

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Monday May 4 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

DREAM, CREATE AND ENTER

Miss McCracken, Director of Technology, has brought a design competition to our attention and asked that it be publicized in our newsletter. The competition invites all aspiring house-bound designers to design their dream Rolls-Royce of the future.

Visit the Rolls Royce website to see examples of entries submitted already, mainly from children much younger than those at Wootton Upper School. The competition is open to anybody up to the age of sixteen. Rolls Royce hopes that its competition may provide a distraction from self-isolation and social-distancing measures. The competition closes on Monday May 18. The website link is:

https://rollsroyceyoungdesignercompetition.com/?fbclid=IwAR1HxxrO11mSEu8dBbSb71lOKWq3MnX8le_z4moLDCwSZodRghWjrh6cbao

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Ben Pearson, Chief Officer – Education, SEND & School Infrastructure for Bedford Borough has asked all schools and colleges to let parents/carers know he is very aware of the on-going issues with the national e-voucher scheme. He continues to flag these with DfE and is grateful to schools for continuing to let him know of issues.

Mr Pearson has sent two flyers to schools: we have added both of them to our websites and have attached one to tonight's newsletter, which Mr Pearson requested was sent to all parents/carers in recognition that a lot of families are living in situations where their financial situation may be recently changed. The other flyer aimed at families currently in receipt of Free School Meals was emailed to those families this morning.

Mr Pearson stated that *"Bedford Borough Council is committed to supporting everyone confirmed as eligible for Free School Meals due to low income. If you have any questions, contact 01234 228948"*

To check eligibility, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

A separate message has gone out to the parents/carers of pupils eligible for FSM at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College with details of the food parcel deliveries and vouchers going out at the end of this week.

PLANS TO MOVE RECEPTION AT WOOTTON UPPER SCHOOL

The key recommendation from the external safeguarding audit which the Trust had in the Autumn Term 2019 was that the Trust should look to re-locate the Wootton Upper School reception from its current position to the front of the school. Since that audit was published the Trust's Board has been reviewing the best way to implement this recommendation. A capital bid was prepared and submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency; the Trust hopes the bid will be successful, as safeguarding is our number one priority. If for any reason the bid is unsuccessful the Trust will look at other ways of progressing the work.

Our plan is that Reception will move to the front of the Humanities Block for the start of the autumn term this year. A number of companies have been invited to tender to undertake this work. Planning permission has been sought for a canopy to be installed outside the front of the new reception. Once reception is re-located we anticipate that we will create a meeting room in the area, rather than visitors' having to walk all the way through the school, as is currently the case. We are looking forward to this new development.

CENTRE ASSESSED GRADES

In a recent meeting with two of our MAT trustees we discussed with them the process senior staff are overseeing to determine Centre Assessed Grades. The trustees, Mr Haddon, Chair of the Trust Board, and Mr Ridley, Chair of the Kimberley College Local Governing Board, asked questions about the process and suggested we share the process being followed with parents/carers.

We are working very hard to ensure that the Centre Assessed Grades that we submit to the Examination Boards for pupils and students are as accurate as they can be given the circumstances.

Ofqual has made it very clear, we are not allowed to share with you the grades we submit. However, we are able to share the process that we are going through to determine grades. Our process has several separate stages to it. Each stage is **quality assured** by senior staff before we move to the next stage.

Firstly, all Heads of Department have attending a meeting so that they fully understand the process. Heads of Department are now working with their teams reviewing all available evidence including class work, mock examination results, coursework that had been completed and any other non-examination assessed tasks to agree grades. These grades are then analysed by our Data Team and reviewed by senior staff to identify and eliminate any errors which may have occurred. Each Head of Department will have a meeting with our Data Team, and the Senior Leaders overseeing Centre Assessed grades at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College. In these meetings questions are asked to justify the grades and review them if they appear out of line [either too high or too low].

The grades will then be analysed again by the Data Team to compare this year's assessed grades to actual results in recent years. If the grades are out-of-line with previous GCSE and A level outcomes, we will seek to explain why this is the case.

Our Data Team will review every department's centre assessed grades to ensure there is no bias impacting individual groups of learners. The Data Team will check centre assessed grade outcomes for all the standard sub groups of learners them to the grades achieved by the equivalent sub group over the last two or three years. [e.g. girls 2020 v girls2019 and girls 2018; boys 2020 v boys2019 and 2018; Pupil Premium 2020 v Pupil Premium 2019 and 2018].

We aim to finish our quality assurance processes in sufficient time to enable the grades to be submitted to each examination board by the end of the month.

We are confident that the process is very rigorous and that it is as fair as possible to all pupils and students and hope you are assured by the detailed work we are putting in to get it right.

IMPROVEMENT PLANNING FOR 2020 – 2021

Our annual cycle of Trust review leading to the writing of our next Trust Improvement Plan is underway and senior leaders are seeking to determine the Trust's key priorities for the coming year. The best improvement plans engage as many stakeholders as possible and we are keen to gather the views of parents/carers and learners. Therefore, we will be inviting you to comment on what you believe our key priorities are from a list we are putting together. We will do this through a short on-line survey over the next two-weeks.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

We are awaiting announcements from government ministers this week and we will be going through a series of risk assessments to ensure we have robust plans in place before the school and college begin to re-open to more pupils. We know that many of our learners are really missing not being at school and college and we are missing them too.

DISTANCE LEARNING WORK FOR WEEK 7

Today we have published on the website and attaching a copy to this letter the summary document of the work your children are learning this week. Quite a number of parents have emailed to say how useful they find this summary. **On our websites the document is coded CV 34 A**

LEARNERS LOGGING IN TO SHOW MY HOMEWORK LAST WEEK

Wootton Upper School	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total School
Logged in within the 24-hour period up to 4pm Friday 1 May	76%	76%	41%	65%
Pupils logged in Monday 27 April up to 4pm Friday 1 May	95%	95%	71%	87%
Not logged in since Monday 20 April	3%	3%	13%	6%

Kimberley College	Y12	Y13	Total College
Logged in within the 24-hour period up to 4pm Thursday 1 May	69%	41%	55%
Students logged in Monday 27 April up to 4pm Friday 1 May	91%	79%	85%
Not logged in since Monday 20 April	4%	6%	5%

Finally, we had fourteen pupils in school; every time I saw them they were working very hard. Numbers in other local schools are also higher - overall there were 117 children accessing provision across our family of schools.

Please keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

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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