

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Monday 11 May

Dear Parents/Carers

Prime Minister's statement Sunday 10 May

Many of you will have watched last evening's statement when the Prime Minister gave some information about the weeks ahead. Many of us had anticipated that some secondary aged learners, probably those taking public examinations in 2021, namely Year 10 and Year 12 children could expect to start returning to school from the beginning of June. This is not the case, although the Prime Minister said he hoped that learners in these year groups will get at least some face-to-face time with their teachers before the summer holidays.

It looks as if children in Years 7, 8 and 9 may not be back in school before September. You may have heard that the Prime Minister announced children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 will start to return to school in smaller class sizes from the beginning of June with the ambition that all primary aged children are back school by the end of June for a month prior to the summer holiday. Secondary schools have been asked to model what face-to-face contact time might look like for Year 10 and Year 12 children.

Today the government has published guidance which explains the rate of infection remains too high to allow the reopening of schools for all pupils yet. The guidance states that it is important that vulnerable children (*including children in need, those with an Education, Health and Care plan and those assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities*) and the children of critical workers are able to attend school, as is currently permitted. There is a large societal benefit from vulnerable children, or the children of critical workers, attending school: local authorities and schools should therefore urge more children who would benefit from attending in person to do so.

During the day, I have met with both Executive and Senior Leadership Teams to consider the implications of yesterday's announcement and today's additional guidance. I also spoke to Heads of Department about how we shall continue to support children in Years 9, 10 and 12, as well as planning for children starting at Wootton in Year 9 next September and Year 12 at Kimberley College.

In preparation for children returning to both Wootton and Kimberley we will shortly commence work on protocols for staff, students and pupils which will govern how we operate once we return.

Year 11 and Year 13

We have made the decision to cease providing work in the current form for Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students after the end of next week. Instead we will be organizing transition projects for Year 11 pupils to prepare them for their courses at Kimberley College or Bedford Sixth Form or Bedford College or elsewhere. More information will follow over the next few weeks.

Year 11 Prom

The Prime Minister's statement also mentioned that Stage 3 of his *Conditional Plan* will see some hospitality settings beginning to open from Saturday July 4th, if it is safe to do so, and providing social distancing can be maintained. **Sadly, it is now clear that the Year 11 Prom cannot take place at the end of June.** This is another disappointment for the GCSE cohort. Whilst we had not sold tickets for this celebration, we are aware that some parents/carers had made their own arrangements, for example ordering limousines for their children which they will now wish to cancel.

What our Children are learning this week – Week 8

Earlier today, we published what our children are learning this week on our websites. Parents/carers have told us how useful the overview is both to their children and to parents/carers too. Therefore, many thanks to Mr Frazer for all the work involved in creating the overview. **A copy of the overview is attached to this newsletter as CV 36 A.**

Assembly - Worry

Mrs Enser has created this week's assembly on the theme of *Worry*. This is available on the Trust's websites and also on You Tube <https://youtu.be/NF2qfcGdJ8g>

Alternatively, you can watch the assembly from the school and college websites

<https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/distance-assemblies>

Student Bulletin

Mrs Genders takes the lead on producing the Student Bulletin and Mr Spurling then adds it to You Tube <https://youtu.be/Lg5pMirbxEQ> The bulletin is one of the areas we have really developed our practice since lockdown and I would urge parents/carers to take a look at it. A lot of hard work goes into producing it and it is great to see lots of images of what our learners are doing at home. Alternatively, you can read the bulletin on the school and college website

<https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/distancelearning>

Online Virtual Gallery

There are now more than 170 pieces of work in our Virtual Gallery. This is a great way of celebrating learner's work. Once again... thank you to Mr Fink for setting up the gallery and for managing the content on it <https://bit.ly/2KjwumF>

Show My Homework data for last week is as follows:

Kimberley College	Y12	Y13	Total College
Logged in within the 24-hour period to 4pm Thurs. 7 May	67%	30%	49%
Learners logged in Mon. 4 May to 4pm Thurs. 7 May	90%	68%	79%
Learners not logged in since Monday 20 April	3%	4%	4%

Wootton Upper School	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total School
Logged in within the 24-hour period to 4pm Thurs. 7 May	73%	74%	36%	62%
Learners logged in Mon. 4 May to 4pm Thurs. 7 May	92%	93%	67%	84%
Learners not logged in since Monday 20 April	3%	3%	9%	5%

Dr MacKay and Mr Frazer continue to be impressed with the number of learners logging in to Show My Homework to access their work. Across Years 9, 10 and 12, 99.5% of all learners have submitted work. While some have regularly submitted their work, pastoral teams will be emailing learners to encourage those who have only submitted a small number of tasks to engage more regularly.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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