

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

March 31st 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your comments today following last night's newsletter; it is really good to get feedback and suggestions as to how we can improve our practice still further. Even though it may take a bit of time for us to respond to some of the points you make to us, I can assure you we are listening. I have asked the Teaching and Learning Team, led by Mr Frazer to look at a few comments you have made concerning the timing of when work is published on the *Show My Homework* platform and providing students and parents with simple guidance on how your children can submit work on SMH.

One parent wrote to me today, we are living in "*unprecedented times of uncertainty*" and learning as we go along. This sums the situation up succinctly and we know are practices we develop overtime. The parent suggested we offered parents and students the opportunity of contributing articles to the newsletter. **Well, if it encourages more people to read it! Why not?** In these unprecedented times I may find myself as "Editor in Chief"!

One or two other parents/carers commented that their children are working much harder than when they are in school; some are finding it a bit stressful. We certainly do not want to add to anybody's stress; **Mrs Enser has been working on developing a new section to the website on student and parent wellbeing.** We hope to be able to publish that later this week. I can assure you that quite a few teachers have commented that they are working harder than they have worked before. I am confident that things will settle down.

Another parent contacted me asking how we can ensure that the predicted grades, teachers send to the examination boards are fair. I have replied that all schools *will* get very precise guidance on how these grades should be given, but we do not have it yet. Clearly both the school and college will follow a rigorous quality assurance process to ensure our grades are standardized carefully. Ofqual has said that there will be an appeals process for parents and students, if they feel that an examination centre has not followed the proper process, and of course, it will be possible for students to sit an exam at the "earliest opportunity".

Numbers in Schools today

Across our family of schools there were a few more children in today: **67 in total**; at Wootton Upper School, we had seven pupils with us. We are trying to complete a return to Central Bedfordshire Council on which pupils need school transport in the days and weeks ahead. Therefore, if your child is likely to be accessing our children of key worker and other vulnerable children provision, please let me know. Thank you.

We will be open to children of key workers and other vulnerable children over the Easter holiday; we are not yet sure whether this will include Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Free School Meals [FSM] update

The government has today published information on its new national scheme of electronic vouchers. We will write to all parents and carers of children entitled to FSM to gather your views on how we operate. We hope that letter will be sent to the relevant parents/carers not later than Thursday of this week.

Harpur Trust University Scheme update

Mr Detheridge will publish a letter tomorrow, which will be sent to all Year 13 students with a Bedford Borough address with details how we will support students eligible to apply for this substantial bursary. We will also put a copy of the letter on our websites so other parents can read about it.

Show My Homework Analysis

SMH Analysis WUS

Wootton Upper School	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total School
Logged in within the 24-hour period up to 3pm today	85%	83%	61%	77%
Pupils logged in since Sunday 29 March up until 3pm today	94%	94%	82%	90%

The Trust commented ... *“It is really encouraging that the vast majority of our learners are regularly logging in to Show My Homework. However, **teachers would like to see an increase in the number of submitted pieces of work.** In future weeks will be making sure that all future work can be uploaded through Show My Homework. In the meantime, I encourage learners to email their work to their teachers; email addresses are on the school website.”*

SMH Analysis KC

Kimberley College	Y12	Y13	Total College
% of students logged in today, Tuesday 31 March up until 5pm	71%	70%	70%
% of students logged in since Monday 23 March	99%	99%	99%

“We continue to show student engagement with Show My Homework at 99% with students logging in daily consistently at 70% this week so far. We are delighted to see how students are working with our Pastoral Tutors; students not logging in has reduced dramatically.”

Staff departures at the end of this term

At the end of this term, we say farewell, and thank you, to five colleagues who are moving onto new roles next term, but perhaps not in the way they had imagined when they accepted their new roles:

Mr Elvis Rughoobee, Head of Year 11, and teacher of Mathematics, is moving to a leadership role at another Bedford Borough School; Mr Rughoobee has taught at Wootton Upper School for **four years and eight months**. Mr Rughoobee has been an active supporter of *Movember*, leading the Trust’s participation in it. *Movember* - an annual event - involves the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide. Mr Rughoobee has worked for Wootton Academy Trust once before; coincidentally this was also for **four years and eight months**.

