

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Sunday 10 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all the support you have shown us over an eventful first week of term.

Attached to this letter are the curriculum overviews for each year group, as well as information about external organisations that provide a range of support for you and your child if you need it.

Learning and the curriculum

The curriculum this half term is being delivered through live lessons on Teams **and independent work** set on Show My Homework, with neither element being 'stand-alone'. We are continuing with our calendar of events as normal: Year 10 continues with their assessments this week, but these have been amended to allow them to carry them out at home, Year 13 parents' evening continues online.

We are providing 5 hours of learning a day.

At Wootton Upper School this is because we are setting work for, or delivering live, each lesson on the timetable. In addition, we are delivering an assembly or PSHCE/tutor time each day at 10.35am.

At Kimberley College we are setting work and delivering a live element for each block of lessons. As usual your child will also be expected to complete extra independent work linked to the courses they are studying. There is also a weekly meeting with their Pastoral Tutor.

All learning is designed around your child's normal timetable, and where possible we would encourage your child to follow their normal day. If your child is able to complete lessons at the times on their timetable it helps them to manage their learning, keep on top of the work that is being set and retain a structure to their day. All independent work is set on Show My Homework, although it may direct your child to resources that are on Teams.

Communication regarding your child's engagement and progress

Teachers are using ClassCharts to record concerns regarding non-engagement in the completion of independent tasks set via Show My Homework. Teachers are also recording Attitude to Learning grades for live lessons on ClassCharts, as well as non-attendance at those lessons.

It is therefore vital that all parents and carers are able to access the ClassCharts App to monitor how well your child is engaging in lessons, and their completion of work. This App has already been rolled out at Wootton Upper School. Further details will follow if your child attends Kimberley College.

Senior staff are monitoring completion of independent work by all learners, as well as attendance at live lessons. This check is completed weekly. Parents and carers will be contacted if the School or College has concerns regarding attendance or work completion. This is because it is vital that every young person continues to learn, even during these difficult times.

Work is being assessed regularly. Teachers will provide formal feedback to the class each fortnight, identifying areas that have been completed well and next steps based on misconceptions or areas that learners have not been able to complete. In alternate weeks, teachers will be assessing less formally through short quizzes, self-assessment, and responses in live lessons.

Physical activities are being set by the PE department, for core PE lessons in Years 9, 10 and 11. There is also a weekly bulletin that challenges all our young people across the Trust to take up weekly challenges. Please encourage your child to safely take some form of exercise each week.

Ways in which you can contact us:

Often parents and carers find that contact with a subject teacher resolves issues or concerns linked to learning in a subject area. At Wootton Upper School your child's Year Leader is also a useful point of contact. You may continue to do this.

Year 9: Mrs Clark eclark@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Year 10: Mrs Strickland astrickland@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Year 11: Mr Kane jkane@wootton.beds.sch.uk

In addition, below are some useful contacts.

Any concerns regarding live lessons: Mr Detheridge tdetheridge@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Any broader concerns regarding the curriculum: Dr MacKay emackay@wootton.beds.sch.uk

If your child does not have access to a device on which to learn (laptop, tablet, gaming device) or you need help in accessing online learning via an X box or Play Station, please email Mr Stewart on istewart@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Please also email Mr Stewart if paper resources might be useful in overcoming barriers to learning.

Teachers have experienced really focused and positive attitudes in live lessons, and have asked that this be passed back to parents and carers. Do please continue communicating with us. In particular remember you can access support via safeguarding@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Stay safe and well

Yours sincerely



Mrs McMorn
Head of School
Wootton Upper School



Mr T. Detheridge
Head of College
Kimberley College

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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