

17 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank all our pupils for their hard work this term. In our lesson visits we have seen lots of really focused pupils, showing that they are building knowledge and skills. This term, each year group has completed assessments and received grade sheets, and therefore should have a good idea of their next steps to fulfil their aspirations.

Year 11 have mock exams in January. We hope that GCSE exams will run in the summer, but the mocks are being run according to guidelines so that they can be used for Teacher Assessed Grades if this becomes necessary. Year 11 have been preparing for these mocks, and we hope they have been revising at home. We would want all Year 11 to have rest and relaxation over the Christmas holiday, and balance this with their preparation.

The communication we have recently shared with pupils on Summer 2022 and their upcoming January Mocks during an assembly can be found here:

<https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/summer-2022>

Ofqual Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Saxton, has written a letter to pupils with regards arrangements for GCSEs in 2022. The letter can be found here: [Letter to students - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/103122/letter-to-students-2022.pdf)

We do know that preparation for mocks is a good indicator of further success in the summer. Below is a link to a YouTube clip related to effective ways to prepare; many Year 11 will have already seen it. The clips (there are several) are produced by a Year 12 student, Udoka Fintelmann, who left Wootton Upper School last year, and the content is based on his own experiences. [GCSE Mocks | Most Effective Ways To Study - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Additionally, please find attached a document providing an overview of the subject specific support sessions that are offered at Wootton Upper School for Year 11.

Pupil Leadership

We have had an overwhelming response to our call for pupil leaders – well over 160 children have been successful and parents will have received a letter. We are delighted with the response and Mr Saunders will be providing badges and further information in the new year. In January there will also be an opportunity for pupils to join our school council.

Parent Online Sessions

We have recently provided online parent sessions related to mental health and online safety. For those who attend they are generally very well received. Do look out for other sessions as we advertise them, and if you have a theme that you feel would be useful, do let us know.

Charity at Christmas

Bedford Foodbank

All of our pupils have been collecting donations to give to All Nations Church who support Bedford Foodbank and the people/families in Bedford who access the service. This has been a Trust wide initiative with students at Kimberley College also collecting.

In total we submitted 39 complete 'Christmas in a Box' (a box of a range of products collected by each form group) along with 3 boxes of extra items. These will have a huge impact for our local community. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated but especially Mrs Genders, Mr Kane, Mrs Rydeheard and Mrs Lowe for all of their time and efforts. Of particular note are pupils **Jessica Zanna** and **Layla Sturgeon**, as well as Nick Gregory and Athena Gallagher at Kimberley College for their super work in checking and organising the boxes.

Thank you for all donations and the response from all our pupils and staff.



Marie Curie



Staff at Wootton Academy Trust have also been raising money for Marie Curie by sending Christmas messages. We will be donating £227 to the charity. Thank you to all our staff for all they have done this term.

Pupils showing great learning skills:

We are currently updating our Attitude to Learning display with pupils who have the top ATL grades for this half term. All pupils will get a fresh start at this figure at the start of next term (ie it does not roll over – giving every pupil a chance to be at the top of the list each half term). Congratulations to the pupils below!

Year 9

Millie Judge
Tegan O'Reilly
Nicholas Rempel
Daisy Barnfield
Zac Coaker
Milei Calder
Shay Simms
Gracie Lang
Rafal Putowski
Brayden Hillyer
Marika Szulc
Evan Nichol
Tilly Hickson
Shriya Bobby
Paul Antony
Sam Lammin
Lola Ransome
Casey Chandler
Sophie Mulqueen
Camilla Raja
Claudia Gomez Alamar
Max Hardy
Alaina McDougall
Corey Nyasulu
Alfie Ingram
Theo Brazier
Liv Soesan
Bella Sanderson
Veena Arif
Izzy Baker

Year 10

Alice Watters
Annabel Hamilton
Zainab Khan
Kadek Oka Riddy
Colette Fickling
Grace Ford
Alex Smith
Louise Walsh
Kimberley Ellis
Sukhman Josan
Clara Della Ripa
Angel Aghanya
Grace Brown
Lewis Curryer
Scarlett Sale
Reyna Varghese
Lucy Ahearne
Oluwadamilola Ajayi
Idris Gobindram
Evelyn Jimmy
Tajveen Kaur
Charlie Littlewood
Emily Mann
Connor Gunn
Ella Marshall
Daood Tahir
Erin Wright
Chloe Young
Eleanor Hogben
Jake Wylie

Year 11

Hannah Bell
Jack Parkinson-Smith
Phoebie Green
Megan Moclair
Liberty Harrison
Hayden Doyle
Shannay Ambler
Molly Hardman
Rayan Iqbal
Lily Nichols
Mieya Bolino
Matthew Nason
Megan Conway
Max Braybrook
Jac Daniell
Joshua Davies
Reece Kenington
Joe Bland
Logan Brockett
Alexander Horner
Grace Rickwood
Tyler McGleish
Darcey Smith
Millie Bazeley
Angelo Vieira
Issy Castleman
Chloe Marotta
Amelia Whittington
Jack Allen
Lucy Catchpole
Jack Craven

Sports Updates

What an incredible term for sport at Wootton Upper School! We have such talented pupils, in school as well as in teams and individual events outside of school. We are looking forward to what next term brings.

U16 Football

The U16 football boys are through to the 3rd round of the County Cup after their strong 8-2 win against Mark Rutherford on Tuesday 7th December. Playing away on an artificial pitch in horrible weather made conditions very difficult. After adapting to the conditions **Ashley Jay Harries Harris** opened his account for the afternoon to put us 1-0 up. Mark Rutherford equalised after some poor defending which kick started us back into life. Goals followed from **Albara Elforjani**, Ashley with his second, **George Lea** and **James Litchfield** to give us a 5-1 lead at half time. It was 'more of the same' from Mr Saunders at half time and the boys delivered with 3 more goals from **Lewis Whitmore**, **Aidan Kavanagh** and Ashley again for his hat trick. Man of the match was Aidan Kavanagh for his outstanding work rate throughout. The boys now have a home quarter final against the winners of Redborne and Sharnbrook which is to be played in the new year. Well done to the whole squad and Ashley for his hat trick!



Year 9 Football

The Year 9 boys football team secured an emphatic win in the second round of the County Cup against St Thomas More. Every player won their individual battles and there was some excellent passing play throughout the match which meant the team managed to create lots of scoring opportunities. The positive team spirit and encouragement the players give each other during the game is clear to see. Flying winger and 'man of the match' **Orestas Jonaitis** scoring five goals, **Isaac Rexworthy** and **Harry Griffiths** each scoring a brace with **Alessio Cerrone** scoring one.

Mr McTernan said: 'What a brilliant performance and onto the next round of the cup in the new year'.



Science Stars of the Week



Congratulations to:

Year 9

Anwur Al Chalabi
Lizzie Golding

Year 10

Faye Fields Davis
Shenali Liyanage

Year 11

Hannah Brackley
Alex Horner

It gives me great pleasure to send a newsletter with so many pupil achievements. I am looking forward to the successes next term, and in particular watching our pupils take on leadership opportunities.

Wishing all our families a happy and restful holiday and wishing our whole community a Merry Christmas.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMCMORN'.

Mrs McMorn

Head of School