Miss Lauren Chatley has been our Library Manager for three-and-a-half years. During her time here, Miss Chatley has developed our provision to include a well-being section in the Library, introduced fund raising with annual quizzes, increased the number of reading clubs and much, much more. We wish her well as she takes on the role of Library and Information Manager in another Bedford school.

Miss Sarah Robinson, teacher of Business Studies, leaves the Trust after two-years, to take up a role as Curriculum Leader, Business, in a Buckinghamshire school. Miss Robinson will be especially missed at Kimberley, where she has been largely based this year.

Miss Felicity Lewis, teacher of History, is moving to a post much nearer to her home in Cambridgeshire, after two-terms because of the length of her daily journey to Wootton and Kimberley. I know lots of students are really sad to have said goodbye to Miss Lewis. I have enjoyed listening to Miss Lewis teaching Year 12 class all about the French Revolution.

We also say thank you and farewell to **Mrs Frances Ryan**, after just a term. Once again a long journey each day, this time from Northamptonshire has proved unsustainable, especially with the road closures and busy Bedford roads at rush hour. Mrs Ryan is moving to a school, five minutes from her home.

At the end of February, **Mr Chris Dwyer**, Assistant Network Manager, left the Trust to pursue a new career. Mr Dwyer, a former pupil, returned as an apprentice and then during his period of employment with us, six years and nine months was promoted to become Assistant Network Manager. Mr Dwyer had a reputation of being willing to help anybody “24/7”. Thank you.

Hope at this time of uncertainty and sadness

Today, Mrs Ashton, Assistant Principal [Science] sent me a poem to include in this newsletter. Written by the Islamic poet, **Hazrat Inayat Khan**. Mrs Ashton commented how much she likes the poem and finds inspiration in it, believing that *“it can give us all hope at this time of uncertainty and sadness.”*

*I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to solve.
I asked for prosperity and God gave me brawn and brains to work.
I asked for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome.
I asked for patience and God placed me in situations where I was forced to wait.
I asked for love and God gave me troubled people to help.
I asked for favours and God gave me opportunities.
I asked for everything so I could enjoy life.
Instead, He gave me life so I could enjoy everything.
I received nothing I wanted, I received everything I needed.*

Hazrat Inayat Khan

Rest in Peace

"We are very sad to learn that one of our students is having to come to terms with a family bereavement; a relation has died from Coronavirus. It is with the same regret that we learn both of the death of a family member of one of members of staff at the weekend from Coronavirus, and another member of staff was told yesterday evening of the death of a friend from their church prayer group, who has also succumbed to Coronavirus. Finally, I learned from one of our governors that they too had been touched by the Coronavirus scourge with one of their former rugby team mates dying over the last few days. We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the student and their family, to our two colleagues and to our governor who have been hit with this awful news. Every death is a tragedy; when our community is touched by four deaths in one week, it really does it bring home just how much we are all living in *“unprecedented times of uncertainty”*.

Please do let us know if a member of your family falls ill and is battling Coronavirus and, if so, if there is anything we can do to help.

