

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Monday 13 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Celebration Assembly

A huge thank you to Mr Spurling and Mrs Genders and others involved in putting together this week's assembly. It is a great one ... which left to me I would nominate for the Oscars! If you have ten minutes, please watch it. I doubt you will be disappointed. Well done to everybody featured in the assembly.

The assembly/bulletin YouTube link is: <https://youtu.be/nswjt9InMmc>

Results Days: GCSE, BTEC and A level results

We hope that all Year 11 and Year 13 learners will be able to collect their GCSE and A level grades in person in August. A separate letter to all Year 11 and Year 13 learners and their parents will be emailed home tomorrow with details on how results can be collected. We will make it possible for Year 11 and Year 13 learners to receive their results electronically, if they cannot come in to collect them in person. We are really keen that Year 11 and Year 13 learners have the opportunity to say good-bye to the school and college and that our staff also have the opportunity to say well done to them and wish them good luck and also thank the pupils and students for being so magnificent over the last four months in exceptionally trying circumstances. **Please help us by making your child aware of this plan.**

We will send an email on results day to all Year 10 learners who completed their Certificate in Digital Applications course this year as well as an email to Year 12 learners who were entered for an A level this year.

Academic year 2020 – 2021

Earlier in the year we published our term dates for 2020 – 2021; I have included them again at the end of this newsletter. We are "finalizing" our arrangements for the start of the autumn term at the moment which may be subject to modification if the situation related to Covid – 19 changes over the next six to seven weeks. Our current planned arrangements take account of the fact that our new Year 9 pupils and new Year 12 students, as well as you, their parents'/carers, have not had been able to experience our usual induction programme. **Therefore, we have built an induction programme into our arrangements at the start of the autumn term.**

The most comprehensive induction programmes will be aimed at Year 9 pupils and Year 12 students who will clearly need time to "acclimatise" as they will have been out of face-to-face education for over five months by the start of September.

Details for the start of autumn term for Wootton Upper School

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 2 September	Year 9
Thursday 3 September	Year 9 and Year 10
Friday 4 September	Year 9 and Year 10 and Year 11

Details for the start of autumn term for Kimberley College

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 2 September	Year 12
Thursday 3 September	Year 12
Friday 4 September	Year 12
Monday 7 September	Year 12 and Year 13

Wisepay Update from Mrs Sampson, Finance Officer

We have been given an update by Wisepay who are the platform that the Trust uses in order to receive cashless payments for trips, invoices, catering etc. When you go through the Wisepay payment process, you are securely transferred to Sage Pay in order to complete the payment process. **They have informed us that from Monday 13 July 2020 Sage Pay will now be known as 'Opayo'**. The familiar green and white branding of Sage Pay will no longer be seen anywhere in the Wisepay platform and will be replaced by the new 'Opayo' style which incorporates blue. As you will notice a significant change, Wisepay felt that you should be made aware of this new brand update, and can be reassured that if you are making payments, it is **safe and secure** to do so.

Uniform Update

From September 2020, Wootton Upper School is introducing a new PE Kit which will be available for our new Year 9 pupils to purchase. **Existing year groups are not expected to purchase the new items and can continue to wear their normal kit.** The new items are available via our uniform provider should anyone need to replace any of their existing kit. The website for ordering is <http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>

Post-16 Options - Mrs Y. Ashby Head of Careers & Connolly Foundation Coordinator

Mrs Ashby has told me that so far forty families have expressed an interest in attending the thirty-minute virtual post-16 options talk on Wednesday 15 July starting at 7 pm. Mrs Ashby has emailed these parents and carers with the information on how to join the meeting. We include a reminder of this event so other families who might be interested in attending the virtual event they know how to do so.

Mrs Ashby would encourage all parents to attend this short talk, including parents who have supported older pupils through this process in previous years, in order to gain an up to date overview of the local post-16 offer. The options available to pupils are increasing from September 2021 with the government's introduction of T level qualifications and this talk will cover all options available to pupils locally.

It would be helpful if there are others who would like to attend send an email to the careers team at careers@wootton.beds.sch.uk to state their interest. Details of how to join the event are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83804909610?pwd=NEtmclVMSUxrZzM4YmhYaE9PbDJiQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 0490 9610

Password: careers

Year 9 Face-to-face contact – Mr McInerney and Mrs Strickland – Joint Year9 Leaders

This week our Year 9 pupils were back at Wootton Upper for their face to face interviews; all members of staff involved were really pleased to see them all and to see that they were in good spirits despite the hardships they have faced over the past few months. An outstanding 82% of the year group attended these meetings - the remaining pupils have scheduled Zoom/phone appointments this coming week.

Mr McInerney and Mrs Strickland were really impressed with the level of ownership so many of the pupils have taken over their learning and want to emphasise that we want nothing more than for the pupils to come back in September fully refreshed and ready for the academic year ahead. Both Year leaders want to wish their year group a fantastic summer and ensure they take care of both themselves and also each other.

Show My Homework Data for Week ending July 10 – Mr Martin

Wootton Upper School	Y9	Y10	Total School
Pupils logged in Monday 6 July up to 4pm Friday 10 July	87%	82%	85%

Kimberley College	Y12	Total College
Students logged in Monday 6 July up to 4pm Friday 10 July	82%	82%

With thanks to Mr Martin in the Data Team who has provided me with details of learners logging onto Show My Homework last week.

In addition to learners logging into Show My Homework, 186 Year 12 learners spent one or more days at Kimberley College last week and 230 Year 10 pupils spent one day in school on face-to-face contact.

Year 10 English Face-to-Face lessons - Mrs Stewart

Year 10 parents/carers will be aware that Year 10 pupils are completing Speaking and Listening assessments in their English bubbles this week and next week. We have been told that they do not need to be filmed this year. Whilst the result does not affect pupils overall mark, it will appear on their English Language certificate in 2021.

