

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Monday 8 June 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Details of all the work for this week for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 has been uploaded onto the Show My Homework platform. As usual a summary of the week's work is also on the school and college website and attached to this letter too. Work for Year 11 learners is now the excellent bridging projects that staff have prepared to ease the transition from Year 11 to Year 12. These are all on the Kimberley College website, as was explained in Friday's letter.

Update on Bedford Borough Council survey

Thank you very much to all the parents/carers who have so far completed the Bedford Borough Council survey giving their views on how effectively schools are supporting families during the lockdown. To date more than 3,000 replies have been completed across the borough from Year R to Year 13. Over 150 replies have so far been submitted from Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College parents/carers. There is still time to submit a reply. The link to the survey is: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/NWGG5KC>

The survey will close on Wednesday 17th June.

To date, responses from our parents/carers are largely very positive; thank you for taking the time to give your views. Overall parents/carers who have submitted replies feel they are being kept very well-informed and that the Trust is working hard to support our learners and to keep them safe. Around one in four parents/carers who have responded would like us to engage MORE by talking to learners about how their learning is going and how they feel.

Our plan to hold one-to-one discussions with pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 next week – as indicated in last Thursday's newsletter – shows we also recognize this is a key priority and that we are putting in place a plan to address this. **We will tell you more about arrangements for these one-to-one face-to-face consultations in our newsletter tomorrow.**

We will also give thought to how we can arrange to talk to Year 9 learners, given that at this stage, the government has not announced any plan for them to return to school before the summer holiday.

Update on parent/carer views on what should be the key priorities in the Trust Improvement Plan

Thank you for your feedback in respect of what you believe the Trust's top five priorities should be in 2020 – 2021 from a suggested list of sixteen senior leaders had identified as possible areas of focus.

The five areas identified by parents replying to the survey as being most important to them are:

Most important priority	Reduce the learning gaps for all learners, caused by the closure due to Covid-19, through intensive intervention.	72.5%
Second most important priority	Provide a high-quality staff training and development offer to improve staff recruitment and retention at a time of national shortage.	66.7%
Third most important priority	Increase provision to build resilience and improve the mental health of our learners.	57.6%
Fourth most important priority	Support learners prepare for the world of work, by making clear links in the classroom as well as increasing workplace visits and employer talks in school/college	57.6%
Fifth most important priority	Improve all learners' ability to write extended answers, high quality essays and personal statements.	48.5%

Just outside the top five, the sixth most important priority, identified by 42.4% of parents/carers as a top five priority was *improve access to digital devices and the internet, supporting those with limited or no access to raise their attainment and improve their future chances.*

Your views are important to the Trust as it works on the detail of its next Improvement Plan. Today, Mr Stewart has published a survey inviting all of our learners to give their views on what our main priorities *should* be next year. We will share the results with you once the survey closes. Will they be the same as those identified by you as parents/carers?

Learning on site at Wootton Upper School

We had twenty pupils in Year 9 and Year 10 in school with us today; all have been working hard engaged by the staff who have been in school with them. Mrs McMorn invited one of the Year 10 pupils, Shanice, to write something for the newsletter.

Today, we have been doing a lot of activities in between our Distance Learning, including media, photo shop and a game of 'Pointless' in media.

We created a BBC News report about a situation around the world of our choice. Many people did it about lockdown and the Black Lives Matter protest.

For photo shop we had to choose a picture and create a black and white background with it, then we rubbed out pieces of the picture to create some colour with the black and white picture.

The game of Pointless was a really fun activity as everyone was using their knowledge to win.

Overall it has been a fun and active day in school, helping us really focus on our subject learning.



Shanice De Wit Year 10

George Floyd, Racism and Black Lives Matter Assembly

This week's assembly is titled George Floyd, Racism and Black Lives Matter. Over the last nine weeks we have put our weekly assembly on our school and college websites so parents/carers can see them as well as our learners. My thanks go to **Mrs Genders, Pastoral Leader at Kimberley College** for producing a very sensitive assembly which explores the issues of racism in our world and highlighting that this is something that each of us has to challenge. I would encourage all parents/carers to watch the assembly with your children.

In terms of last week, please may I offer you my apologies for not publicizing last week's assembly on *Fake News* presented by **Mrs Page, PSHE Co-ordinator and Professional Tutor**, or the extra Year 9 assembly presented by **Mr McInerney, Joint Year 9 Leader**. Since Mr McInerney's assembly invites you to work out its theme based on a series of images at the start of it ... I will not spoil it by including the theme here.

The three assemblies are available on the Trust's websites or on You Tube [links below]

Assembly on George Floyd, Racism and Black Lives Matter https://youtu.be/HMdFMW_skuc

Assembly on Fake News – Mrs Page: <https://youtu.be/UfYsTXIJ064>

Extra Year 9 Assembly – Mr McInerney: <https://youtu.be/eG4U2qN9ZSw>

As usual, our Students Bulletin is available on our websites and also on You Tube [links below]

Student Bulletin June 1st <https://youtu.be/YUO2F2iapC4>

Student Bulletin June 8th <https://youtu.be/VweBVegTJJA>

We are indebted to Mr Spurling for his editing skills and musical taste which really bring the bulletin to life.

Ofqual Consultation on Autumn Series of GCSE and A level examinations

Just a final reminder that the deadline for submitting responses to Ofqual in respect of the proposed GCSE and A level examinations this autumn is 23:45 tonight. I am submitting a response on behalf of the Trust. If any learner, parent, or member of staff wishes to submit their own response, they are perfectly entitled to do so. The consultation document can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887754/Consultation_on_an_additional_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_exam_series_in_autumn_2020.pdf

Reminder from Mrs McMenemy

FSM deliveries and Vouchers – Mrs McMenemy

The FSM deliveries and vouchers to cover the two weeks commencing Monday 8 and Monday 15 June were sent out yesterday. If anyone eligible for FSMs wants to swap from deliveries to vouchers or vice versa please could you email dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk by next Thursday 11 June so that we can adjust the orders accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
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