

Becoming Wootton Academy – update No. 9 – July 2026

Well, July flew by and it was the end of term before we knew it!

We hosted nearly 600 new students over 4 Transition Days, at the same time as supporting our Year 10s in Work Experience, and our Year 9s in a brand-new Enrichment Week. Mrs McMorn and the team did an incredible job here!

On top of this, like the rest of the community we had the challenge of unusually high temperatures to contend with for extended periods of time. We were so proud of how students (and staff!) conducted themselves. Our IT teachers had never been so popular - which of course was nothing to do with their air-conditioned classrooms.

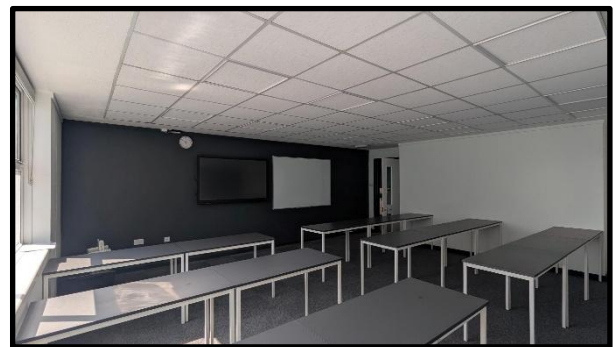
However, we got through the final weeks in style and the moment the holidays began, lots of activities kicked off across the site to get final preparations done for September. Overall, things are coming together nicely...

Site works

Literally as soon as students and staff left the site for the holidays, even more work began here. We've got a detailed day-by-day plan for the next 5 weeks to ensure that everything necessary is ready for the arrival of our new students on September 3rd!

Alongside lots of annual maintenance, our talented site team have cracked on with refreshing and refurbishing more parts of the school. As we do this, we're upgrading classroom IT to make lessons run even more smoothly.

A massive shout out to the estates and IT teams for all their work so far and to come – we really wouldn't be where we are without them.



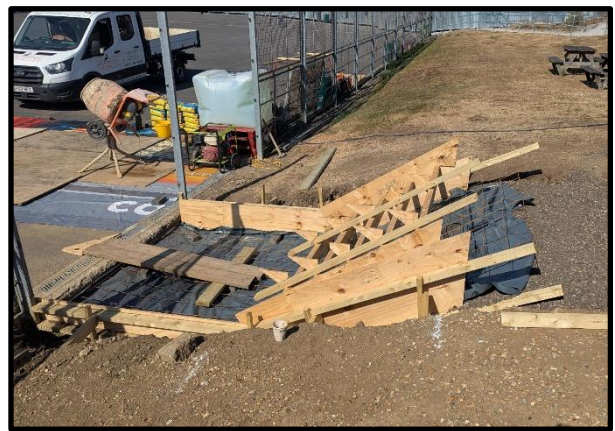
There are also loads more tradespeople on site now as part of the wider two-tier works. The new labs will be finished shortly, giving us loads of additional capacity for Science lessons and practicals.

It wouldn't be a BWA newsletter if I didn't have some pictures of the things we're doing as we sweat the small stuff – so it's great to finally be able to get going on improvements to external routes around the site.



Builders are now widening the steps out the front that lead to science and art/food – traditionally a pinch-point as students transition to-and-from lessons.

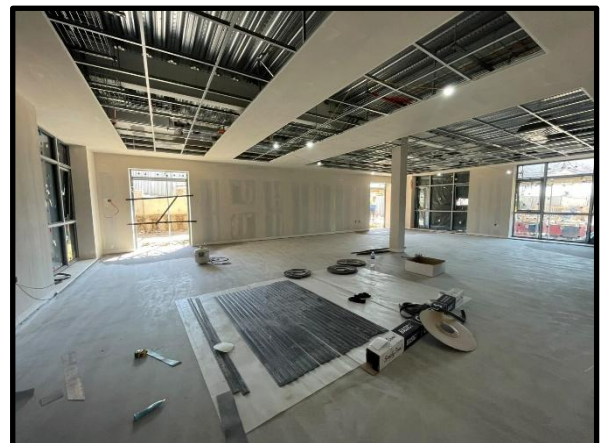
They're also cracking on with a completely new set of steps, that will students to get on-and-off the tennis courts much more easily. We've a lovely, big site, so we're doing all we can to make moving around it smoother and quicker.



And of course, there's the new block to look forward to as well!

It's now being handed over to us at the end of September, so we'll start the term using our existing spare classrooms and facilities, and then move teachers and students in once the building is officially ours.

It's all coming along nicely though, and things have really picked up in recent weeks. It will be an incredible addition our existing facilities.



See you in September!

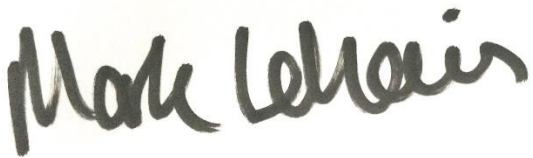
Given the holidays and how busy everyone will be in the last few weeks of August, this is the final 'Becoming Wootton Academy' newsletter.

We hope you've found these updates useful and reassuring. The aim of these newsletters was always to be transparent and communicate how our preparations were going, so the wider community could see how things developed and have confidence that we'd deliver for everyone.

As we come into the final straight, we'll continue to keep students and families up-to-date about final touches and start-of-term arrangements. And of course, there remains the open invitation to visit the school and see with your own eyes how we're getting on.

For now, enjoy the rest of the summer and thank you for coming on the journey with us as we became Wootton Academy!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Mark Lehair'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a slight shadow effect behind the text.

Mark Lehair

Executive Headteacher, Wootton Academy Trust