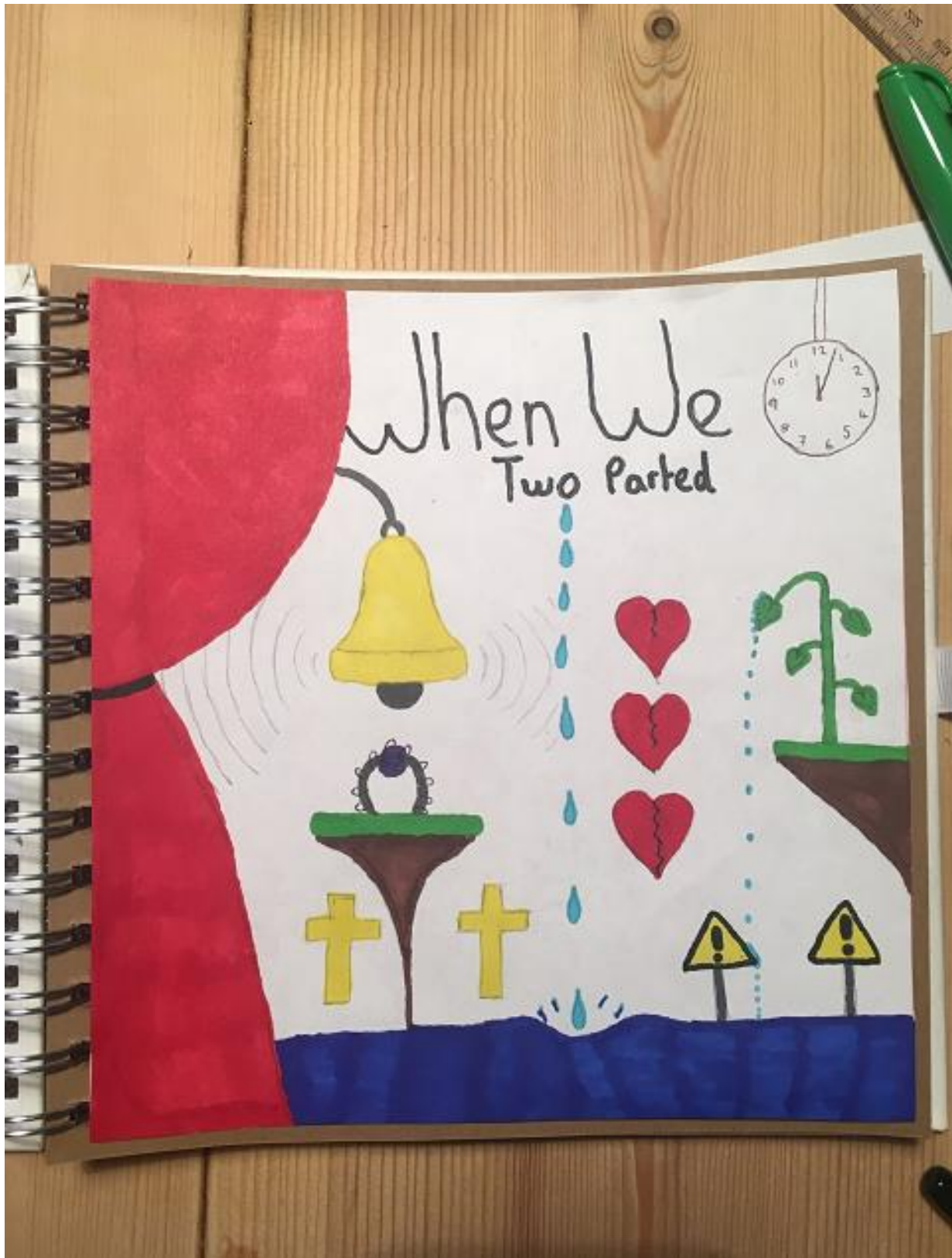
Please do take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
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Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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The curtain shows how his pain overshadows his entire life - taking up a whole side of the paper. The grass while the curtain symbolises the pain, the ocean at the bottom symbolises how deeply his pain is felt. The tears dripping from the tree shows how him being reminded that he wasn't alone once causes his pain to go deeper and stronger. The plant on the right links to the line 'the dew of the morning sunk chill on my brow which then drips down onto the morning signs - it felt like the warning of what I feel now - which then sinks back down into the ocean.'

The knot below the title links to the quote 'a bell in mine ear' and the sound waves that keep going on and on show how the sound of his ex-partner's name rings around his head constantly after hearing it. The ring below it sits on a platform of grass with the bottom buried in. This shows how the vows are all broken, eliciting linking to possibly a failed marriage, but with context, we know they weren't married. Therefore, this could instead be interpreted as the marriage of his ex-partner being 'set in stone' and their affair is the black rings around the wedding ring. This grass then feeds into the ocean, passing the crosses used as death imagery.

The hearts to the right show how he was 'half broken hearted', and the three of them show time passing. The clock also shows time passing and represents the cyclical structure of the poem.

