

11 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy reading the successes of our pupils as much as I have.

Year 9 Options and Parents/Carers Evening

A huge congratulations to Year 9 for completing their assessment week, and their mature approach. This is an important time for Year 9 as they choose their GCSE options, and next half term in PSHCE pupils will move on to thinking about how they make their choices, with their form tutors. This will support the discussions you will be having as a family.

Thursday 24 February is Options Evening. There will be a range of resources shared with you online, and an opportunity to ask staff questions that evening. A separate letter will be sent to you with this information. Careers appointments will be in place for Year 9 throughout next half term and the Careers Team will be available for drop in discussions with any Year 9 pupil each break and lunchtime in the Careers Hub.

You will receive your child's grade sheet on Tuesday 1 March and there is a Parent/Carer evening on Thursday 3 March. Options choices must be completed Friday 11 March.

Year 10 Progress Point

Year 10 will have their next progress point in the week starting Monday 7 March. For some subjects this will mean a test paper, but as ever homework and ongoing assessment in class is important. We know that preparing for these assessments supports our pupils to do well in their final exams in Year 11. All revision supports learning, and we would want all our pupils to embed their learning behaviours throughout the two year courses.

Year 11 Mock exam results

Year 11 had a superb approach to their mock exams and received their mock results with their form tutor. We are delighted with the number of pupils attending revision sessions. Each Friday in guidance, Year 11 are focusing on revision techniques and strategies. They are completing a revision timetable this Friday. All resources are being uploaded onto the website. Do communicate with your child's form tutor if you feel they need further support with this.

Please also see the flyer attached to this letter, regarding English Literature remote revision sessions. These are not delivered by the school, or attended by school staff. If your child would like to attend, and your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, we may be able to support with the cost. Please contact Mr McTernan by email:

gmcternan@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Top ATL grades this half term – well done!

Well done to the following pupils for consistently focused approaches to learning. We have updated our display board. We are all extremely proud of these pupils for their effort this half term.



Year 9

Alex Abood
Veena Arif
Chloe Ashby
Emma Baker
Izzy Baker
Daisy Barnfield
Fabian Ciocirlan
Alecks Connaughton
Claudia Gomez Alamar
Lillie Hailes
Daniel Harkett
Ella Harper
Tilly Hickson
Millie Judge
Mya Kang
Kian Lambert
Gracie Lang
Taylor Morgan
Corey Nyasulu
Tegan O'Reilly
Camilla Raja
Lola Ransome
Nicholas Rempel
Harriet Rolfe
Bella Sanderson
Harrison Shaw
Marika Szulc
Shelby White
Holly White

Year 10

Oluwadamilola Ajayi
Tomi Ajayi
Nikhil Basra
Lauren Brett
Lewis Curryer
Clara Della Ripa
Jake Ecott
Kimberley Ellis
Colette Fickling
Grace Ford
Annabel Hamilton
Ewan Higgins
Eleanor Hogben
Lyla Jasper
Sukhman Josan
Navdeep Kaur
Zainab Khan
Tushar Krishnan
Nathaniel Lawson
Charlie Littlewood
Ella Martin
Tee Nevard
Kadek Oka Riddy
Jacob Salmasi
Alex Smith
Reyna Varghese
Tyler Walkden
Emma Watkins
Sophie Watt
Jax Watters

Year 11

Shannay Ambler
Hannah Bell
Hannah Brackley
Max Braybrook
Logan Brockett
Joshua Burns
Issy Castleman
Barney Cheney
Joshua Davies
Hayden Doyle
Phoebie Green
Molly Hardman
Liberty Harrison
Alexander Horner
Kiranjit Kaur
Tyler McGleish
Megan Moclair
Thomas Molson
Jessica Mooney
Freya Nulty
Oluwanifemi Oridate
Jack Parkinson-Smith
Kingsley Rickhuss
Grace Rickwood
Joshua Roper
Ruby Scales
Ella Searle
Rose Slaney
Joseph Watts
Amelia Whittington

*The following pupils are the first to achieve their **GOLD** certificates!*

This is such an amazing achievement- Well done.

