

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Wootton Upper School News**

### ***the pursuit of excellence and our core values (Mrs Genders)***

During the last few days, I have spoken to many of our pupils, particularly girls, about the World Athletics Championships in Doha. Nearly all of them have seen the stunning success of Dina Asher-Smith and Katrina Johnson-Thompson and talked with great animation about the medals both young women have earned as well as beaming with smiles whilst talking about the events. I can think of no finer example than the achievements of these gold medal winning athletes to epitomise our motto, ***the pursuit of excellence*** as well as living out two of our Trust's core values – ***aspiration*** and ***belief in ourselves***.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Expedition (Mr Gleeson)**

Yesterday a minibus of pupils and staff set off for the Peak District to complete their silver award expedition over the next few days. We hope the weather is kind to them and that all are successful.

This expedition is likely to be the last one that Mr Richardson will lead as Wootton Academy Trust's Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator as he has confirmed his wish to stand down from the role at the end of October 2019. On behalf of our current pupils and many former pupils I would like to thank him for all he has done to re-establish The "D of E" award scheme at Wootton Academy Trust. In recent years a number of pupils have been invited to either Buckingham Palace or St James Palace to receive their gold awards. This would simply not have been possible without the leadership, encouragement and tenacity of Mr Richardson.

We have invited expressions of interest from our current staff to take the Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator role. Once we have identified a new Coordinator we will let you know who is stepping into Mr Richardson's shoes and start the 2019 – 2020 programme. If any parent/carer would be interested in helping with our D of E programme, please let us know.

### **What a week for the Drama Department and our GCSE Drama pupils! (Mr Gleeson)**

This week seventy-seven Year 11 pupils who study GCSE Drama have completed one of their GCSE Drama components. The assessment of this component is a performance of their devised plays in the Drama Studio and Theatre Hall. This is a very important part of their course. Miss Robinson, Head of Drama, supported by other Drama teachers has been helping the pupils not only in lessons, but also in after school rehearsals over the last few weeks. We hope everybody has done as well as they can do. Given all the extra work the pupils and teachers have put in, one might have expected them to have had a quieter end to their week but instead virtually all of the pupils went with Miss Robinson, Mr Hooper, Mr Hope, Miss Chatley, Miss Bloodworthy and Miss Everson to the Quarry Theatre in Bedford last night to see a performance of *Thirsty* by The Paper Birds Theatre Company which will form the basis of their written exam.

Next week, our A Level Drama students have their first exam of the new academic year. Quite how the students and staff are managing to prepare for the musical, *Be More Chill* at the same time is remarkable. Thank you to all our Drama staff for their hard work – our pupils and students are so lucky to have such a great team working with them.

Don't forget there will be three performances in the Wootton Upper School Theatre Hall of the Broadway Musical, *Be More Chill*, on Monday 04 November, Tuesday 05 November and Thursday 07 November 2019. Tickets will be available from Monday 07 October 2019 from Reprographics.

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

## Macmillan Coffee Morning (Mrs Wilkinson)

Pupils across Years 9 and 10 supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning for Macmillan Nurses last week. A fantastic array of cakes, cookies and sweet treats were produced by our hard-working pupils and brought in to be sold during break and lunch. Our pupil Social and Fundraising Leaders from each year group managed and organised the events and showed exceptional leadership qualities.

It was phenomenal to see the efforts of our pupils and we were taken aback by the volume and quality of the baking that was brought in.

Across two days of sales pupils raised over £250 and can be thoroughly proud of their achievements.



## SPAM Email (Mr Freemantle)

There has been a recent wave of spam emails being sent. These are not malicious, but are clogging up mailboxes. If you receive an email with no subject but a very short message that either says **'Message shortened Open entire message'** or **'Notification clipped Open notification'** with the second part hyperlinked then **please do not click on the links** as this will cause the email to be sent to everyone in your address book or those you have recently emailed. Instead, please delete the email.

Pupils have been reminded of the importance of not clicking on any links or attachments if they are unsure of their origin

## Year 9 Parents (Mrs McMorn)

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Meet the Tutor event on Wednesday 16 October 2019. This is an opportunity to get early feedback about how your child has settled in, and also to share successes and ask questions.

## Uniform (Mrs McMorn)

Many of our pupils are incredibly well turned out each and every day but a few are not getting it right. Please may we remind you about ensuring your child is wearing full uniform which includes proper school shoes and a blazer. In particular, please ensure that girls are not wearing skirts that are short (our uniform policy asks for knee-length skirts) and/or of a stretchy material that would help. We will be doing a whole school uniform check soon. Thank you.

## Triple P Discussion Groups (Mrs Enser)

Bedford Borough Council's Early Help Service will be holding a Triple P Discussion group on "Building Teenage Survival Skills" on Thursday 10 October 2019 between 7pm and 9pm at Wootton Upper School. Please contact the school for more information.

## Year 11 Assessment Week (Mr Frazer)

Monday 07 October 2019 will see a number of assessments taking place across the curriculum for Year 11 pupils continuing for the entire week. These are the first assessments of the year and will inform discussions at the Parents' Evening taking place on Wednesday 06 November 2019. Information regarding the Parents' Evening will be sent out during the next week. I would encourage all parents/carers to ensure they book their appointments as early as possible.

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

## What's on at Kimberley (Mr Detheridge)

This week, seven Year 12 students interested in pursuing leadership roles within the college, attended the inaugural Ready2Lead? Conference hosted at Bedford School. Ready2Lead? is the first leadership conference in Bedford Borough, designed primarily for Year 12 students. With a host of inspiring speakers and facilitators, as well as interactive workshops, the aim of the conference was to bring out the inner leader in everyone and our students were inspired by what they saw and heard.

Students learned about Global Issues and the United Nations Global Goals. In an activity led by Future Foundations, students worked in small groups to plan a project focused on tackling a problem they are passionate about.



Kimberley College students presented projects focused on 'Going Green' and tackling the provision of sanitation products for the homeless. Students were able to apply what they had learned from the day and successfully presented two projects to a panel of 'Dragons'.

Last week, Kimberley College hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning from which we raised £57.59. Our most popular treat was the chocolate orange marble cake made by our Kimberley College Bake Off 2019 champion!



Yours faithfully

Wootton Academy Trust