

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Wednesday 10 June

Online learning using Show My Homework

This is the SMH data for last week. We have removed Y11 and Y13 as they are no longer being set work through SMH. We are looking forward to learning more about the experiences of Year 10 and Year 12 in respect of distance learning in the face-to-face contact meetings taking place next week. We are pleased that the percentage of students working on the platform remains high.

Wootton Upper School	Y9	Y10
Pupils logged in Monday 1 June up to 4pm Friday 5 June	92%	91%

Kimberley College	Y12
Students logged in Monday 1 June up to 4pm Friday 5 June	88%

Free webinar for A level English Literature students – Mr Coleman, Head of English

The University of Bedfordshire invites Year 12 students to an annual sixth form conference at this time of the year. It cannot do so this year because of Coronavirus. Therefore, Dr Nicola Darwood, Senior Lecturer in English Literature, and Course coordinator for BA (Hons) English Literature & BA (Hons) Education Studies and English has organised a webinar for English Literature students this Friday, 12 June starting at 10:00 am.

Year 12 students [*and others*] are invited to join Dr Darwood on her journey through centuries of poetic form. She starts with '*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*', a poem based on the tales of King Arthur written in the 14th century, and then gallops through the centuries, stopping along the way to look at one of Shakespeare's sonnets, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, some Modernist poetry and Seamus Heaney's 'Digging'.

The webinar will focus on changing fashions in rhyme and metre, and participants will be encouraged to join in the session, discussing the poems' form and discovering the ways in which that form has changed over the centuries.

To join the webinar on 12th June at 10am - <https://www.beds.ac.uk/helpub/webinars/>

The webinar is going to use Collaborate as its platform (it's one of the tools from Blackboard which the university uses for its learning environment) and it's best viewed through Chrome. Participation will be through a chat function so students won't have to share any video.

The webinar will last just under an hour and there'll be plenty of opportunities for the students to participate.

Year 12- University Applications – Mrs Stewart, UCAS Co-ordinator

Mrs Stewart would like all students in Year 12 to start to register with UCAS next week [i.e. from Monday 15 June]. Mrs. Stewart has provided guidance notes to help all students to complete their registration. These notes will go live on SMH on Monday 15 June.

Mrs Stewart would like students to complete a registration - even if they have not made a firm decision about their plans after Kimberley. Please email Mrs. Stewart if there are any questions about the process: cstewart@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Wootton Academy Trust Improvement Plan Priorities

On Monday we listed the top six priorities which parents/carers identified as being most important to them from a range of sixteen priorities senior leaders had drawn up.

Fifty-five members of staff completed the same survey as parents/carers and Mr Stewart has shared with me the views of our staff.

Five of the six priorities identified as being most important to parents/carers were also five of the six priorities identified by staff as being most important to them.

The 1st priority staff identified was also parents/carers 1st priority:

- ❖ **Reduce the learning gaps for all learners, caused by the closure due to Covid-19, through intensive intervention.**

The 2nd highest priority of staff was not a top six priority of parents/carers:

- ❖ Enhance the personal development and behaviour of learners in lessons and in unstructured time.

The 3rd highest priority of staff was also the 3rd highest priority of parents/carers:

- ❖ **Increase provision to build resilience and improve the mental health of our learners.**

The 4th highest priority of staff was also the 4th highest priority of parents/carers:

- ❖ **Support learners to prepare for the world of work, by making clear links in the classroom as well as increasing workplace visits and employer talks in school/college**

The 5th highest priority of staff was the 6th highest priority of parents/carers:

- ❖ **Improve access to digital devices and the internet, supporting those with limited or no access to raise their attainment and improve their future chances.**

The 6th highest priority of staff was the 2nd highest priority of parents/carers:

- ❖ **Provide a high-quality staff training and development offer to improve staff recruitment and retention at a time of national shortage.**

You may recall that the remaining top-six priority of parents/carers, their 5th highest priority was:

- ❖ Improve all learners' ability to write extended answers, high quality essays and personal statements.

I am very much looking forward to learning whether our learners have the same level of unanimity in respect of the most important priorities moving forward. We will share their views with you and with them once they have been collated.

Virtual Choir – news from Mr Hooper, Head of Music

Great news in respect of Mr Hooper's initiative to launch a virtual choir: on Sunday 7 June, Mr Hooper had fifteen confirmed singers, with a handful of others thinking about joining the cyber space group. Please encourage your child to join in. Mr Hooper will be directing the choir as it learns 'Seasons of Love' from Rent, which should appeal to lots of our learners.