Daisy **Barnfield**
Clara **Della Ripa**
Grace **Ford**
Claudia **Gomez Alamar**
Annabel **Hamilton**
Sukhman **Josan**
Millie **Judge**
Mya **Kang**

Ella **Martin**
Tegan **O'Reilly**
Kadek **Oka Riddy**
Lola **Ransome**
Nicholas **Rempel**
Marika **Szulc**
Jax **Watters**



Bedfordshire and Luton Schools Cross Country Championships 2022
Wednesday 9th February 2022

The students who qualified from the Mid and North Beds event went along to Ampthill park on Wednesday to compete in the next round. The students who qualified in the last round were:

Jessica Wood – Year 9	Phoebe Thorn – Year 11
Alfie Nicholls – Year 10	Lottie Owen – Year 11
Aiden Kavanagh – Year 10	Aimee Smith – Year 11
Lyla Danobrega – Year 10	Amelia Carter – Year 11
	Elliot Hudson – Year 11

A special mention must go to **Lyla Danobrega** who came 4th place in her Inter Girls race, qualifying for the English Schools Cross Country Competition taking place in Kent in March. A great achievement well done Lyla!
Mrs Williamson



Under 18 Football

On Wednesday 9 February the Kimberley football team played an away league match in Peterborough against Thomas Deacon Academy. Due to a raft of injuries there were opportunities for some Year 11 boys to step up. Those opportunities fell to **Thomas Lewis**, **Kieran Wallace** and **Ashley Harris**. All 3 boys did amazingly well and enjoyed the experience. Kieran pulled off some wonderful saves in goal to keep us in the game throughout and Thomas was resolute in defence and adventurous in attack.



Ashley was simply fantastic and managed to score 2 goals on debut and could have had a further goal. The end result was a frustrating 4-3 loss, however all 3 boys and **Riley Evans** also in Year 11 (who has been a mainstay in the team) can be extremely proud of their efforts. With matches every Wednesday until Easter there will be more opportunities to come and this is a prime example of boys grasping with both hands the chance to play against older opposition. Well done!

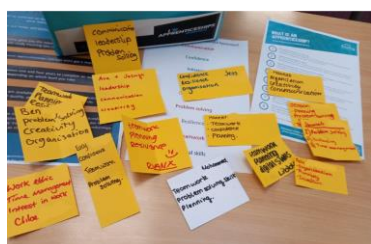
Phoebe Thorn - Swimming

Despite being ill the week before swimming in the 16 year girls category at the Bedfordshire Swimming County Championships, Phoebe Thorn did an awesome job representing Flitwick Dolphins over 3 weekends and gained 7 medals! She swam the 1500m on her first day clear of Covid and, despite not been able to train for over a week, secured a Bronze. She won a Silver in the 800m, Bronze in 200m butterfly, Silver in 200m freestyle, Silver in 400m IM, Bronze in 200m breaststroke and a Silver in 200m Backstroke. She also managed to make the finals of 100 freestyle, 100m breaststroke, 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle. An amazing effort as she was struggling to breathe properly, and she said her lungs were burning. Despite that she swam every race she entered and was also involved with 3 relay races for the club. We are all so proud of her!

An Update from the Careers Team – National Apprenticeship Week

Our Careers Team have been running a range of activities throughout the week as part of National Apprenticeship Week. This included an evening talk, run by Mrs Ashby with guest speakers for parents and pupils in Year 11, which focused on the final stages of finding and securing an apprenticeship this summer. A big thank you to local employers UTAC and Anglian Water, and local training providers Bedford College and SPS Training for taking part. Our Year 10 pupils have been hearing about apprenticeships that are linked to their subjects, teachers are reporting that this has opening up some fantastic career conversations, with the careers team receiving more enquiries about apprenticeships as a future option.

Mrs Riding had fantastic engagement from all year groups at her apprenticeship pop-up stand each lunchtime, where she ran a range of fun activities throughout the week which included activities around myth busting, matching the celebrity/alumni to the apprenticeship, asking our pupils to reflect on their skills as part of National Skills Day and finally learning about local employers of apprentices and what they do. Pupils were keen to take part and were rewarded with sweets and a chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher in our final quiz. Mrs Ashby, Head of Careers and Mrs Riding, Careers Coordinator would like to thank all the Senior Student Leaders and Careers Leaders who helped run the pop-up stand with fantastic enthusiasm. A big thankyou to **Jack Pasquet**, Year 11, who helped with the preparation for the week by assisting Mrs Riding.



