

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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Monday 15 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Students Bulletin**

Our on-line Student Bulletin is always very varied and includes lots of information for learners on how they can keep well, as well as promoting other key messages. The “thought for the week” is a quotation from Harry Potter. *“Working hard is important. But, there is something that matters even more: believing in yourself.”* You will find a virtual radio podcast - produced by two Year 10 pupils, Holly Ingram and Lauren Bladon – which you can listen to, as well as recommendations from the Library on Audio Books.

A number of books related to current important news stories and themes - Black Lives Matter, Race, Justice and Equal Opportunities - are recommended. The Bulletin notes that next week is *Schools’ Diversity Week*. To encourage learners to prepare for *Schools’ Diversity Week*, this week’s film of the week is *“Pride”* – a good film to watch in preparation for *Schools’ Diversity Week*.

The bulletin includes information on extended art tasks, art competitions, PE workouts and also Music. As usual the bulletin includes a big section on careers ... this week’s career of the week is a Biotechnologist.

Students at Kimberley should really want to find out more about the UK University Search Virtual Fair which takes place this Wednesday, 17 June and is promoted in the bulletin, as well as other Higher Education opportunities. The bulletin includes a list of apprenticeship vacancies for learners interested in apprenticeships for their next steps.

The bulletin includes a major section on student and family well-being and services available for families and learners to access, including how to look after your mental health.

We are really lucky to have some dedicated staff who work hard to create our eye-catching bulletin. Please do take a look at it. You will be surprised by the support and information it contains. <https://youtu.be/4EwYkgikGSM>

## **Assembly on Opportunity led by Mr Frazer**

This week’s assembly is on Opportunity and is led by Mr Frazer. There is a version on the school/college websites or you can access it on You Tube. <https://youtu.be/fCnIbM8mHq4>

## **Partial Re-opening Advice**

On the Wootton and Kimberley website we have added some detailed information for parents/carers and learners which we would encourage you and your child to read. I am very grateful to all the staff who have contributed to this work. It really is very impressive and should answer all of your questions. The information includes two excellent voice-over PowerPoint presentations – one for Wootton Upper School and the other for Kimberley College with lots of images of what both sites look like now they have been modified, so that they can operate as safely as possible during the partial re-opening period.

Please use this link <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/reopening2020> to read all the information, including the risk assessments and also watch the PowerPoints.

## **One-to-one interviews**

By 9am today:

- 149 appointments had been made for Year 12 students at Kimberley College and,
- 185 appointments booked by parents/carers of Year 10 pupils at Wootton US.

This means around **200** appointments still need to be booked across Year 10 and Year 12.

### How to book appointments

For Kimberley please book using this link: <https://kimberleycollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

For Wootton please book using this link: <https://woottonupperschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

Please may I ask you to prioritize booking these appointments as soon as possible.

Please be aware that you need to book your appointment at least 24 hours before the **day, so:**

- Tuesday bookings are all full;
- book by midnight on Monday for an appointment on Wednesday; (small number left)
- book by midnight on Tuesday for an appointment on Thursday; and
- book by midnight on Wednesday for an appointment on Friday.

### **School Transport for face-to-face lessons from Monday 22 June**

Thank you for completing the survey with your intentions in respect of your children returning to school and college and how they will get there. We will use this information to update Local Authorities on the numbers of children to expect on each school bus route. Over the weekend we have sent both School Transport Teams a list of which children should be attending each day, and have assumed that every child will use the official school transport. We know that some parents/carers will choose to bring their own children into school and college by private car. However, the information we have provided the Local Authorities will enable them to modify any bus routes if necessary and then publish a timetable of pick-up and drop off times.

Once all parents have completed their survey returns we will update the Local Authorities and also the Transport providers themselves.

