

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Today staff and volunteers were out in the community to deliver food to families who may need it during these challenging times. Thomas Johnson Lower School, Houghton Conquest Lower School, Holywell School, Cranfield Academy, Marston Moretyne School and Marston Vale Middle School all allowed us to use their schools as distribution points so that parents/carers could come along to collect food. Other families came along to Wootton Upper School and we also went out to towns and villages all over Bedfordshire where there are families we were supporting, including in Luton, Biggleswade, Sandy, Bedford, Kempston and other smaller communities. Mrs McMamamy, who organized the event, was supported by volunteers **Mr Haddon**, Chair of WAT Board, **Mr and Mrs Darlow**, **George Darlow**, **Sam Brightman**, **Mrs Enser**, **Mrs Genders**, **Mr Hance**, **Mr Malciw**, **Mrs McMorn**, **Mrs Rydeheard** and **Mr and Mrs Worrall**.



Mrs McMorn and Mrs Genders at Marston Moretyne School

Mrs McMorn commented that "it was a pleasure to see so many pupils and their parents and carers (at a good 2m distance) and we would like to thank families for their kind words." Mrs McMamamy has forwarded two emails she received from families, which we share with you.

Dear all

I would like to say a big thank you for the food parcel received today, I'm overwhelmed by your kindness. This will all help immensely. Thank you so much!

Kind regards

Dear Mr Gleeson

I wanted to personally thank you for sorting out all the free school meal parcels so quickly. When we collected it today it brought tears to my eyes the amount of food and effort that has gone into sorting this out is incredible. During the time of uncertainty, we have been so thankful for all the updates & support from Wootton. We are not key workers so our boys are at home. But thank you to all your staff who when everyone is self-isolating they are continuing to dedicate their help & support these children. God Bless

May I extend my own thanks to everybody who helped.

We know our letters are getting through to you and we love to get your responses! **We would love to hear from more families about how they are, and how students enjoy working independently.** Our staff are still working hard - online - and are there to feedback on the work being completed. They are getting many pieces but do prompt your children to keep busy.

We have had a lot of questions about exams. Ofqual has said it will publish information next week about how grades will be worked out for the summer 2020 GCSE and A level examinations. We will let you know as soon as we have received the guidance. In the meantime, Mr Detheridge and Dr Mackay are publishing this evening some FAQs re Year 13 examinations. We hope you find these useful.

We need everyone in our community to ensure that students in Years 9,10 and 12 students are working hard; they will have less time in classroom-based lessons, than Year 11 and Year 13 have had, before their exams and assessments next academic year.

All students should be working hard because whatever they study in September will assume they have kept up their studies. In the next newsletter I will include some more great examples of work produced this week by hard working students. A number of you have commented that it is really useful for us to show you examples of work, as it enables you to compare it with the work your own children are doing and also to have strong evidence when you are told ... nobody else is doing the work! Mr Detheridge told me today that there is some stunning Year 13 work being produced by Kimberley College students.

Who has logged into Show My Homework today

Wootton Upper School	Year 9 (%)	Year 10 (%)	Year 11 (%)	Total
Logged in between midnight and 5:00pm today	246 (82)	255 (81)	171 (62)	672 (76)
Have not logged in since Thursday (the work was set to go live on Friday)	4 (1.3)	5 (1.6)	15 (5.4)	24 (2.7)

Mr Frazer commented... *“it is really impressive that the vast majority of our learners have now logged in to access their learning. We ask that all learners log in daily as a means of communicating with us that they are engaging with the work set. While the first set of work was planned to last two weeks, thereafter, the work will be set weekly, going live on Sunday so that families may discuss the week ahead”*

Dr Mackay reports that as of 5pm tonight access to SMH by KS5 shows

“As we review this past week we are delighted to share that 97% of Year 12 and Year 13 are engaging with their distance learning through Show My Homework. This shows the commitment of our students to their learning and determination to maximise their potential in preparation for their next steps whether that is progressing into Year 13 or life after Kimberley College. These impressive statistics are also evident in subgroup analysis where for example 100% of bursary students have accessed Show My Homework. May we remind students to login daily to both their emails and Show My Homework to ensure regular lines of communication. After a week of managing change and building resilience may we say well done to our students and to keep up the established routines in the weeks ahead. As well as a sincere thank you to all of our staff for supporting our students with their distance learning.”

Kimberley College	Y12	Y13	Total College
Number of students logged in Thursday 26/3 up until 5pm (%)	196 (71%)	172 (64%)	368 (68%)
Number of students logged in since Monday 23/3 (%)	272 (98%)	257 (96%)	529 (97%)
Not logged in since Thursday 19/3	4 (1%)	5 (2%)	9 (2%)

Mrs Adams has posted some work on SMH which she has asked me to bring to everyone's attention in the Newsletter. *"The media over the last few days has outlined all the lovely ways people are helping others during this terrible time. It made me realise that this shows **karuna** (a Sanskrit word meaning compassion) and Buddhist practice of loving-kindness (**metta**). Year 9 students have completed a lesson on both teachings this week. It demonstrates the Muslim teaching of **Sadaqah** (good actions).*

*Year 10 students have just completed the Islam Practices Topic where they have explored the **Five Pillars of Islam**. It puts into practice British values (Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Tolerance and Mutual Respect). Year 11 students have recently completed the Human Rights topic.*

On reflection I thought it would be lovely to ask students to come up with their own idea on how to help others during these difficult times."

In response to the nation coming together to applaud all workers in the National Health Service commitment and bravery, Mrs Adams has designed an 'enrichment project' for all Wootton Upper School students. She has put this on SMHW today with a deadline of 20th April. It would be truly amazing if we could collate as many ideas as possible that could then be published in a future newsletter. If anybody would like to sponsor the project so that the more imaginative entries get a prize, please do get in touch. Thank you.

We are of course very keen that Kimberley College Year 13 students are drafting applications for the **Connolly Foundation** Main Award and the Discretionary Award [*Mrs Ashby has sent all Year 13 students a separate letter today, regarding the Discretionary Award we wrote about last night*] and/or the Harpur Trust Bursary, and/or the Alderman Newton Award. We were asked this morning whether we are aware of any other schemes families resident in Central Bedfordshire can apply for; we are looking, and if we find any, we will let you know.

Finally, the numbers in our schools today were as follows; the total number of children in the lower schools, two middle schools in the Wootton Upper School catchment area, including Wootton Upper School children, was sixty-seven. Wootton Upper School had only five children today. Once again the number of children, the government defines as "*vulnerable*" was very low, only seven children in total across all schools. This is a concern to all of us, and in the case of Wootton Upper School, we would very much welcome them joining us.

I am very much looking forward to going through students' work and selecting some for the next newsletter.

"Be kind, be safe"

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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