

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Monday 18 May

Dear Parents/Carers

Show My Homework Report: Monday May 11 –Friday May 15 - Mr Frazer and Dr MacKay

Wootton Upper School	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total School
Pupils logged in Monday 11 May up to 4pm Friday 15 May	92%	91%	66%	84%
Not logged in since Monday 20 April	3%	3%	9%	5%

Kimberley College	Y12	Y13	Total College
Students logged in Monday 11 May to 4pm Friday 15 May	88%	64%	76%
Not logged in since Monday 20 April	3%	3%	3%

Engagement of students who are not at the end of their studies remain strong across the Trust, but slightly lower than in earlier weeks. Senior Leaders and Middle Leaders continue to work hard to ensure that work being set for learners is accessible to all. We have published the overview of this week's work today on the school and college website and we are sending a copy with this newsletter.

After May half-term, the emphasis for Year 11 pupils will be to help prepare learners for their Year 12 courses. The majority of Year 11 learners are planning to join Kimberley College and the bridging project work being prepared for learners will mean they are able to do this really successfully. Mr Detheridge and other senior staff at Kimberley College will provide more information on transition as soon as possible.

Teaching and Learning News - Mr Lewis

As part of our teachers' ongoing training to produce ever more accessible and effective distance learning resources, they have been practising producing video content. This will help learners better understand content and help them to feel better connected to our school and college. Over fifty videos have already been created so please watch out for these in the work your child is set.

We all know how important it is for young people to be able to read fluently. A child's reading fluency and the number of words they know are important indicators of their academic success at school and in their adult lives. It is vital your child continues to read widely and often during this period of distance learning. It really doesn't matter what they read, as long as they are reading. Shared reading between parents and their children is a great way of developing children's language and communication skills. Regular reading can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures. I have included a useful summary of what you can do to help support reading at home as an appendix to his newsletter. There are links to free e-books in the enrichment work on our school website's distance learning section. This is a really good addition to the work we have been doing.

In-school provision: children of key workers and vulnerable children – Mrs McMorn

Numbers in school have increased a little and are now averaging 12 - 15 per day. Across the family of schools, the number of children attending has remained between 120 – 130; numbers tend to be a bit lower overall on Fridays. We would like to take the opportunity to thank a huge number of teachers and support staff who have come in on given days to ensure we can provide for the pupils who are in school and who cannot be educated at home. We have received many good wishes and messages of thanks for what our staff do. Thank you.

Half-term – Mrs McMorn

Parents and carers of children who have needed to access in-school provision over the last seven weeks have confirmed that they do not require the provision over half term. **This means that we have taken the decision to close the provision for the half-term week, May 25 – May 29 inclusive.** I hope our key workers all manage to rest over the half term break.

Good news story – Dr Mackay

We all love to read good news stories. Last week, I was sent an electronic copy of The Pharmacist. I read about a Kimberley sixth form student, **Har-Saivak Singh Gosal**, who since mid-March has been volunteering three days per week at a local pharmacy during the Covid-19 pandemic to help his local pharmacy team deal with the increased demand. Har-Saivak, has been volunteering at Smarta Healthcare in Bedford– while still managing to fit his studies in. I would encourage you to read more using the following link. Well done Har-Saivak.

<https://www.thepharmacist.co.uk/covid-19/school-pupil-joins-pharmacy-frontline-during-pandemic/>

Dr Mackay commented on learning the news “How wonderful, so heart-warming! Har-Saivak is such a kind, laid back and giving student at Kimberley which clearly radiates in this article and his personal ambitions! He does and will make a difference.”

FSMs – Mrs McMenemy

Wootton Academy Trust continues to offer those pupils eligible for free school meals a choice between fortnightly vouchers through the national government scheme or fortnightly food parcels. On Thursday 21st May we will be both delivering food parcels for w/c 25th May and 1st June and fulfilling orders for vouchers for these two weeks too.

If any households have experienced a drop-in income over the past few months they may want to check whether they qualify for FSMs.

For Wootton Upper School pupils (regardless of which local authority you live in) use the link to the Bedford Borough website <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/education-welfare-service/free-school-meals/>. This sets out the criteria to qualify and an online form to complete, if relevant.

For Kimberley College students please email Ms Nichols bursary@wootton.beds.sch.uk in the first instance.

Trust Improvement Plan Priority Survey – Mr Stewart

We have been working hard on drafting the priorities for next year for both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College. These will cover all areas of what we do. A link to a survey will be sent to you in the next two days, asking you to give feedback on our proposals. We will be sharing this survey with parents and carers, as well as our learners and staff across the Trust. We will then share our improvement plan with you.