If you would like any further information on apprenticeships please contact the careers team at careers@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Safety - All schools are expected to have a lockdown procedure, in case of circumstances where this may be needed. We have to practice this procedure, in the same way that we practice procedures related to a fire. We have prepared pupils this week for an arranged drill on Friday afternoon. Pupils carried this out towards the end of their timetabled lesson.

A message from Mr Gleeson – Executive Principal – regarding COVID-19 guidelines

We will continue to follow the guidance issued by the government, the NHS, Public Health England and Bedford Borough Council to help keep everyone in our communities and villages as safe as possible. Throughout the pandemic we have tracked the data closely on a week-by-week basis. We are relieved that the number of cases of Covid 19 in both Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire is now falling, and we hope this trend continues after half term. We can see from the data that the number of cases in our admission area villages is falling too.

We are mindful that the Prime Minister has indicated he will be making a statement in the House of Commons just after half term on Monday 21 February when he expects to further reduce restrictions on everyone. Therefore, after half term, it is our intention to move away from our current position of asking everyone to wear face coverings in corridors so that we remain in step with government guidance.

We will support any individual who feels they would like to continue to wear face coverings for their own personal safety. We will continue to encourage everyone to wash their hands or sanitize regularly and provide sanitizer for this purpose.

Once the details of the government's statement are known we will provide all parents/carers, staff and children and young people in our communities with a further update.

All of us have learned over the last two years how quickly things can change in a pandemic, with new strains developing. Therefore, we must remain mindful of how we can best keep everyone safe and how, by following sensible procedures and practices, we can ensure that our children, young people, and staff are able to concentrate on learning in school and college.

Parent/Carer opportunities

Safer Internet Day 2022 and Other Resources

Last week, pupils across Wootton Upper School received an assembly exploring respect and relationships online through the medium of online gaming.

We would like to extend a Bedford Borough offer of a parent/carer webinar about online safety. The session addresses adults on the increasingly complex and sensitive topic, tackling perceptions around fake news, conspiracy theories, incels and extremism, and how to support young people (and each other) to build resilience online to fake news, conspiracy theory and related extremist ideologies. It is ideally for parents/carers of children in Year 3 upwards. This will take place on 22nd February 2022 at 6:00-7:00pm. The event is free and further information can be accessed here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1-luton-220222-fake-news-parentscommunities-1800-1930-tickets-208057073307>

Bedford Borough SEND Strategy Redesign

Bedford Borough are holding an online event for parents/carers and professionals to help with the redesign of their SEND strategy. If you are a resident in Bedford Borough and wish to feedback your thoughts and suggestions then you are very welcome to attend the online event on Friday 25th February 10:00am-12:00pm. Further information is available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-virtual-team-conference-tickets-254615049467>

Excellence in Science



Science Stars – Congratulations!

This week's stars are
Year 9 Balraj Singh
Year 9 Millie Judge
Year 10 Virgil Babai
Year 10 Holly Minney
Year 11 Rebecca Hawtin
Year 11 Matthew Nason

Science Seneca champions for January are:

Isla Edmond
Amelia Towey
Emily Cooper
Oliwia Wdowczyk
Adam Williams
Lyla Danobrega
Isabele Cole
Sophia Uriarte Garcia
Kiranjit Kaur
Jack Parkinson Smith
Aliyah Lawrence
Roman Gomez Alamar

Anja Byrne
Charlie Clarke
Ben Abood
Issy Castleman
Sam Chick
Amelia Carter
Molly Hardman
Max Braybrook
Jake Van Oorschot

And all of class 11S2

A Taste Of France



On Thursday 27th January, our students were able to sample French food. Our School Caterer worked in collaboration with the French Department to design and cook some famous and delicious French dishes. Our French Menu included: chicken chasseur, ratatouille, éclairs and delicious madeleines. A big thank you to our Catering team for all their hard work, everyone really enjoyed the food. We are looking forward to a German and Spanish Menu soon.



Wishing you all a restful half term. We look forward to the return of our pupils on Monday 21 February.

Kind regards

CMcMorn

Mrs McMorn

Head of School