

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

---

Friday June 19 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Year 8 children joining Wootton Upper School in September 2020**

Staff at Wootton Academy Trust have been very busy this week talking to lots of our current pupils as well as a sizeable proportion of the children joining us next September.

We have conducted one-to-one conversations with:

- 120 Year 8 pupils who are joining us in September,
- 300 Year 10 pupils before they come back to school one-day per week as well as continuing with their distance learning projects
- 270 Year 12 students over at Kimberley College – the Wootton Sixth Form – prior to their return next week too.

It has been a joy meeting with our current Year 10 and Year 12 learners and their parents; virtually everybody was smiling at the prospect of returning to school; all the staff were smiling even more as they have missed the children they teach tremendously over the last three months. Similarly, our Senior Leaders who have had conversations with Year 8 children have been fulsome in their praise of these pupils, reporting how much they are looking forward to starting Wootton Upper School and meeting their friends as well as making new friends.

We explained in an earlier letter that we had identified an initial group of Year 8 for this first set of online conversations. These meetings were most successful when the children had thought about questions to ask the member of staff. I would also encourage parents and their child to look at the PowerPoint on our school website by clicking on the 'New Intake Information' button or following this link: <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/new-intake-2020-2021>

If you have not been contacted, but would like us to arrange an online meeting with you and your child, over the next two or three weeks then please let us know. You can do this via our dedicated transition email: [y9transition@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:y9transition@wootton.beds.sch.uk) Please do ensure you state your child's full name. If you are not able to access email then please call our School Reception on 01234 767123, ideally after 8:30 am and before 4:00 pm to request a meeting. Outside of these times you will be able to leave a message. At the moment the appointments we are able to offer you will be either by 'Zoom' or by telephone.

We hope to contact you again very soon with an update regarding your option choices. We expect to have final information from middle schools shortly, and this will be our next step. We know you will be keen for any further information we can share.

We are sad that we will not be able to hold our two planned transition days in school in July this year, because of the pandemic. We very much hope that all Year 8 are still engaging with online tasks set by their current school. This is very important, to keep your child's brain working and make sure that they can move smoothly to Year 9 work.

We would like every new year 9 student to bring in their 'best piece of work' when they start with us. Of course this is dependent on how schools reopen in September; however, we would foresee each child bringing to school one piece of work that demonstrates the very best that they can produce. This may be a well-structured piece of writing, beautiful artwork, or really detailed research work. Please encourage your child to set a piece of work aside.

We have all had to learn to work in different ways over the last four months and to find ways of coping with very challenging situations. Some of the new ways of working have shown us just how flexible and resilient children at Wootton Upper School really are. I am sure the same is true for your child and other children in their current school. Nonetheless, I think all of us craves for the opportunity to return to "normality" as soon as possible.

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

Wootton Academy Trust  
Hall End Road, Wootton  
Bedford, MK43 9HT.  
01234 767123  
Email: [wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk)  
[www.woottonupper.co.uk](http://www.woottonupper.co.uk)  
[www.kimberleycollege.co.uk](http://www.kimberleycollege.co.uk)