### **Laptops for learners**

As you know from earlier newsletters, we applied as soon as possible, for thirteen laptops which the Department for Education initiative stated a school of Wootton Upper School's size was entitled to receive. These machines are intended to support families with no or very limited equipment at home. These laptops have not yet arrived and we are awaiting further information. The DfE also made a separate allocation whereby all children with allocated social workers would be provided with the use of a laptop. Two laptops have arrived at Wootton Upper School from the Bedford Borough Council Virtual School. These machines will be issued to the two children identified by the Virtual School's Headteacher. We are yet to receive laptops from Central Bedfordshire's Virtual School Headteacher, but when we do, we will ensure these go to the intended children.

The Department for Education has not made an allocation of laptops for sixth formers; rather it has advised schools and colleges to use any unspent funding from their Post 16 Bursary funding. Mrs McMenamy has ensured that unspent money has been used to order laptops to eligible students. These machines have arrived and we intend to issue loan agreements this week so that laptops can be distributed to students during week commencing 22 June.

You may also recall that I wrote in an earlier newsletter that the Harpur Trust intended to provide additional laptops for students to access. I am delighted to report that this week, fifteen laptops arrived; thirteen of these are intended for learners at Wootton Upper School and two for learners at Kimberley College. Whilst these are reconditioned machines, they look brand new, and in boxes. The Trust's Network Team will now check them and add additional features to them to make them even better. We will use the responses you have sent to us in surveys and other requests for information in our newsletters for you to tell us if your child is unable to keep up with their work because there was no computer/laptop at home or where there was just a single machine with multiple users needing to access it.

We are very grateful to both the Harpur Trust and also to Bedford Educational Association for providing the Trust with these laptops. I will write to both early next week to thank them for their generosity and confirm our plan for allocating them to learners across Wootton and Kimberley.



In the next week, I will write to the parents/carers of the fifteen children to whom these Laptops have been allocated during the Covid-19 pandemic through The Harpur Trust and Bedford Educational Association Laptop Support scheme.

The two charities have together provided 110 laptops to help children who are on Free School Meals or face other challenges keeping up with their education during this distance learning period caused by the pandemic.

Children were selected for support using the following criteria:

- ❖ Eligibility for free school meals, pupil premium and other disadvantages;
- ❖ Residency in the Borough of Bedford;
- ❖ Attendance at a secondary school;
- ❖ Lack of access to IT and family financial circumstances prevent IT purchase

The laptops are given to the school and college, who allocate the equipment to learners using criteria provided by the Harpur Trust.

### **About The Harpur Trust**

For over 450 years The Harpur Trust has been inspiring and supporting the people of Bedford to help them improve their lives. Its aim is for everyone to have pride in our community and to realise their own potential.

The Harpur Trust gives grants to local community projects; it has awarded almost £11 million in grants to charitable causes in Bedford in the last ten years.

It provides accommodation for older people.

It supports, promotes and provides education, through its own schools, sponsorship of Bedford Academy, through joint initiatives with state schools and through its grants programmes.

To find out more about what The Harpur Trust is doing in your community, visit [www.harpurtrust.org.uk](http://www.harpurtrust.org.uk)

### **About Bedford Educational Association**

Bedford Educational Association supports children and young people up to the age of 18 who live or are educated in Bedford Borough. They do this through the provision of grants to schools and individuals.

### **#viruskindness**

Mrs Adams, Head of Religious Studies, set a challenge for pupils and staff to make a contribution to a video on Kindness. The video has been uploaded into You Tube.

Over twenty Wootton Upper School pupils and Kimberley College students sent contributions to Mrs Adams. These are identified in the video; there are also other contributions by pupils from the children of key workers who have been in school with us each day since March 23 2020. On top of this if you watch the video you will see contributions from 16 members of staff, plus some of their children. It really is well-worth spending a few minutes looking at the end result. Mrs Adams tells me everybody is indebted to the creative genius of Mr Kirkwood who has edited the piece and chosen some great music to go along with it.

The video ends with the message “**Corona Kindness spread kindness not the virus**”.

