

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Wednesday 17 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Face-to-face contact

We are now two-days into our face-to-face meetings with Year 10 and Year 12 learners and their parents. It has been so lovely to see the learners again and for staff to catch-up on all they have been doing. We hope that these meetings will help learners to re-acclimatise in preparation for the start of some learning in college and school for these year groups from next Monday.

Year 9 pupils

We very much want to hold a face-to-face meeting with Year 9 pupils before the end of the term; on Monday, the government changed its guidance to state that this was now possible. Once we have had time to work out how we can do this, we will let you know.

This week, a few parents/carers have contacted us to ask when their children will learn what subjects they will be studying next year. We will write a separate letter over the next week to Year 9 parents/carers with an update.

Year 8 pupils

We have written to Year 8 parents/carers who have children joining Year 9 next year and there is lots of information on the school website in respect of transition. This week, we have spoken to over fifty Year 8 parents and their children, as well as speaking to lots of pupils in other year groups!

Free School Meals over the Summer Holiday

We look forward to receiving guidance from the DfE on how the Free School Meal Voucher Scheme will operate over the summer holidays. Well done Marcus Rashford, the Manchester United and England footballer for leading the campaign that FSM should be provided over the summer and writing about how important FSM were to him and his siblings when he was growing up.

Once we receive guidance we will write to all parents/carers who are eligible for Free School Meals. If your circumstances have changed please let us know.

Year 12 Learners – Mrs Stewart

A reminder that **all Year 12 students need to register with UCAS** and begin their university applications this week. Mrs. Stewart has sent guidance and support to all Year 12 students on SMH. Please ask your child to read the guidance notes before starting registration.

Thank you to the students who have emailed questions to Mrs. Stewart; there are now two UCAS FAQs on SMH which provide further guidance about the whole process. Please email Mrs. Stewart if you have any questions or worries about this process.

Mrs Stewart would like to say well done to the 84 students who had registered by yesterday evening!

Learner Priorities for next year Trust Improvement Plan

You will recall that over recent weeks we sent a survey to everybody with a list of sixteen headings senior leaders had identified as areas we *could* focus on in next year's Trust Improvement Plan.

We have included the results from our parents'/carers' survey and our staff survey in recent newsletters.

Today, we report the **top priorities identified by our learners**. We are delighted that 246 learners completed the survey giving us their opinions.

Table 1 shows the top priorities of the Wootton Upper School pupils and Kimberley students.

Table 2 shows the ranking given by parent/carers and staff of the priorities identified by learners as being most important to them.

Ranking	Priority	% Identifying it as a "top-five priority"
1st	Increasing provision to build resilience and improve the mental health of our learners	66%
2^{nd=}	Reduce the learning gaps for all learners, caused by the closure, due to Covid-19, through intensive intervention.	63%
2^{nd=}	Support learners prepare for the work of work, making clear links in the classroom as well as increasing workplace visits and employer talks in school/college	63%
4th	Teachers plan lots of different tasks to develop independence but that are well-scaffolded to support learners make rapid progress	56%
5th	Provide a high-quality staff training and development offer to improve staff recruitment and retention at a time of national shortage	54%
6th	Improve access to digital devices and the internet, supporting those with limited or no access to raise their attainment and to improve their future chances	48%

Table 1

Priority	Student Ranking	Parent Ranking	Staff Ranking
Increasing provision to build resilience and improve the mental health of our learners	1st	3rd	3rd
Reduce the learning gaps for all learners, caused by the closure, due to Covid-19, through intensive intervention.	2^{nd=}	1st	1st
Support learners prepare for the work of work, making clear links in the classroom as well as increasing workplace visits and employer talks in school/college	2^{nd=}	4th	4th
Teachers plan lots of different tasks to develop independence but that are well-scaffolded to support learners make rapid progress	4th	7^{th=}	8^{th=}
Provide a high-quality staff training and development offer to improve staff recruitment and retention at a time of national shortage	5th	2nd	6th
Improve access to digital devices and the internet, supporting those with limited or no access to raise their attainment and to improve their future chances	6th	6th	5th

Table 2

The degree of commonality across each of the three stakeholder groups is very high.

Senior leaders will use the results of these surveys to develop our Trust Improvement Plan to take to governors over the next few months. Once the plan is finished, we will share a summary of it with you.

We would like to thank everybody who took part and gave their views.

Given that our learners number one priority relates to resilience and improving mental health I would like to draw your attention to an announcement today about HRH The Duchess of Cambridge doing an online assembly tomorrow.

The Duchess of Cambridge to lead an online assembly on mental wellbeing among children

Tomorrow, the Duchess of Cambridge will lead an online assembly for the Oak National Academy during which she will speak about the importance of mental wellbeing among children. The theme of the Duchess' assembly is '*spread a little kindness*' and is based on a lesson plan which is available on the Mentally Healthy Schools platform. This platform was developed in collaboration with children's mental health charity Place2Be and encourages children to explore ways in which they can show kindness and recognise the benefits of kindness to others. The Mentally Healthy Schools platform can be accessed here: <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/>

The assembly will be live on the Oak National Academy website at 11am on Thursday 18 June and can be accessed here: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies/>

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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Wootton Academy Trust
Hall End Road, Wootton
Bedford, MK43 9HT.
01234 767123
Email: wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk
www.woottonupper.co.uk
www.kimberleycollege.co.uk