

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Wednesday 1 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

News from Mrs Yvonne Ashby, Head of Careers and Connolly Foundation Coordinator

Year 10: Post-16 Options

This week, Year 10 pupils are continuing to learn about their post-16 options. In this week's video Mrs Ashby has provided more information about local further education options, answering the many well thought out questions posed to her by pupils after the introduction session three weeks ago. Next week pupils will delve deeper into apprenticeships before going on to discover the destinations of past Wootton pupils. We would strongly recommend ALL Year 10 pupils engage with these PSHCE sessions which will support them in making their post-16 choices in the autumn term.

Post-16 Options – Virtual talk for parents

Mrs Ashby would also like to give parents the opportunity to attend a virtual post-16 options talk, which will be a 30-minute talk delivered by Mrs Ashby via Zoom on the evening of **Wednesday 15 July at 7:00pm**. We would encourage all parents to attend this short talk, including parents who have supported older pupils through this process in previous years, in order to gain an up to date overview of the local post-16 offer. The options available to pupils are increasing from September 2021 with the government's introduction of T level qualifications and this talk will cover all options available to pupils locally.

If you would like to attend the virtual talk please email: careers@wootton.beds.sch.uk and we will be able to send you an invitation link.

Year 13 - Aspire Higher Virtual University Experience Event: Wednesday 8 July 10:00am-3:00 pm

This free event is aimed at any Year 13 students living in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire or Northamptonshire who are planning to attend any university within the UK in September. Find out what university will look like in September due to social distancing. Hear from current university students and staff on topics such as what does university look like due to Covid-19, Clearing Plus, student support, student finance, accommodation, how it feels to be a fresher, learning virtually and much more. There will be virtual tours of universities, vlogs giving the student's perspective and a chance to get their questions answered by staff and students. Once registered, students will receive a link to the Virtual University Experience day. There is a link on their website aspire-higher.co.uk or [click here](#) to go to Eventbrite to register for tickets.

September 2020 – Health & Care Academy with Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

We have today secured an exciting new partnership with Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to run a Health and Care Academy with interested pupils at Wootton Upper School and students at Kimberley College.

Due to the current situation with Covid-19, the academy will be run virtually in the 2020-21 academic year and will include a series of virtual talks (both recorded and live) with a variety of healthcare professionals including nurses, paramedics, dieticians, speech therapists, doctors and many more. Plans are also underway for virtual tours behind the scenes at the hospital, including being able to tour operating theatres, laboratories and other spaces which are usually closed to young people. Our learners will also discover the skills and personal qualities required to work in healthcare and develop these through a range of activities.

The hope is that in the following academic year this will move back to being a programme which is delivered with speakers in school and visits to the hospital for tours and interactive workshops. More details will soon follow and we will be asking students to express their interest in taking part. What a fantastic opportunity for our many young aspiring healthcare professionals.

Student links – Mr Spurling, Assistant Principal Pastoral and Attendance

This week's **assembly** is about wildlife conservation; it is delivered by Mrs Page. The assembly makes reference to the plight of lions and African elephants suggesting ways learners can make a difference. The number of African elephants has reduced by 90% over the last century and there is a risk the species could become extinct in the next ten years. The assembly refers to the work of the wildlife conservation charity, Born Free. Assembly YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/IKupLRp7Jts>

This week's **Student Bulletin** is available on YouTube and includes lots of information and more images of learners in school from last week. The bulletin also includes the timetable of live lessons being delivered each afternoon starting on Monday 29 June. In the first instance these lessons are aimed at Year 12 learners. Student Bulletin YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/Q2tDluskGPE>

We are also re-issuing the Corona **Kindness** link and encouraging you to view this video. The video had received 175 views when this letter was written. If you have not looked at it, please do so. The link is: <https://youtu.be/K1iunZK7zxE>

Finally, we encourage you to keep visiting our Virtual Gallery to see great examples of learners' work. The Virtual Gallery link can be found using the Distance Learning section of the school or college website.

Keeping in Touch

Last week the Pastoral Team spoke to 114 Year 9 pupils by telephone, which is about the norm. Next week, Year 9 parents and carers and their children have been invited to come in to school for a face-to-face meeting which the guidance now allows. Please do make appointments as soon as you can. We are very much looking forward to seeing you.

Show My Homework Mr Frazer

| Wootton Upper School | Y9 | Y10 | Total School |
|--|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| Pupils logged in Monday 22 June up to 4pm Friday 26 June | 87% | 84% | 68% |

| Kimberley College | Y12 | Total College |
|--|------------|----------------------|
| Students logged in Monday 22 June up to 4pm Friday 26 June | 84% | 60% |

Whilst the Year 10 figure dropped last week, we believe this is related to the fact that 80% of the learners spent one day in school. However, every learner still needs to be logging on to ensure they keep up-to-date with all their subjects.

New Reception Project at Wootton Upper School

The Trust submitted a bid to the government's Condition Improvement Fund to support moving the Reception area at Wootton Upper School to the front of the school. We were pleased to learn that our application was successful and that the Trust will receive £110,000 towards the cost of the project. We hope that the new Reception – which will be based in the Humanities Block – will be in place for September. Mrs McMenamy has led on this key project and the Board and Local Governing Board have already offered their thanks to her for all her hard work. The total cost of the project is £180,000; Mrs McMenamy has submitted a separate application for funding to go towards the remaining £70,000 of the project. Locating Reception at the front of the school will improve safeguarding in the school. It will also make life much easier for parent/carers and other visitors to the school.

Congratulations to Mr Frazer!

Mr Frazer, Vice Principal of Wootton Upper School for the past four years has been appointed to the position of Principal of Guilsborough Academy in Northamptonshire from September 2020. We are all delighted for Mr Frazer and wish him every success in his new role. Parents/carers, pupils and staff – as well as governors - will all miss Mr Frazer's wisdom, attention to detail and his dedication after he has left us.

Mr Frazer's departure means we will need to re-organize our senior leadership team. Over the next two weeks I will outline the changes we have made for September. I am sure many parents/carers will want to offer their own congratulations to Mr Frazer before the end of term. In this letter, I offer my own thanks to Mr Frazer for his enormous contribution at the school. Both Mr Frazer and Mrs McMorn who arrived at the school at the same time have moved our school forward massively.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Two other letters are being emailed home today – July 1 2020 - which will be on the website:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ❖ Letter for Year 9 Parents and Carers: | Year 10 curriculum and Timetable Update |
| ❖ Letter to all Year 10 - Year 13 BTEC learners: | How qualifications will be graded in 2020 |

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
www.woottonupper.co.uk
www.kimberleycollege.co.uk