

Friday 20 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy week at Wootton Upper School. I very much wanted to give you a taste of school life over the last few days. Please find attached to this letter a summary of work for Years 9-11 for this half term.

**Lest we forget..**

We remembered those who have given their lives for us on Wednesday 11 November. Alex Smith in Year 9 played the Last Post and the Rouse as the whole school fell silent. All pupils have spent time considering the importance of remembering, through an assembly. We have also laid wreaths in Wootton, Cranfield and Stewartby.

Just before this moment an air ambulance landed in the school. We send our best wishes to whoever was hurt in the village.



**Wootton Learners**

A display is going up in reception of what great learners look like in the school. We have used ClassCharts data to identify those who are going 'above and beyond'. This means they are fully engaged, they ask and answer questions and they are building resilience to keep trying as work gets challenging. *Do make sure you have downloaded the ClassCharts app so that you can see how well your child is learning.*



This term's display shows the following Wootton Learners. Congratulations!

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Gaby Babai	Millie Bazeley	Vanessa Bille
Raayan Beg	Mieya Bolino	Nyah Davies
Aiden Brind	Tallulah Bowman Smith	Shanice De Wit
Luca Crusco	Rachel Bradbury	Thea Dillistone
Clara Della Ripa	Mysti Bugg	Gabriel Douglas
Joe Dillingham	Issy Castleman	Aston Hackett
Cadence Dillistone	Barney Cheney	Maisy Hickson
Colette Fickling	Evie Cosbie-Ross	Hannah Kelk
Idris Gobindram	Jack Daniell	Hayden King
Eleanor Hogben	Faith Gazeley	Freddy Marshall
Sukhman Josan	Phoebie Green	Aaliyah Platt
Nathaniel Lawson	Alexander Horner	Chloe Price
Charlie Littlewood	Chloe Lowe	Gia Roccotiello
Emily Mann	Jack Parkinson-Smith	Adam Rust
Ella Martin	Holly Parkinson-Smith	Jake Salmon
Radek Oka Riddy	Grace Rickwood	Matthew Stanley
Cole Reader	Kofi-Ansah Sackey	Lula Thompson
Karanpreet Sidhu	Corrin Street	Alannah Turner
Owen Stringer	Phoebe Thorn	Nathan Turney
Chloe Young	Joseph Watts	Niamh Whelan

### The Tweeting Trombone Competition

A group of talented and enthusiastic Year 9 pupils have just signed-up for the Music Department's 'Tweeting Trombone' competition. As part of this competition, each pupil has been provided with a trombone and a set of resources that will equip them in their learning. They then take their instrument home and work independently to learn how to assemble and blow the instrument and then begin to learn the different slide positions for the notes they'll require. Each pupil needs to upload at least two short video clips to Twitter (tagging the Music Dept @watmusicdept), plus be the first pupil to post their complete performance of the given melody. The lucky winner will receive a £30.00 Amazon voucher. Good luck to all involved!

Daood T, George D and Jamie M receiving their trombones.



## Supporting your child's learning

*Please find attached a summary of what your child is learning this half term.*

Teachers are continuing to use Show My Homework to record all the homework tasks set for your children. Please login with your child to review the tasks that have been set. The tasks might be designed to extend or consolidate learning from recent lessons, or help retrieve information learned previously. Please help support your child in getting into a daily routine to complete homework tasks, ideally in a quiet place away from distractions (like their mobile phone!).

It has been shown that a quiet environment can boost performance by up to 60%. We know children who regularly complete their homework perform significantly better at school. We want the very best for all our pupils so please continue to encourage your children to complete all tasks set. We would expect most pupils to complete one to two hours of homework every day.

Helping your child to test themselves is a great way of making memories stronger. Quizzing them on key vocabulary or knowledge, getting them to write out explanations or summarising a topic or creating mind maps are great ways to make the learning stick! If your child has any "spare" homework time – get them to do this for any of their recent lessons.

There are also plenty of websites that can be used to support your child's learning or revision. Here are three we would recommend:

GCSE Pod

<https://www.gcsepod.com/>

Seneca Learning

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

We would also recommend the Learning Scientists website. Please look through the six strategies they recommend for pupils to use to make their independent learning as effective as possible. Watch the videos with your child or look through the presentations. All the strategies are easy to implement at home, as well as in the classroom. <https://www.learningscientists.org/videos>



### **Niamh is in Year 11.**

Niamh has applied, and been accepted, to take part in a Languages Masterclass at Trinity College, Cambridge. Monthly zoom calls focus on careers, routes into linguistics and interviews with academics and alumni. Well done Niamh!



**Kyle is in Year 10.**

We are proud of Kyle's contribution to the WUS community this term.

Kyle loves maths and PE. Outside of school he enjoys bouldering. Kyle is keen to get into the Police Force as well as be involved in youth work.



*Beautiful cakes made by Year 10 in Food Technology*



Next week our newsletter will focus on wellbeing, and resources available to families. Please do remember that we are closed for teacher training days on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November.

Best wishes

Mrs McMorn  
Head of School