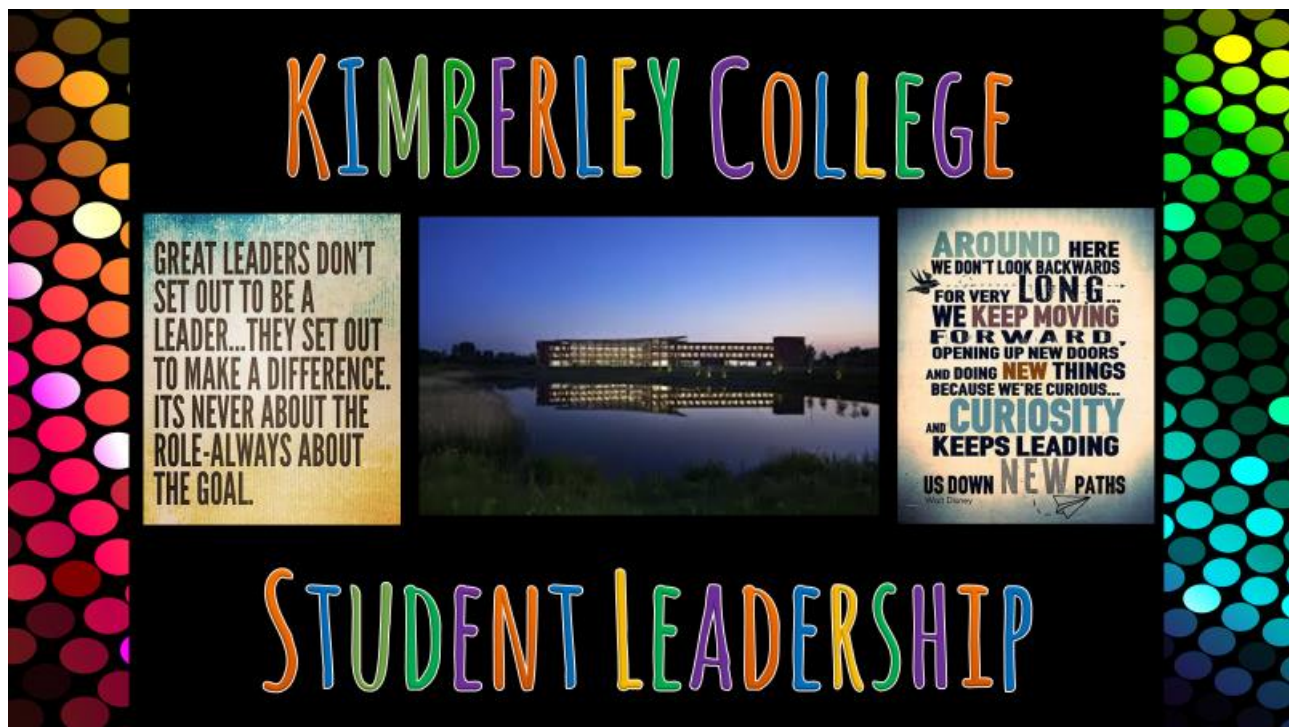
Year 10 Disneyland Paris Trip: July 2020 - Mr Stewart, Educational Visits Co-ordinator

Mr Stewart wishes to advise parents/carers in Year 10 whose children had paid to go on the two Disneyland Paris trips in July which have been cancelled because of Coronavirus that he expects final refunds to be made to parents and carers by the end of June.

Mr Stewart comments that he is indebted to the work of Mrs McMenamy and the Finance Team for ensuring all monies have been able to be refunded.

Student Leadership Opportunities – Miss Wilkinson and Mrs Genders

We have already received applications for student leadership positions at Wootton Upper School and at Kimberley College. At Wootton Upper School we are continuing to accept senior student leadership applications. This is a fabulous opportunity for students to embrace responsibility and experience leadership roles. Working together to create an excellent student voice across the Trust. At Kimberley College, applications for the roles of **College President, College Ambassador, College Council and Subject Ambassador** were published on SMH on Monday 8 June. The closing date for applications for the Kimberley College roles is Monday 22 June.



We would love to see passionate and enthusiastic students apply and have their voices heard. Any applications for senior student roles at Wootton Upper School can be sent directly to Miss Wilkinson's email address: jwilkinson@wootton.beds.sch.uk and for applications for senior student roles at Kimberley to Mrs Gender's email address: ngenders@wootton.beds.sch.uk

If students would like to continue with a current leadership position, please could they let Miss Wilkinson or Mrs Genders know.

Thank you to students who have already contacted Miss Wilkinson and Mrs Genders with their interest in leaderships roles.

Wootton Academy Trust Sharing Best Practice

Mrs Yvonne Ashby is our Head of Careers, and Connolly Foundation Co-ordinator. Even during lockdown, she has continued to deliver high quality Careers Education.

Recently, Mrs Ashby made a virtual presentation at the UCAS Conference on the "Power of Peer-to-Peer interaction in aiding students decision making", sharing our best practice. Mrs Ashby also made a virtual presentation at the University of Leicester Teachers and Adviser Conference on the same topic. Mrs Ashby is one of many beacons of excellence at the Trust, leading the way, sharing best practice whilst also gaining valuable CPD for herself and vital information and updates to pass onto our learners looking at higher education as an option.

We were delighted to read the really positive feedback Mrs Ashby received about her participation at both conferences and to learn that she had received lots of enquiries from other schools/colleges asking her more questions so that they can improve their Careers Education using the model at Wootton Academy Trust.

'The peer to peer session was very informative and helpful.'

'I was listening to you in the peer to peer session and very impressed with your contribution but also the obvious centrality of your role and how fully integrated the role of careers is within your academy! Head of Careers, Independent School, West Midlands'

'What a fantastic conference. I especially enjoyed hearing from experienced careers professionals such as Yvonne in the peer to peer session. I have taken away lots of great new ideas. Assistant Principal, Leicestershire'

This is all on top of her role: planning for more really excellent Careers Education next academic year, supporting Kimberley College students apply for grants, setting up a Wootton Academy Trust Alumnus on LinkedIn, preparing Careers related displays...and supporting our learners remotely. We are delighted she is getting the recognition she so thoroughly deserves!

Duke of Edinburgh

Today, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh celebrated his ninety-ninth birthday. Every time I washed my hands I sang Happy Birthday with gusto twice. Those in ear shot will have heard me wishing him a very happy birthday.



And finally, some of our students at Kimberley are Key Workers. I was moved by the slide below in this week's Student Bulletin PowerPoint and here to say thank you to all Key Workers, including those who are learning at Kimberley College.



With good wishes to you all ... and if it is your birthday today, or tomorrow, Happy Birthday.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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