

25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you are all well. We have been working hard to prepare for our annual open evening. Of course, this year we have had to deliver this remotely. Staff and pupils have participated really enthusiastically and it is really worth visiting our website to see some really engaging film clips and other resources.

The link is here: <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/transfer2021>

I would like to thank Mr Kirkwood, Head of Media, in particular, who has spent a great deal of his own time filming and editing resources. If you know a family with a child in Year 8 then do direct them to these resources.

Pupil views on learning

On Monday we will be sending out a survey to all our pupils. This is to give each child a chance to say how they feel about their learning following the long period of not being at school, and working remotely. We will use this information, together with teacher feedback and assessments, to tailor our support and provision. Please do encourage your child to complete the survey. It will be sent via Show My Homework but can also be found here: <https://bit.ly/3036HHB>

I also attach a document telling you what each year group is learning in subject areas.

Year 11 assessment week

Year 11 pupils have been preparing for assessments next week. These will be used to support teachers identify gaps in knowledge so we can further tailor our curriculum. They are also being presented as 'taster' of the formality of exams, although assessments are far shorter than GCSE papers and will be completed in lessons.

Our pupils have been reminded of how important it is to complete homework and prepare for assessments. Every small (or large) success builds confidence, and over time they will notice their ability to retain information grows. This is a small step in their journey this year and we intend that feedback will support them to continue to make progress. Assessment data will be shared with families in the final week of half term (week beginning 19 October).

Pupil voice

I met with some of our Year 11 Senior Leaders this week. I know they are disappointed that they have not been able to be as visible as leaders in previous years. Their resilience shone through, and they are keen to get involved in:

- ❖ Virtual enrichment events
- ❖ Raising awareness about current events and key messages around antibullying and wellbeing
- ❖ Preparing assemblies around key themes, including next week with a theme of black history month.
- ❖ Involvement in a co-production meeting with staff and students from Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College to write an Inclusion Action Plan for the Trust.

Next week I start a cycle of meetings with pupils from Year 9, 10 and 11 to get feedback about how we are doing in keeping our pupils safe, happy and ensuring they make progress in their learning. Pupil feedback is an area of focus for the senior team across the Trust, and I look forward to sharing their feedback with you.

I know some pupils are concerned about safety between home and school, and the school has been working with Borough Councillor John Wheeler, who is a governor at the school, to encourage regular visits from the Community Policing Team at the end of the school day.

Charity News

In March, just as the school closed, we held a non uniform day for pupils. The pupils brought in money, and voted on a charity. I wanted to let you know that a cheque for £547.29 will be issued to Bedford Hospitals Charity & Friends.

Health and Safety

I would like to thank all pupils for being proactive in wearing their lanyards, which identify their bubble. This is working really well. Pupils are also being very respectful about using their year group gates and the one-way system.

Staff continue to monitor the buses, and a small number of pupils do not always have face coverings. This is really very important – all pupils **MUST** wear a face covering on the bus. This is to keep others safe. Please would you check that your child always has a face covering with them if they travel on the bus.

We continue to encourage all pupils to wear face coverings. Pupils can wear them throughout the day and staff are modelling this in corridors and on duty.

I have attached the latest Bedford Borough parent flowchart. This helps with next steps if you or a family member become ill.

And finally, if you are struggling to access the Show My Homework app, to monitor your child's homework, please email your child's Year Leader in the first instance. Please also contact us if your child is struggling to access work due to lack of ICT. We will do our best to help. Please contact Mr Stewart via email on: istewart@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Best wishes for a restful weekend



Mrs McMorn

Head of School