The Five Pillars, the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Shahadah

The Five Pillars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shahada • Prayer (salah) • Alms (zakah) • Fasting (sawm) • Pilgrimage (hajj)

What is Shahadah?
 The belief that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of God.

The Ten Obligatory Acts	Explanation
Salah	Daily Prayer
Sawm	Fasting dawn to sunset.
Zakah	giving money to help the poor
Hajj	pilgrimage to Mecca
Jihad	war struggle
Khums	20% tax split between charities
Amr-bil-Ma'roof	encouraging people to do good
Nahil Anril Monkar	discouraging people to do bad.
Tawakuf	showing love to God and others
Tawarra	Don't associate with God besides.

Explain why Shahadah it is important in Islam
 This is because it is the declaration of faith and it shows that they all believe in Allah and have submitted to their faith.

Quotes:
 "There is no God but, and Muhammad is his messenger."
 Shia muslims add "Ali the friend of Allah."

Exam Questions:
 Explain two ways in which the belief in Ten Obligatory Acts influences Muslims today. (4 marks)
 In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

Two ways that the ten obligatory acts influence Muslims today is following sawm and fasting in Ramadan from dawn to sunset and also Hajj and doing the pilgrimages and going to Mecca.

Explain two reasons why Shahadah is important to Muslims. (5 marks)
 Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

There are many reasons why the Shahadah is important to Muslims, but two of the main reasons why it is important is because it shows that they are submitting to their religion and are willing to follow Allah just like Muhammad did in the Quran. The Shahadah is also important because if Allah isn't the only god that you believe in then you aren't a true muslim.

The Five Pillars, the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Shahadah

'Shahadah is the most important belief in Islam.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you:

- Refer to Muslim teaching
- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

I agree with the statement that 'Shahadah is the most important belief in Islam.' I agree with this statement because the Shahadah is the Muslim declaration of faith and it is the first pillar of the Islam faith. It expresses the belief that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. This highlights the key importance of the Shahadah in Islam. A quote that shows this from the Qur'an 'There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger' 3:18.

On the other hand other people may disagree with this statement and say that Salah the second of the five pillars of Islam is the most important because praying to Allah five times a day is more important than the Shahadah because praying five times a day was demonstrated by Muhammad. Therefore, Muslims want to ensure that they are following as Muhammad did as he was sent by Allah himself.

children and their families.

- I think physical theatre would suit it the best as you can portray internal emotions through multiple ways showing the depth to her character.

Stimulus 3; NHS

- Initially things that come to my head are hardship and struggle.
- It would be a very stressful, rewarding and critical job.
- You could base this performance on someone's life as a new doctor whilst they combat the struggles of the job. I would use multi-acting to create lots of characters emphasising the confusion staff feel at points. I would also emphasise the effect death has on the staff by using sounds and silence at key parts in the performance.
- Some of the characters involved would be staff, parents, children and other overbearing family members.
- I think the style that would work best would be Epic theatre again so that the audience would be able to consider the immense struggle doctors and nurses go through everyday.

Stimulus 4; Unemployment

- I initially think of finance, benefits, rough areas and also competition.
- I would say some emotions would be frustration,

worry and stress because I can't imagine not having a job as a peaceful thing.

- One possible situation would follow a family trying to regain stability. The mum or dad etc could of been released out of prison for petty theft and it could display the hardship ex-criminals go through to get a steady job therefore placing them back into a life of crime.
- Some characters involved would be parents, siblings and various people they meet at the range of jobs they have/try to get.
- I would say you could try to use observational comedy to show the ridiculousness ~~and~~ people have to go through as well as making a ~~more~~ darker situation a lighter one.

Stimulus 5; Homelessness

- My initial thoughts are hardship and rejection.
- Some emotions I think of are struggle and pain and desperation.
- One possible situation could be showing multiple peoples journeys through the battle with homeless - for example one could be pregnant the other an ex-drug addict one bankrupt etc - this would show that it could happen to anything / anyone.
- Some characters involved would be family, partners, helpers, rich etc.
- I would use verbatim theatre because then you would be able to give voice to those who went through struggle as well as knowing you are presenting an honest story.