

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Wednesday 22 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

St George's Day

Tomorrow is **St George's Day**, the patron saint of England. In the past, patron saints were often called upon for help during time of great peril to save a country from its enemies. I see a comparison between St George and our NHS and Social Care sector.

One of the best-known *stories* about St George is his slaying of a dragon; this did not happen –dragons are mythical fire breathing creatures! Nonetheless, the parallel of St George slaying a dragon surely mirrors the courage of NHS and Social Care workers bravely working to overcome our modern day *Covid 19 dragon*.

St George was very courageous; a high-ranking Roman army officer, St George gave his life for refusing to deny his Christian faith. Over fifty courageous NHS and Social Care staff have lost their lives during the coronavirus epidemic. All of them - and their families - understood the danger they were putting themselves at each day on the "front-line". To my mind they displayed the same courage.

St George's Day falls on a **Thursday** this year, the day when many people in our country open their doors and windows at 8 pm to show their admiration and respect for the NHS, Social Care and other front-line workers by clapping. I encourage you and your children to do so tomorrow and join the tribute; if you have a flag of St George then I encourage you to wave it for NHS and Social Care workers, if you too see the parallel between their courage and that of St George.

Coincidentally perhaps England's greatest playwright, William Shakespeare was born and died on St George's Day. In his play, **Henry V**, on the eve of the Battle of Agincourt, the King shouts "**Cry God for Harry, England and St George.**" My neighbours may hear me shouting tomorrow night something similar, "**Cry God for the NHS, Social Care and Captain Tom**"

Wootton Upper School Year 10 pupil raising money for NHS charities

I thought you might be interested to learn that one of our Year 10 pupils, **Chloe Price**, a talented singer arranged her own Facebook live gig in place of some of the charity events she was due to sing at which have been cancelled. Like Captain Tom Moore, Chloe chose to raise money for **NHS Charities Together** and smashed her £150 target, so far reaching £355. This is a great piece of news for our newsletter and I am sure that all of you will want to join with me in saying "*well done Chloe - keep going and thank you!*"

Here is a link to <https://www.facebook.com/chloepricemusic13/videos/263097348183901/>

Embrace Child Victims of Crime [CVoC]

Before Christmas Year 10 and Year 11 pupils at Wootton Upper School nominated the charity, **Embrace Child Victims of Crime**, to receive around £75 of the money they had raised at the Christmas Fairs the pupils had organized.

Yesterday, I received an email from the charity's Social Media and Fundraising Support Officer to thank the pupils.

On behalf of Embrace CVoC, I wish to express our deep appreciation for choosing to support our work. We are most grateful to you for your generous donation which will help us to continue providing much needed support to many young lives who have been affected by serious crime.

Thank you for helping to make a difference to our beneficiaries - the children and families we support have suffered significant trauma through serious crime and many are from low income households.

We would not be able to help them cope and begin their journey to recovery without the support from donors such as yourself. So, once again, thank you from the team at Embrace.

Best Wishes,
Chloe

Reading List Foundation – Mrs Stewart, UCAS Co-ordinator

The Reading List Foundation is UK charity which helps exceptional Year 13 students from lower-income families succeed at university, by paying for their first-year textbooks. Its ambition is to be able to make one award to every state school or college in the country of £250.

The charity hopes to encourage graduates, who enjoyed the luxury of a free university education in days gone by, to support students from lower income families when 79% of them report they have to cut back on other essentials to fund on-going costs of their courses.

Individuals who donate to the charity may nominate the school or college they wish to receive the award. The website indicates that this may be the school or college they, themselves attended, or perhaps a school or college in their community.

The charity emailed Kimberley College yesterday to let it know that somebody has donated to it to fund £250 towards the costs of first year text books for a current exceptional Year 13 Kimberley student from a lower-income family starting university this autumn.

Whilst it is unlikely the individual who has given this donation to the Reading List Foundation will be reading this letter, nonetheless, we want to say **“thank you”** on behalf of the college.

We want all parents/carers to be aware of the charity; we had not heard of it until yesterday. At the moment, the charity’s assets enable it to make awards of £250 in 250 schools and colleges nationally.

For more information please go to: <https://www.readinglistfoundation.org/>

The Reading List Foundation ask the school or college to determine who receives the award; therefore, we will need a little time to work out some criteria to make the selection based around the two key tenets, exceptional student and lower-income family. However, at this stage, we wanted to let you know that somebody in the community wants to help a Kimberley student. That means a lot to us. **Thank you!**

Ramadan 2020 - Mrs Ashton, Assistant Principal Director of Science

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar is also the month during which Muslims around the world fast **from sunrise to sunset**. The first day of fasting for Ramadan starts at the end of this week.

Because of Ramadan some activities may be curtailed. Mosques will live stream sermons, Quranic recitation and prayers. At the heart of Ramadan is fasting meant to instil contemplation of god. We send all families observing Ramadan our best wishes.

There are twenty-nine Muslim children at Wootton Upper School and thirty-one at Kimberley.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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