

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Friday November 6 2020

Dear Parents/Carer

Lest we forget

This weekend includes Remembrance Sunday. For a number of years, members of the school and college communities have attended local parades in Wootton, Cranfield, Stewartby and Bedford. We will ensure wreaths are laid at memorials in our local villages; given lockdown, most of these events will be private acts of commemoration. However, Cllr Wheeler, Vice Chair of the Wootton Upper School Local Governing Board has agreed to lay a wreath for the school at the Wootton War Memorial on Sunday as part of the scaled down commemoration taking place in the village on Sunday morning. This event will be filmed by Mr Kirkwood, Head of Media, and therefore, I hope that parents and carers will be able to be involved in a small way.

On Armistice Day, November 11, Mr Detheridge and Mrs McMorn have arranged for a two-minute silence at the school and college to commemorate the sacrifices made by all service men and women who gave their lives in wars and conflict.

Just before half term Wootton Upper School held a mufti day to raise money for the Poppy Day Appeal. The total raised was £1514.55. A cheque for this amount will be sent to the Poppy Day Appeal in the next few weeks.



We hope that by November 2021 the nation, local towns and villages and our school and college will be able to mark Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day as we have hitherto done.

Parent and Staff Governors

Before half term I invited parents and staff to contact me if they were interested in finding out more about governance at the school and college. You may deduce correctly that by repeating the invitation I have not been inundated with replies. Governance is an essential part of leadership in education and therefore, please do consider getting in touch if you would like to find out more.

Destination Data 2020

Mrs Ashby, Head of Careers, and her team have completed the huge task of tracking the destinations of Wootton Upper School's Year 11 pupils and Kimberley College's Year 13 students of 2019 – 2020. I have included small sample of the report Mrs Ashby has produced. The data for Year 11 is almost identical to the previous year with 19 out of every 20 pupils continuing in full-time education largely at Kimberley College or at Bedford College [for more specialized vocational courses].

Year 11 WUS Pupils	2019		2020	
Destination	All Pupils	% all pupils	All Pupils	% all pupils
Further education	275	94.8%	263	94.6%
Apprenticeship	11	3.8%	9	3.2%
NEET	3	1.0%	5	1.8%
Unknown	1	0.3%	1	0.4%
TOTALS	290	100.0%	278	100.0%

Table 1: destination comparison of Wootton Upper School Year 11 students in 2019 & 2020

Destination of WUS Year 11 Pupils 2019 – 2020	All Pupils	% all pupils
Kimberley College	145	52.2%
Shuttleworth College	6	2.2%
Apprenticeship	9	3.2%
Other specialist college	11	4.0%
Bedford Sixth Form	13	4.7%
Other sixth form	6	2.2%
Bedford College	72	25.9%
Further education in another country	2	0.7%
MK College	7	2.5%
NEET	3	1.1%
N/A to labour market - illness	2	0.7%
Traineeship	1	0.4%
Unknown	1	0.4%
TOTALS	278	100.0%

Table 2: destination choices of Wootton Upper School Year 11 cohort in 2020

There is a little more difference in the destination plans for Year 13 students from Kimberley College. This is unsurprising given the Covid 19 pandemic; unsurprisingly, there was an increase in the proportion of Year 13 students deciding to have a “gap” year, delaying their university education until 2021

Destination	2019	2020
	% all students	% all students
University	69.0%	62.0%
Employment	14.0%	12.0%
Apprenticeship	9.0%	3.0%
Gap Year	8.0%	15.0%
Further Education	0.0%	5.0%
Actively seeking employment	0.0%	3.0%
TOTALS	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3: destination comparison of Kimberley College Year 13 students in 2019 and 2020

The choice of university of Kimberley students varies on a year by year basis. This year the most popular university destinations are:

University	Number of KC students
University of Hertfordshire	14
Nottingham Trent University	12
De Montfort University	8
University of East Anglia UEA	8
University of Birmingham	6
University of Bristol	6
Anglia Ruskin University	6
University of Leicester	6
King's College London, University of London	5
University of Bedfordshire	4
UCL (University College London)	4
Manchester Metropolitan University	4
Birmingham City University	3
University of Essex	3
University of Lincoln	3
University of Warwick	3
University of Northampton	3
University of Nottingham	3

Table 4: most popular choice of university of Kimberley College Year 13 students in 2020

Year 13 students at Kimberley College in 2019 – 2020 have started courses at **sixty-four universities**. Three or more ex-Year 13 students are now studying at eighteen universities. Eleven universities have two of last year's Year 13 students on roll and, a further thirty-five universities have one Kimberley student in their intake.

In our last newsletter we highlighted the number of Kimberley students who have been awarded funding by the Connolly Foundation. Mrs Ashby has further advised that the total value of these awards in 2020 – 2021 amounts to £24,250.

On behalf of the Trust I would like to express our thanks to the Trustees of the Connolly Foundation for their support of Wootton Academy Trust students. Since the overwhelming majority of the students in receipt of awards will be eligible to receive funding in 2021 and 2022 this is very significant financial support.

Please see our website for more details of the vacancies I wrote about last week in the trust newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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 Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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