Assembly Theme: Aspire

This week's assembly has the theme ASPIRE. It is presented by Mr Detheridge, Principal of Kimberley. You can access it on the website or through YouTube <https://youtu.be/7IT3BUys3D8>

Student Bulletin: May 18th

This week's students bulleting is on the website and on YouTube <https://youtu.be/ZES2J3UdDNc>

Please take a look at both the assembly and the bulletin.

Staffing update

Over the last two weeks we have interviewed for teachers for September 2020. We have attracted very strong fields for some posts and have made offers to individuals for the following posts:

- Head of Modern Foreign Languages
- Teacher of Business Studies [part time]
- Teacher of Psychology
- Teacher of Law [part time]
- Teacher of Food Technology

We still need to make appointments for:

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ Teacher of Mathematics | interviews scheduled for this week |
| ➤ Teacher of Spanish | interviews scheduled this week |
| ➤ One or two teachers of Physics | no interviews scheduled currently |
| ➤ One or two teachers of Biology | no interviews scheduled currently |
| ➤ Teacher of Business Studies | no interviews scheduled currently |

Assuming our pre-employment checks confirm the above appointments, we will be able to offer Food Preparation and Nutrition to pupils in Year 10 and Year 9 in September. Our Food Department is growing rapidly and we are already looking as to how we can plan to meet further growth in this subject in September 2021, as it is likely that learners will wish to continue studying the subject post GCSE at Kimberley.

We have already interviewed a number of candidates for the teacher of Mathematics post; we are interviewing others in the first part of this week. We have a large number of applicants for our teacher of Spanish post and therefore, we are reasonably confident that we will be able to appoint to this post before half term.

Our biggest challenges are to recruit a number of teachers to our Science Department and a further teacher of Business Studies. Unless we are able to make a further appointment in Business Studies we will NOT be able to run Business Studies to Year 10 learners.

The deadline for teachers to resign their posts is May 31st; it is possible we may yet face additional recruitment challenges, if any existing staff are appointed to jobs elsewhere. Teacher recruitment is a national issue.

Return to school and college

In anticipation that some face-to-face contact will be possible next half term for at least Year 10 and Year 12 learners, staff are considering how this may be organized safely. Mrs McMenamy, Mrs McMorn and Dr Mackay – the three senior members of staff on our Health and Safety Committee are busily working to complete the overall risk assessment for both Kimberley College and Wootton Upper School: **health and safety will be the absolute critical factor that will inform all other decisions**. We will not take any action that cannot or does not fulfil social distancing. You may have read or seen information about learners being put into self-contained groups – bubbles – as well as staggered breaks and lunchtimes and much, much more. Senior staff are reviewing all the different options and when things are clearer we will write to everybody and ask parents/carers for their views too.

If it is announced that Year 10 and or Year 12 will be returning, we will communicate the details of the plan in order that you and your child can feel prepared and well informed. If and when some learners are able to return, we will continue to provide a programme for the children of keyworker parents, where there is no alternative child care. Similarly, we shall continue to provide work for all our learners whether that be face-to-face or through the online learning programmes. The learning will continue until the end of the summer term. I know you are doing your very best to ensure your child is actively engaging with the on-line learning or in completing the work packs. Please continue to contact our Pastoral Teams if you are having any difficulties with engaging your child in the prescribed-on line learning. We will keep in touch with you and your child and please remember that we are here to support you in any way possible.

Wootton Academy Trust wants to support mental health and wellbeing – Mrs Adams

As you may know, this week is World Mental Health Week.

During the Easter break Mrs Adams asked Year 9, 10 and 11 to think of a #viruskindness. Most students who completed the task suggested a way of communication to stop people from being lonely and to help mental wellbeing. As a result, Mrs Adams has set for week 9 (next week) a challenge for all Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 to provide a contribution of some kind to be collated into a video. Mr Kirkwood has kindly agreed to put a video together of all the contributions received. Once it is complete it can be sent out to students through the Guidance material or through tutor emails.

Staff are already aware of this and we have had some staff contributions already. Mrs Adams hopes that we will have a video full of all of the lovely things that Wootton Academy Trust has been doing during lock down. A way to bring us together while we are apart. Mrs Adams has created document CV 37 C attached to this newsletter to provide more information.

In the student bulletin the thought for the week is “a smile is the shortest distance between two people”. Please keep smiling!

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

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