

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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Friday 3 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Online learning for students – News from Mr Detheridge, Principal of Kimberley College**

After a successful trial with our Year 12 learners, we are rolling out Microsoft Teams with pupils at Wootton Upper School. This online platform will *initially* enable pupils to review the learning that has been set by teachers and enable them to ask questions that arise from this work. Teachers will be able to share resources with pupils in a format more closely to a lesson.

Over the next few days, pupils, initially in Year 10, will have access to teaching staff in a range of their option subjects; this complements the core offer delivered on site at Wootton. The Teams sessions will not necessarily be delivered by pupils' normal class teachers and sessions may include more pupils; however, the teacher will be a subject specialist. In the week commencing Monday 13 July we will increase the number of subjects offered on Teams for Year 10 pupils and also offer the opportunity for Year 9 pupils to join Teams in their core subjects (English, Maths and Science).

We will send out details to pupils on how to set up Microsoft Teams along with online safety protocols. These instructions will be emailed directly to pupils via their school email address. Pupils must be familiar with the instructions and protocols, before they join any Teams session.

Microsoft Teams is a complementary to the onsite face-to-face provision and distance learning provision set on *Show My Homework*.

We are pleased to be able to offer Microsoft Teams to our learners and anticipate, in the future, integrating Teams in our teaching and learning at the Trust. Therefore, where possible, pupils should use the next two weeks to familiarise themselves with the programme. There are a number of supportive video tutorials online that will help pupils familiarise themselves with Microsoft Teams and we have designated support to help resolve any problems, which is outlined in the guidance for learners.

## **Year 9 Face-to-Face meetings week beginning Monday 6 July – Mr Stewart**

We are pleased that so many parents/carers have already booked appointments next week. If you have not done so, please make an appointment as soon as possible. Please click here to see a copy of the original letter with guidance on how to book appointments: <https://bit.ly/2ZMTUYX>

## **Bedford LGBTQI+ Group – News from Mrs Page, PSHCE Co-ordinator**

Bedford Borough Council is launching an LGBTQI+ online youth support group. Bedford LGBTQI+ group offers a safe online space for young people aged between **12 -18 years old** (*up to 25 with additional needs*).

Young people from the LGBTQI+ community living in Bedford, are invited to join the group for activities, friendship and support. The group will meet online every Monday between 3pm - 4pm. For more information, learners should contact Stephen Swain on 07736 132294 or [stephen.swain@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:stephen.swain@groundwork.org.uk) There is a flyer attached to the newsletter with the above details.

## **News from Miss Jemma Wilkinson (Student Leadership)**

There are many leadership opportunities available to WAT child/ren in the forthcoming academic year. We encourage all of our pupils and students to identify their aspirations, seek opportunities and have a firm belief in themselves - leadership is one of those occasions where learners have the chance to achieve all three.

We have a plethora of leadership roles available for pupils and students in all year groups. Fundraising, social and well-being are just a few examples.

We pride ourselves on inclusivity. Therefore, we encourage all of our learners, regardless of experience, to get involved and apply for a leadership position. We recognise that our pupils and students have a range of personalities. We understand that each pupil and student will possess unique ideas about what 'leadership' is; this is both exciting and desired when allocating leadership roles.

We look for passion, innovation and a willingness to participate when allocating our leadership roles. It does not matter if the student has previously not held a leadership role - we offer training and certification, celebration events for our leaders and engagement in the school community.

The online application process for Year 9 – Year 11 leadership positions can be accessed using this link: <https://bit.ly/3gmyE2z>

I cannot wait to meet and work with your children to enable their voices heard to be heard. Please do encourage your child to apply today and change the future!

### **Ofqual statement on Autumn Examinations – Mr Frazer**

Parents/carers as well as Year 11 and Year 13 learners especially, will be keen to learn about the outcome of the consultation on an Autumn examination series. The full document from Ofqual is available [here](#).

Ofqual has decided to implement the majority of the proposals which had been set out in the consultation document.

#### **In summary, these decisions mean that exam boards must:**

- ❖ make exams available in all GCSE, AS and A level subjects in the additional autumn series
- ❖ exam boards must base results on students' performance in exams alone and not on any non-exam assessment, with the exception of art and design qualifications
- ❖ exam boards must issue replacement certificates for the summer results if students request this; exam boards may make a charge for re-issued certificates
- ❖ exam boards must adopt the normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals

In relation to Art and Design, Ofqual has stated, *"While we recognise the difficulties, we have decided to adopt our proposal that students should be able to enter for GCSE, AS and A level art and design qualifications in the autumn, and that their grades should be based on their performance in a new task set and marked by the exam board and taken under the normal supervised conditions."*

#### **Timing of the Autumn Series of Examinations**

Ofqual has stated that it is not its intention to give specific dates for these examinations at the moment, so that there is *"flexibility that might be needed in light of ongoing disruption"*. However, it is **expected that AS & A-Level examinations will be scheduled in October and GCSE examinations in November**. There may be a further opportunity for learners who take GCSE English Language and Mathematics in the autumn to retake them in early 2021 if learners do not receive the grade they hoped for in the November examination series.

The Trust looks forward to further information being received in relation to the specific dates of examinations as well as the process to be used for making entries. The Trust will share this information and also how examinations will be managed, at both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College, as soon as it is available.

Yesterday, Ofqual announced a separate consultation for the summer 2021 GCSE, AS and A level examinations. One proposal is that GCSE examinations do not start until Monday June 7 2021. If this proposal is confirmed it could mean that next summer, GCSE examinations would continue into the first week of July.

## **Updates from Mrs McMenemy, Finance Lead, Wootton Academy Trust**

### FSM Deliveries and Vouchers

Please note that FSM deliveries are scheduled to take place this Friday, 3rd July to cover the fortnight to Friday 17th July. As part of the school's health and safety risk the deliveries were moved from Thursday to Friday to reduce the numbers on site whilst Year 10s are in attendance.

With the Government shielding guidance relaxing further from Saturday 1 August the **decision has been made to move all FSM eligible households to vouchers for the summer holiday period**. Each eligible household will receive a voucher for £90 per pupil (£15 x 6 weeks) to cover this period. For those that have not used the voucher scheme to date you will receive instructions on how to redeem these vouchers.

Mrs Sampson and I will continue to monitor the [dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk) during this period if anyone needs assistance.

### Kimberley College annual shuttle bus pass refund

For those pupils/parents that purchased an annual shuttle bus pass a refund of £60.00 has been processed. If anyone has any queries, please contact [accounts@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:accounts@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

### Trips

All trip income, with the exception of the 2021 ski trip, will be refunded before the end of next week. If you have not received a refund by Friday 10th July please can you email [accounts@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:accounts@wootton.beds.sch.uk) so that we can resolve this before the end of term. A decision on next year's ski trip will be made shortly and an update sent to those parents/pupils directly.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson  
**Executive Principal**  
Wootton Academy Trust

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Wootton Upper School & Arts College  
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College  
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