

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I received a letter from a local resident. They praised the behaviour of pupils walking through Wootton, and how respectful they were of his property. It is lovely when people take the time to record those positives. All of us enjoy recognition and praise, and I draw your attention to our new App for Classcharts. This is our new way of communicating with you about what your child is doing well, and any concerns about their behaviour or attitude for learning. A letter from Mr Spurling is attached.

I would like to take the time to remind our whole community about fire safety.

Each time the fire alarm is set off, our pupils line up on the tennis courts. They are well trained and follow instructions. Setting off the fire alarm, whether intentionally or unintentionally, even without a fire, puts lives at risk as a fire engine may be called away from real danger and it decreases the importance of the danger by being a false alarm. [Our Exclusion Policy makes it clear that a deliberate act to set off a fire alarm will result in exclusion from the school.]

We have a number of banned items, and these include lighters, matches and aerosols that can all cause a fire, or can set off a fire alarm without the presence of a fire. Our Exclusion Policy is clear that bringing in these items can lead to an exclusion from school. Can I ask that you ensure your child does not bring these items to school, including all aerosols such as deodorants and hand sanitiser sprays.

In addition, I understand that a small number of pupils have brought vapes into school. These are also a banned item and completely inappropriate for school. Please note that if we find any of the banned items that I have mentioned, they will be taken away and not returned.

The Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community.



We're here through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten. We've been here since 1921 and we'll be here for as long as they need us.

Remembrance Sunday is in three weeks and we have planned how we will mark this occasion. Sadly, we are not able to sell poppies this year. To mark the occasion, we are holding a **non-uniform day on Friday 23rd October**. Pupils and staff will be expected to contribute at least £2 for charity. We will collect this money in collection buckets at each year group gate, and this will then be quarantined over half term. Mrs Wilkinson and the Senior Student Leaders have prepared a presentation that explains the important work of the Royal British Legion. After half term there will be an assembly about Remembrance Day. We will lay wreaths as we always do, but ceremonies will not take place to avoid gatherings.

Pupils and staff are still required to wear a lanyard and face covering on non-uniform day.

On any given day, if your child does not have a face covering they must go to reception and collect one. Their Wisepay account will be charged £1.50. Your child will continue to need a face covering at school, on transport and in shops. Disposable face coverings frequently break during the day and therefore please ensure your child has a robust face covering every day.

Uniform

Enormous thanks for all the support we have had regarding the wearing of smart and appropriate uniform. This plays a part in all pupils feeling a sense of belonging to the school community. As we head into half term, please make sure that your child returns to school in traditional shoes. We do not allow trainers or canvas shoes.

I have been told that our uniform supplier is offering a reduction on school jumpers during October. As we head towards winter this is something you may wish to investigate.

Our curriculum and Year 11 data

I have had a number of communications regarding the curriculum from parents, in order that they can support their child. Each week we send home an overview of what is being learnt, and we aim for that to become a half termly document.

Year 11 will receive their grade sheet next week. This will give you a picture of what level your child is currently achieving. We know that pupils often make rapid progress in Year 11, and this year the data will help us work together to support children who are likely to have gaps in their knowledge due to the lockdown. Year 11 have a mature and focused approach to their learning and are engaging well with preparations for next steps. The grade sheet contains all the information pupils may need to complete application forms for Kimberley College, or for courses at other providers such as Bedford College and Shuttleworth College.

As always, many thanks for all your support



Mrs C McMorn
Head of School