

Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 College (in the nearby village of Stewartby), are both operated by Wootton Academy Trust [WAT]. The two institutions are 3 miles apart and linked by a shuttle bus. WAT is ambitious and its vision is to provide outstanding education in all of its component parts.

Wootton Upper School, with 900 pupils across Years 9 -11, was rated good by Ofsted in November 2017. Results across the core subjects are very high. Progress 8 was 0.13 in 2017; 0.26 in 2018 and 0.2 in 2019. Most of our pupils come from two local middle schools.

Kimberley 16 - 19 College has 600 students. In September 2021 this will rise to 650. Around 175 pupils in each year group join the College from Wootton Upper School; the rest join from other local schools.

Kimberley is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding for Personal Development, Behaviour and Well-being. The College has regularly featured in the Sunday Times list of the top Sixth Form Colleges in the UK based on the proportion of students getting 2As and 1B or better in facilitating subjects. In 2019 Kimberley College was ranked as the 14th highest Sixth Form College in the UK.

Pastoral Organization

At Wootton Upper School pupils are placed into tutor groups. Form Tutors meet their group for thirty minutes per day after period 2 and before morning break. During this period the PSHCE curriculum is delivered as well as other aspects of the pastoral curriculum, including assembly. Our Year Leaders supports tutors, often visiting tutor groups during tutor period.

Year Leaders are supported by a team of five Pastoral Support Officers [PSOs]– who are led by a Lead PSO. The PSOs have their own dedicated base in Student Centre North; our SEND Team is located in Student Centre South. These two teams are immensely strong and work very closely together.

Our Safeguarding Team also plays an essential role in supporting pupils. The Safeguarding Team that consists of three Deputy DSLs in addition to the DSL - is located at the front of the school, next to Reception. Our Attendance Lead also works out of the Safeguarding Team's Office – other members of the Attendance Team are located next to our Medical Room.

Attendance across Years 9 – 11 averages 95%; during the autumn term in 2020 it slipped to 94% due to Covid related absences.

The Trust employs a Counsellor to support pupils and students. The Counsellor, SEND and Safeguarding all operate at a Trust-wide level – spending time at the school and the college to provide support to learners and their families.

In common with many Sixth Form Colleges, pastoral care at Kimberley College is arranged differently in a way which is considered to be more age-appropriate. Each student is allocated a Pastoral Tutor who they meet once per week for an hour, along with around twenty other students. As well as delivering the Post 16 PSHCE curriculum, Pastoral Tutors provide a wide range of additional support including next steps help writing UCAS and other references for students. Kimberley College's team of five Pastoral Tutors spend all of their time ensuring the wellbeing of groups of students.

Year Leaders at Wootton Upper School work closely with Year Leaders at the two feeder middle schools, as well as liaising with the Pastoral Leader at Kimberley College. Between 60% - 70% of Wootton Upper School pupils go to Kimberley College. Therefore, the Year 11 Leader also works closely with other Post 16 providers, notably Bedford College where around 60 pupils transfer each year, largely for vocational courses.

As far as possible, Form Tutors, Pastoral Tutors and the Year Leader remain with the same group of pupils and students through their time at the school and college. At Wootton Upper School, the three-Year Leaders are supported by a hugely experienced and skilful Assistant Head. This leader is the strategic lead for Pupil Premium: two colleagues act as Deputy PP Co-ordinators ensure that our PP strategy is delivered fully. At Kimberley College, an Assistant Head oversees Pastoral Care and oversees the work of the Pastoral Tutors.

At a Trust wide level, the Deputy Head of School at Wootton Upper School is the senior leader in overall charge of Pastoral matters. The Deputy Head of College at Kimberley College is in overall charge of Teaching and Learning across the Trust.

Our Trust prides itself on having the highest aspirations for all learners and we aim to provide great care, support and guidance to enable every individual to enable them to achieve their potential.

We enjoy really positive relationships with our pupils who are responsive and enthusiastic in their learning within the school and college.

Please contact, Katy Enser, Deputy Head of School kenser@wootton.beds.sch.uk for further information.