phone or other technological devices, and driving too quickly.

The presenter, Mark Turner, a former police officer with many years of experience in road traffic, now volunteers for a local charity, **The Road Victims Trust**, which supports all families in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire who suffer a fatality in their family due to a road traffic incident.



The presentation included clips of road traffic incidents which certainly caused the students to think about the consequences of very bad decision making. Our thanks go to Mr Turner for delivering the sessions and to Mrs Everett for organizing them.

Kimberley Open Evening

Over 1200 individuals attended the college Open Evening on Wednesday. The car park was packed and lots of pupils from Wootton and other schools were able to talk to current Kimberley students and to staff. If you missed the event, please go to the college website. Our thanks go to everybody who organized the Open Evening especially Mrs Nicola Lowe and the support staff, who worked so hard to make it so successful. The College Leadership Team is really indebted to you all.

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Remembrance 2019

Following the special Armistice Day Newsletter that was published on Monday 11 November 2019, we learned that Luke Green, a Kimberley College student, was selected to represent the Sea Cadets at a Remembrance Parade in Belgium. This must have been a very special occasion which Luke will remember for many years to come.

Student Leave of Absence Request Procedure

Please can we remind you that should your son/daughter need to be absent from college for any known reason then a Leave of Absence **request** must be completed **before** the day of the absence. Forms can now be completed online via the Kimberley website under the Parent Tab or collected from Reception. Failure to complete a Leave of Absence Request Form could result in the absence being unauthorised. If you are reporting your son/daughter absent because of an illness, please continue to use the Report Absence form.

Wootton Academy Trust Staff Vacancies

We are already starting to turn our attention to recruiting teaching staff for next September. If you know somebody who is training to be a teacher this year, or who is already a teacher looking to move to Wootton and/or Kimberley, please ask them to get in contact the school. We have adverts out at the moment for a teacher of PE and a teacher of English and we are also advertising for three key support staff roles:

A **Safeguarding Officer** who will work alongside our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Enser), our Safeguarding and Early Help Officer (Mrs Farrant) and our Administrative Assistant (Mrs Macmillan)

An **Attendance and Educational Welfare Officer** working across the Trust supporting members of our excellent Attendance Team and Pastoral Team.

A **Design Technology Technician** to support our teachers in Product Design and Engineering. (*This last post could suit a recently retired person who wishes to work on a part time basis or a person wishing to work more hours*).

Yours sincerely

Wootton Academy Trust