

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Thursday 19 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Congratulations to all of our GCSE, BTEC and A level pupils and students who achieved their results last week. We are very confident that these results are well-deserved and reflect the hard work put in by individuals over two very challenging years. Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to support pupils and students and developed new approaches to teaching and learning. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of every young person and we hope that our parents/carers share our delight. A small number of grades are being appealed; where appeals are submitted grades can go down, stay the same, or if the appeal is upheld, go up.

START OF TERM

In my letter at the end of the summer term, I explained we would write to you this week. This is the first of two letters you will receive from us; the second letter will contain detail of what you need to know about the arrangements for pupils and students to take their onsite lateral flow device tests prior to starting the new academic year at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College. The key facts are that all pupils and students should be brought to the school/college on **Thursday 2 September** for their first LFD test and to collect their new timetables and complete other administrative processes.

On **Friday 3 September** all Wootton Upper School pupils will start normal lessons; all Year 12 students at Kimberley College will complete an induction programme at the College. School transport will operate from Friday 3 September.

The second LFD tests will take place on Sunday 5 September.

On Monday 6 September Year 12 and Year 13 will start normal lessons.

Our plans have been modified in light of the latest government guidance.

NEXT STEPS

159 Kimberley College students met the terms of their UCAS offers to start their university courses. Of these, two students will be starting courses at Cambridge University in the autumn studying Natural Sciences and Computer Sciences respectively. A small number of students are using the UCAS clearing system to secure placements. We wish all of the individuals who are about to embark on the next phase of their education every success.

Other Kimberley College students will be starting higher level apprenticeship in the next few weeks. Apprenticeships are a genuine alternative open to students to continue their education Post-18.

We have a small number of vacancies at the Trust which may be attractive to Kimberley students who are taking a gap year before starting university or an apprenticeship. [see vacancies below]

CONNOLLY FOUNDATION AWARDS

Mrs Ashby, Wootton Academy Trust's Connolly Foundation Co-ordinator has recently submitted eighty-five applications to the Connolly Foundation for awards to students leaving Kimberley:

- ❖ 6 gap year applications [students who left Kimberley in 2020 starting their HE course in the autumn 2021]
- ❖ 6 discretionary award applications
- ❖ 73 main award applications

In October, the Connolly Foundation will determine the outcomes of these applications (*as this depends on students taking up their places at University*); our **prediction** - based on last year's decision making and outcomes – is that Kimberley students assessed as meeting the Foundation's eligibility criteria will collectively achieve around **£55,500 of financial support**.

This compares to last year's Kimberley cohort, who received a total of **£24,250 in funding**. In late October, we will give you an update on total scholarship funding secured this year by Kimberley alumni.

The above sums are very significant; I know that our students recognize and appreciate the huge support they receive from Mrs Ashby.

HARPUR TRUST BURSARY

The Harpur Trust also offers a number of scholarships of its own. The Harpur Trust has confirmed that two Kimberley students will be awarded bursaries once they have sent confirmation of their A level/BTEC results. Wootton Academy Trust is very grateful to both the Connolly Foundation and to the Harpur Trust for their support.

WAT STAFF VACANCIES

More information about our current vacancies is available at: <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/staff-vacancies>

Vacancies include: Wootton Academy Trust Estates Manager; Pastoral Support Officer; Food Technician.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

In September, the Trust will be seeking to fill parent governor vacancies at both Kimberley College and Wootton Upper School. The **four** parent governor vacancies on the Wootton Upper School Local Governing Board are open to any parent/carer who has a child at the school whilst the two vacancies on the Kimberley College Local Governing Board are open to parents/carers with a child at the college. We deliberately delayed seeking nominations for both local governing boards as we wanted to enable parents/carers of pupils/students joining Wootton Upper School or Kimberley College this September to be able to put themselves forward.

Shortly, we will be sending out letters inviting parents/carers to put themselves forward for election. The deadline for submitting applications is Tuesday 21 September. The Local Governing Boards have arranged for Cllr. John Wheeler, Vice-chair of Wootton Upper School Local Governing Board to be at the school on **Thursday September 2** and Bob Bunting, Vice-chair of Kimberley College Governing Board to be at the college on the same day. This will provide an opportunity for parents/carers who may wish to find out more about what is involved to do so. The governors selected this date as lots of parents/carers will be bringing their sons/daughters into school/college for their first Lateral Flow Device Tests and therefore take the opportunity to find out more by speaking to Councillor Wheeler or Mr Bunting about what is involved in governance or, raise any other matters with them. Please email wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk if you have any questions.

INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING LESSONS

We wrote to parents of our new intake pupils joining Year 9 in September encouraging them to register for instrumental or singing lessons with the Bedford Music Co-op so that they can start lessons at the beginning of term. It is still possible for parents/carers of these children to register or indeed other parents of other children at Wootton Upper School. So far eighteen parents/carers of our new Year 9 cohort have registered for lessons. We would encourage other parents/carers to do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be put in place for children to start their lessons at the beginning of the term.

Similarly, now Year 12 students have had their places confirmed at Kimberley College we would ask that any parent/carer who wants their son/daughter to continue having lessons with the Bedford Music Co-op to register. Students starting at Kimberley have the opportunity to continue learning with their previous Bedford Music Co-op teacher who taught them in their former school. To sign your child up for lessons please visit www.bedsmusic.coop/lessons

WORKS AT THE SCHOOL AND THE COLLEGE

The Sports Hall at Wootton Upper School has been refurbished over the summer: it has a new floor and new lights and it has also been redecorated. This work is likely to be the start of a major upgrading of the sports facilities on the Wootton site over the next eighteen months.

Our somewhat *antiquated* telephone system has been replaced. Whilst it may take us a little time to get used to the new system in the long term it should be much better. Like all modern phone systems, the new system at Wootton and Kimberley will record all calls for training and monitoring purposes.

A wide variety of other works are ongoing – our thanks go to our Estates Team for its hard work and especially our Estates Manager, **Ken Hance**, for his leadership. Mr Hance leaves the Trust to move to a larger MAT at the end of August. We are very grateful to Ken for all he has done and wish him every success in the future.

ROADWORKS

The Trust has been notified that **Fields Road** is anticipated to be closed for carriageway resurfacing from Tuesday 7 September to Wednesday 15 September between 09:00 and 15:30 hours. This means that the Kimberley to Wootton Shuttle Bus, as well as everyone else who uses that road will need to make a lengthy detour coming into the village using a different road.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2021		
Wednesday 1st September	-	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Thursday 2nd September	-	School/College open for Lateral Flow Testing
Friday 3rd September	-	School/College year begins
Friday 22nd October	-	School/College close for half-term, 3.00 p.m.
W/c Monday 25th October	-	Half-Term
Monday 1st November	-	School/College re-open
Friday 26th November	-	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Friday 17th December	-	Autumn Term ends, 3.00 p.m.
Monday 20th December	-	Christmas Holiday begins

SPRING TERM 2022		
Tuesday 4th January	-	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Wednesday 5th January	-	School/College re-open
Friday 11th February	-	School/College close for half-term, 3.00 p.m.
W/c Monday 14th February	-	Half Term
Monday 21st February	-	School/College re-open
Friday 1st April	-	Spring Term ends, 3.00 p.m.
Monday 4th April	-	Easter holiday begins

SUMMER TERM 2022		
Tuesday 19th April	-	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Wednesday 20th April	-	School/College re-open
Monday 2nd May	-	Bank Holiday
Friday 27th May	-	School/College close for half-term, 3.00 p.m.
W/c Monday 30th May	-	Half Term
Monday 6th June	-	School/College re-open
Wednesday 20th July	-	Term ends, 3.00 p.m.
Thursday 21st July	-	STAFF TRAINING DAY

WOOTTON UPPER SCHOOL AND KIMBERLEY COLLEGE OPEN EVENING

Date	Event
Thursday 23 September	Wootton Upper School Open Evening
Wednesday 13 October	Kimberley College Open Evening

START OF TERM REMINDERS

Friday 3 September Wootton Upper School will use the Friday Week 2 timetable for all Year 9 – Year 11 pupils.

Week beginning Monday 6 September will be Week 1 at both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College.

Our school/college day reverts back to a 3:00 pm finish time

WALK-IN VACCINATIONS FOR 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS AT MANTON HEIGHTS

We have been informed that walk-in appointments for Covid-19 vaccinations for sixteen and seventeen year olds started on Wednesday 18 August. If your son/daughter has not been advised of this, please let them know.

Yours sincerely



Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

KEY WAT STAFF

Wootton Upper School

Head of School – Mrs C McMorn

Deputy Head of School – Mrs K Enser

Kimberley College

Head of College - Mr T. Detheridge

Deputy Head of College – Dr E. Mackay

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

To contact the Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@wootton.beds.sch.uk

WAT Designated Safeguarding Lead & Deputy Head of School at Wootton Upper School

Mrs K Enser

WAT Safeguarding and Early Help Officer

Mrs C Farrant

WAT Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Pupil Premium Co-ordinator

Mrs S Rydeheard

WAT Safeguarding Officer

Ms. C Raitt

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

WAT SENCo

Mrs J Holmes

Mrs Holmes is currently on maternity leave; the Senior Leader overseeing SEND during this time is **Mrs K Enser**

Assistant SENCo

Miss J Wilkinson

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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