We would like parents/carers to know that their children have been astounding. They are true professionals- as demonstrated yesterday with all of the drilling and banging going on – as work on the new Reception has started. The pupils were aware that this was essential work, and their response was 'Let's just get on with it.' Many pupils were exceedingly nervous, but pushed through and completed their speech. They were incredibly supportive of each other- I could hear 'Come on, you can do it,' being whispered to each other and they were positive listeners. I was so proud of their achievements.

Mrs Stewart received a wonderful email from a pupil she had not taught before:

I just wanted to say thank you again for the grade for my speech, I couldn't believe it! I was really nervous but seeing you smile when I was up there really calmed my nerves.

I told the family and close friends (and my normal English teacher), they were all very proud...thank you again and see you next week!

Speaking and listening assessments are never easy for most pupils; but essential in terms of work skills and resilience. To complete them as soon as they return from lockdown demonstrates pupils' ability to cope with real challenge- and their wonderful manners!

Mrs Stewart was very keen that parents/carers are aware of just how well Year 10 did.

Wootton Pharmacy

Two weeks ago, I was delighted to be invited and happy to accept an invitation to represent Wootton Upper School at the opening of Wootton Pharmacy's immaculate new store, located next to *Sainsburys Local* on the Berryfield Estate parade of shops. The pharmacist, Arif Esmail, welcomed the limited number of guests allowed at the event, mostly NHS workers, to whom we are all indebted for their heroic efforts throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Dr Lindsay Mackenzie, senior partner of Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre, performed the opening ceremony cutting a ribbon wishing it great success.

Cllr Wheeler spoke of the importance of the Pharmacy to the village. I would like to add my sincere good wishes to the Pharmacy – which has always had a great reputation and is really focused on helping the local community. Former Wootton Upper School pupil, Cerys Bygraves, is the Pharmacy's Apprentice who has completed NVQ Level 2 and 3 over the last two years.

Kooth – Mrs Enser, Assistant Principal [Safeguarding]

We would like to take the opportunity prior to going to the summer break to remind our parents and learners about Kooth. Kooth is free online service to support the wellbeing and resilience of young people aged 11-19. It is a web-based confidential support service which provides a safe and secure means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support designed specifically for young people. Kooth offers young people the opportunity to have a text-based conversation with a qualified counsellor. Counsellors are available from 12pm to 10pm on weekdays & 6pm to 10 pm at weekends, 365 days a year on a drop-in basis.

To find out more visit www.Kooth.com where young people can register and others can find out more about the service. We have attached a letter for parents/carers to this letter and also a poster with more information on Kooth. Kooth is represented on the Trust's website also.

Is your child worried about transitioning back into school in September?

Our young people will have been away from Wootton Upper school and Kimberley College for 23 weeks when they return in September 2020. For many of our students there will be excitement about returning, but for some this return may be viewed with apprehension. The pastoral teams across the Trust are looking forward to welcoming our learners back and the recent one-to-one meetings have allowed us to collect information and provide support where necessary. In addition to this, CHUMS are running a workshop for parents, children and young people: Transitioning Post COVID-19. This is a one-off virtual workshop which will provide strategies to help manage worries relating to transitioning back to school. Please see the contact details on the attached leaflet. Spaces are limited so please email to request a place early if you are interested.

We would like to say thank-you to the following teachers who will no longer be working at the Trust in September 2020:

- ❖ Mrs S. Ashton Assistant Principal [Director of Science]
- ❖ Mrs. H. Bavington Teacher of Geography [part time]
- ❖ Ms. E. Chandler Teacher of Biology
- ❖ Mr. R. Di Spirito Teacher of Spanish
- ❖ Mrs. J. Esposito Head of Modern Foreign Languages [part time]
- ❖ Mr. H. Foster- Smith Associate Principal STEM
- ❖ Mr. S Frazer Vice Principal Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- ❖ Mr. P. Gooch Teacher of Physics [part time]
- ❖ Mr. D. Gray Teacher of Science
- ❖ Mr. M. Herridge Head of Biology
- ❖ Ms. M. Johal Teacher of Psychology
- ❖ Mrs. P. Wilson Teacher of Physics

We wish all of the colleagues above every success in the future and hope they will look back with many fond memories of their time working at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
Registered in England and Wales
Company No. 7740758

Wootton Academy Trust
Hall End Road, Wootton
Bedford, MK43 9HT.
01234 767123
Email: wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk
www.woottonupper.co.uk
www.kimberleycollege.co.uk

Wootton Academy Trust Term Dates 2020 – 2021

AUTUMN TERM 2020	
Tuesday 1st September	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Wednesday 2nd September	School/College year begins
Friday 23rd October	School/College close for half term, 3.00 p.m.
W/c Monday 26th October	Half-Term
Monday 2nd November	School/College re-open
Thursday 26th November	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Friday 27th November	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Friday 18th December	Autumn Term ends, 3.00 p.m.
Monday 21st December	Christmas Holiday begins

SPRING TERM 2021	
Monday 4th January	School/College re-open
Friday 12th February	School/College close for half-term, 3.00 p.m.
W/c Monday 15th February	Half Term
Monday 22nd February	School/College re-open
Friday 26th March	Spring Term ends, 3.00 p.m.
Monday 29th March	Easter holiday begins

SUMMER TERM 2021	
Monday 12th April	School/College re-open
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	School/College close for half-term, 3.00 p.m.
W/c Monday 31st May	Half Term
Monday 7th June	School/College re-open
Friday 16th July	Summer Term ends, 3.00 p.m.
Monday 19th July	Summer holiday begins