

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to be welcoming back our pupils on Monday. All pupils will start with a communication session with their tutors. This will cover reminders about our health and safety procedures, but also give them opportunities to discuss next steps in their learning and pick up on themes gathered through pupil surveys, before returning to the curriculum.

A reminder please: pupils should bring with them at least two face coverings and learning equipment such as pens, pencils and calculator as well as being in school uniform. Do remember to top up WisePay accounts and ensure your child has a bottle of water.

If your child is at home, because they are self-isolating or clinically extremely vulnerable, then work is available for them on Teams. All work will be set for pupils on the **lesson log** in each subject Teams page. Pupils have become familiar with the Teams pages, and simply need to access the resources in the usual places in these subject areas.

Homework will continue to be set on ShowMyHomework.



Class Charts is a powerful App that we would encourage every parent to access. It gives you daily updates about all your child's achievements, but also identifies any areas of concern, and is a way that teachers will communicate with parents and carers.

### **Wootton Upper School Book Project**

I am delighted to share with you a project we are running with Year 9 and 10. As pupils return to school each year group is reading a book together.

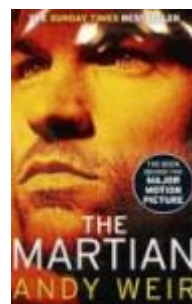
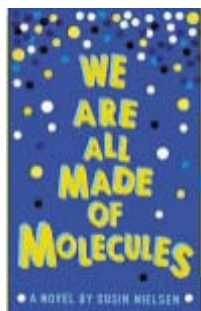
#### **Why are we doing this?**

- ❖ We wanted an activity that brought our year groups back together in a common project.
- ❖ We wanted to support conversations, and this gives us lots of topics to talk about.
- ❖ We believe literacy, and extended vocabulary, are fundamentals that help everyone achieve better and achieve their goals
- ❖ Reading is a life skill. It may not be everyone's favourite past time, but being read to is a way of building security, calm and mental wellbeing when life can seem a little chaotic.

## **What books are we reading and why were those books chosen?**

*Year 9: We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen*

*Year 10: The Martian by Andy Weir*



We have chosen books with themes of resilience and overcoming adversity. Colleagues in the English department have chosen the books after much discussion. There are also cross curricular themes that we can explore in each book.

### **When will pupils be reading?**

In the main this will be a regular part of Guidance time. However, we will also have reading as part of some lessons, with teachers reading to our pupils. Pupils won't be expected to read out loud, but they will be asked to listen quietly and think about how to answer some key questions: eg Did you like this character? Or explore some cross curricular themes. Reading these books will not form any part of homework or extra work.

### **How are we engaging pupils in the book?**

The minimum we ask is that pupils listen to the book being read. However we will be running regular form based competitions, as well as competitions for individuals who would like to participate. There will be a range of prizes available. We will also try to 'read around the world' by converting pages read to miles travelled and seeing if we can get to Australia.

### **Is this a one off?**

No! We believe reading is so important that we will carry this project on next year. From September 2021 every learner in the Trust (Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College) will be reading a book as a year group and talking about key themes.

In fact, we are planning transition activities for Year 8 and Year 11 so they have an introduction to the themes in their book before they start.

Do feel free to read along, ask your child what the book is about and encourage them to get involved in our competitions.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMCMORN' in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mrs McMorn

Head of School