

Thursday 19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance today

Year 9 **63%** Year 10 **63%** Year 11 **78%** Year 12 **57%** Year 13 **59%**

Attendance is a little lower again; Year 11 attendance remains highest in the Trust.

Staff attendance 92% - this is a remarkable testament of the extraordinary commitment of the staff team.

Thank you for the offers of help and support we have received and also your comments that you appreciate our regular updates.

We recognize that once the closure of schools takes effect tomorrow afternoon, these communications will become even more important, as we endeavour to remain a single united community, pursuing excellence in a very different way and maintaining our values.

Children of Key Workers

You will know from earlier communications it has been another busy day; you will have received a letter earlier this afternoon asking you to let us know whether your child will be in school because you are a key worker. It is very important you let us know as soon as possible so we can make the necessary arrangements, most importantly to safeguard them. We need to compile an accurate register of whom to expect. We are still waiting for the official definition of what is a key worker.

Students working in school from Monday March 23rd

From Monday, we intend to keep **Wootton Upper School** open for Trust students to be able to work safely. **Kimberley College will be closed to everybody.**

As well as asking parents/carers who are key workers to make a declaration in respect of their children remaining in school during the closure period, we have telephoned the parents/carers of children with Educational Health Care Action Plans, Looked After Children and other children with social workers to ascertain whether these children will be in school.

Today we have made the following decisions:

- ❖ Children entitled to be learning in school during the closure period will wear normal school uniform;
- ❖ Staff working in school will stick to the staff dress code;
- ❖ Each day will start with a tutor period to enable us to register students against the expected list of students, based on parental declaration;
- ❖ Timetable in school will be built around the distance learning programmes other students are following;
- ❖ PE will form part of the timetable;
- ❖ Our catering contractors will be asked to remain open to provide food for students and staff.

Arrangements still to be finalized:

- ❖ Transport for children coming into school ... we have tried to secure answers from CBC's Local School Transport Team, but have not received an answer. We assume normal transport will run, initially;
- ❖ FSM for children not in school during the closure period. We will finalize this tomorrow. Once again we are waiting guidance from government. We are thinking about utilizing a voucher scheme along with other options. We confirm this tomorrow.

Today Year 11 students gathered in the Sports Hall so we could talk to them about the news yesterday to cancel their examinations. We explained that we understand why some students were really sad and frustrated by their cancellation, after all of the hard work they have put in. We explained to students how grades would be awarded this summer. When we get more information tomorrow we will give the students an update. Staff at Kimberley College will do the same for A level students and those in Year 13 taking BTEC courses.

Before Year 11 gathered in the Sports Hall, somebody had made a poor decision choosing to set off the fire alarm. We are very disappointed by this and we explained to Year 11 students how irresponsible the action of the individual who did it was including causing additional pressure on emergency service workers at this horrendous time.

We do not want to dwell on this point because the students have been fantastic overall and we do not want that action to define this period. However, we have made the point that good behaviour is essential from everybody moving forward.

Mufti Day to raise funds for local hospitals supporting Coronavirus victims

Tomorrow, we are holding a mufti day for all students, but especially for Year 11 students, who asked today if we could do this; tomorrow *could* be their final day at Wootton. We are asking for a voluntary contribution from students wearing mufti with money raised going to local hospitals to support the Coronavirus crisis.

Tomorrow we will explain to you how we are going to keep in touch each week during the period of closure. However, this evening we make a plea that you will keep in touch using the contact details in the mailing sent out earlier this evening.

At the end of school and college tomorrow we will say goodbye to most of our student population for a much longer period than we have ever done before. On the basis of the Prime Minister's statement this afternoon we are unlikely to see students back in school before mid-June at the earliest. At the end of every term we always say to our students... "come back safe". We will do the same tomorrow and we will never have said it with greater feeling and seriousness those of us with a religious faith will be praying too that everybody does remain safe.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson

Executive Principal

Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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