To watch the video, please use this link: <https://youtu.be/K1iunZK7zxE>

**Our thanks go to all the pupil contributors:**

Rory Acott	9DGR	Darragh Hughes	9ICH
Millie Bazeley	9DGR	Kayleigh Maclean	11NG
Mieya Bolino	9DGR	Freddy Marshall	10KRO
Tallulah Bowman Smith	9RDS	Santiago Mustafa Valera	9LCO
Chloe Bulmer	Year 12	Ollie Page	10VBA
Caitlin Bushell	9RDS	Chloe Price	10JWI
Issy Castleman	9LCO	Grace Rickwood	9JLO
Rebecca Hancock	9ICH	Har-Saivak Singh	Year 12
Erin Handscombe	11BCO	Phoebe Thorn	9RTR
Rebecca Hawtin	9JBO	Madeleine Toze	10JRO
Elliot Hudson	9ECH	Niamh Whelan	10NWE
Ollie Hudson	11MG	Ashley Wood	10WE

*...and other key worker children*

**Our thanks go to all the staff contributors:**

Mrs Adams	Mrs Johns
Mrs Bavington	Mr Kirkwood
Mrs E Clarke	Mr Lewis
Mrs Coulson	Mrs McMorn
Mrs Crisp	Mrs Page
Mr Foster-Smith	Ms Powell
Mrs Genders	Mr Hooper
Mrs Graham	Mrs Wetherell
Mrs Holmes	

**Bedford Borough Council Distance Learning Survey**

Over 3,000 families have so far completed the Distance Learning survey, including 187 from Wootton and Kimberley. Thank you very much for making the time to do this. The Local Authority has asked schools to encourage other parents and carers to do so and for schools to reissue the link to the survey: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/NWGG5KC>

The survey will now close on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Parents' feedback to date has been extremely positive. Thank you.

The survey has shown us that a large proportion of our parents/carers are not aware that we provide hard copy packs of information to families who need them. Parents are also not aware that we now have some pre-recorded lessons and pre-recorded assemblies with teacher's voices and teacher videos.

Finally, we are hoping to extend our pilot of live teaching which is underway in the sixth form in the next few weeks.

## **Public Health Flowcharts**

Bedford Borough Council has asked us to forward to parents/carers to assist them in understanding what to do should someone in their household develop Covid-19 symptoms or a positive result is received. We have attached this flow chart to this evening's newsletter.

## **How to Keep Children Safe in Lockdown and Beyond**

Bedford Borough Council has also asked us to advise parents/carers of the confidential **Stop It Now! helpline (0808 1000 900)** is open, providing support to anyone concerned with any aspect of child sexual abuse prevention, online or offline.

They support adults worried about their own thoughts, feelings or behaviour; adults concerned about another adult or young person; and professionals who work with those groups. Please pass on their details to your colleagues and families you work with so they can help them keep children safe.

## **Show My Homework Data for week ending June 12**

<b>Wootton Upper School</b>	<b>Y9</b>	<b>Y10</b>	<b>Y11</b>	<b>Total School</b>
Pupils logged in Monday 8 June up to 4pm Friday 12 June	88%	93%	37%	74%

<b>Kimberley College</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y13</b>	<b>Total College</b>
Students logged in Monday 8 June up to 4pm Friday 12 June	88%	36%	63%

## **Summary of Work for this week**

We have attached to the newsletter a summary of the work set this week for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12. Work for Year 11 learners is now linked to bridging projects. This work is on the Kimberley College website under transition.

## **FSM**

Food parcels and vouchers will go out on Thursday 18 June to provide for eligible pupils over the following fortnight (*weeks commencing 22 June and 29 June*). If anyone wants to swap between food parcels and vouchers from 6 July please email [dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk) by 22 June.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson  
**Executive Principal**  
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:  
Wootton Upper School & Arts College  
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College  
Registered in England and Wales  
Company No. 7740758

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