

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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Friday 5 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Year 10 Next Steps - News from Mrs Ashby, Head of Careers**

This week Year 10 have had access to a video presentation recorded by Mrs Ashby, Head of Careers giving an overview of their Post-16 options and the timelines involved in applying for their next steps after Wootton Upper School. This forms part of their careers education which is run through the PSHE programme. Applications for next steps are made in the autumn term, only a few short months away and it is vital that all Year 10 pupils and their families have a clear understanding about the routes available. Pupils have been asked to submit questions to Mrs Ashby so that she can tailor the sessions later this term which go in depth as to the local offer for further education courses and apprenticeships. This morning we can see that 46 pupils have accessed this information, with many of these sending some fantastic questions, showing the serious consideration that these pupils are giving to their futures.

**Mrs Ashby would like to encourage the remaining Year 10 pupils to access this 20-minute presentation on SMH as soon as possible to ensure they are well informed about their future.**

## **Year 11 Next Steps - Bridging Projects News from Mr Detheridge**

All of the bridging projects are now on the Kimberley College website. Thank you to all the teachers who have worked to produce these and we hope all of our Year 11 students enjoy working their way through them! Please visit: [www.kimberleycollege.co.uk/bridging-projects-2020](http://www.kimberleycollege.co.uk/bridging-projects-2020)

There is also a short introductory video by Mr Detheridge in which he talks about the Transition Process. Please go to: [www.kimberleycollege.co.uk/transition2020](http://www.kimberleycollege.co.uk/transition2020)

## **Senior Student Leaders at Kimberley College and Wootton Upper School**

If your child is in either Year 10 or Year 12 please encourage them to apply for a senior student leader role at the school or at the college. There will be more information about how to do this in next week's Students' Bulletin and we will also include information in a newsletter soon.

## **News from Bedford Borough Council**

### Reminder to complete the Bedford Borough Council Parent/Carer Survey

Mr Pearson, Assistant Director and Chief Officer for Education and SEND at Bedford Borough Council has asked me to remind you to complete the parent/carers survey. He tells me that across the Borough to date there have been over 3,000 responses. Mr Pearson would be grateful if you could complete the survey using this link - <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/NWGG5KC> The survey will close on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

### Free School Meals

Bedford Borough Council has also asked us to continue to promote Free School Meals to all families and have attached the two fliers that the Council sent recently. The Council is very aware that there are a number of families where their financial situation will have changed during COVID 19, and that there continue to be some families who are entitled to Free School Meals who have struggled to secure vouchers through the National Scheme.

**Pupils in Years 11 and 13 would not normally receive free school meals after they stop attending school to undertake exams.** During the COVID-19 outbreak, schools can continue to issue vouchers to all registered pupils that meet the free school meal eligibility criteria, and who are at home.

### Support for Parents

Over the next six weeks, Bedford Borough Council's Early Help Service is hosting a series of one-off Triple P Discussion groups on issues commonly faced by parents. These discussions groups explore problems we face as parents and some of the reasons why they happen. They will share strategies and advice on how you may be able to manage these problems before they occur. **The informal discussion groups are being hosted via ZOOM video conferencing.**

The two themes for parents of teenagers are "*Coping with Teenage Emotions*" and "*Reducing Family Conflict*". and are open to all parents of children aged 12yrs and above. The Council is also running sessions for families with younger children, aged between 3 – 12 years. The themes of these discussions are "*Dealing with Disobedience*" and "*Managing Fighting and Aggression*". Parents need to pre-book places and can do this by emailing [Martyn.lee@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Martyn.lee@bedford.gov.uk) or telephoning him on 07468 472558. [\[please see the attached flyers\]](#).

Many of us can see advantages in video conferencing meetings and it may well be that some parents/carers will be able to attend by Zoom, even if they could not have attended in person if the event had been held in Bedford.

### **GCSE and A levels**

First of all, a reminder that results will be published for A level exams on **Thursday 13 August** and for GCSE exams on **Thursday 20 August**. Over the next few weeks we will let you know the process for collecting results and planning next steps, including enrolment at Kimberley College.

**Secondly, OFQUAL has published a consultation on arrangements for the autumn series of examinations in 2020** so that learners who do not get grades which they are happy with under the Centre Assessed Grade process are able to sit examinations next term.

The consultation seeks views on its proposals to:

- ❖ require exam boards to make examinations available in all GCSE, AS and A level subjects in the autumn series
- ❖ **require exam boards to base results on students' performance in exams alone and not on any non-exam assessment, with the exception of art and design qualifications**
- ❖ vary the normal rules to allow exams to be held other than in May and June
- ❖ **allow the exam boards to depart from the normal requirements for the issue of certificates**
- ❖ adopt the normal arrangements for reviews and appeals

We *anticipate* that learners choosing to take GCSE and A Level examinations in the autumn, because they are unhappy with the grades awarded in the summer through the Centre Assessed Grade model, moderated by the examination boards, will sit the same number of written exam papers with the same style of question in every subject that they have been expecting had the summer examinations been able to take place.

Learners taking GCSE and A Level examinations in the autumn 2020 will be graded solely on the written papers they sit, and **not on any "coursework element", such as orals or practical assessments or other assignments they completed as non-exam elements.**

We hope that all learners will be happy with their centre assessed grades; we know that the overwhelming majority of learners will be disappointed that the consultation is proposing that grades in the autumn examination series will be based solely on completed written examination papers and not the non-examined elements. However, the consultation document explains the reasons for proposing this approach.

The *proposed* dates being put forward for these examinations are October for A level papers and November for GCSE papers. The consultation suggests that some A Level examinations could take place during the half term holiday week.

The consultation proposes that A level results would be published by Christmas whilst results in GCSE Mathematics and English would be published in January 2021 and results in other GCSE subjects later, in February 2021.

There is a separate document in which DfE guidance is that the school or college where the learner would have taken their examinations in the summer will be responsible for entering learners for the autumn series of assessments and enabling learners to sit the examinations there. The guidance suggests "*local arrangements may be possible*", but it does not make it clear what those arrangements are.

The Trust will complete an official response by next Monday. If any learner, parent, or member of staff wishes to submit their own response, they are perfectly entitled to do so. The consultation document can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/887754/Consultation\\_on\\_an\\_additional\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_and\\_A\\_level\\_exam\\_series\\_in\\_autumn\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887754/Consultation_on_an_additional_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_exam_series_in_autumn_2020.pdf)

News from Mrs McMenemy

#### **FSM deliveries and Vouchers – Mrs McMenemy**

The FSM deliveries and vouchers to cover the two weeks commencing Monday 8 and Monday 15 June were sent out yesterday. If anyone eligible for FSMs wants to swap from deliveries to vouchers or vice versa please could you email [dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk) by next Thursday 11 June so that we can adjust the orders accordingly.

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

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