

January 22nd 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. All at Wootton Academy Trust and Kimberley College extend our best wishes to all of our community at this challenging time. As always, we continue to be deeply impressed by our students and their commitment to their studies, even more so this year.

We are aware these are uncertain times for our students and we are keen to offer guidance and support to them. We are however, awaiting further guidance from the DfE related a wide range of issues including: return to college, expectations of lateral flow testing and the mechanism to award grades this summer. When we are able, we will communicate this with you at the earliest opportunity.

Our students have embraced online learning through Microsoft Teams. It has been wonderful to see how well our community has been able to continue learning remotely. Attendance to online lessons has been outstanding (92% attendance in Year 13 and 95% in Year 12). Please be aware that should your child be unable to attend an online lesson they should notify their teachers and the college of this fact by emailing 6formattendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk We have uploaded our guidance for parents and carers on what to expect from our remote provision to our website. This can be found by clicking this link [Remote Learning Provision at Kimberley](#). We are very keen to understand how we can evolve our remote learning provision further and would be very grateful if you could spend a moment to complete our online feedback survey [Remote Learning Feedback](#). We will then be able to evaluate our provision, identify any common experiences and share the outcomes, and our responses, with you in subsequent communication.

Many of our students are making plans for their 'next steps', for life after Kimberley. Over 190 Year 13 students have submitted applications for a university place next year. UCAS (the university and colleges admission co-ordinating body) has extended the deadline for completing submission to 29 January. Mrs Stewart, our UCAS Co-ordinator along with Mrs Ashby, our Head of Careers, have worked tirelessly with colleagues to ensure applications are sent off. If your child has not yet completed the process and intends to do so, please ensure they contact Mrs. Stewart as a matter of urgency cstewart@wootton.beds.sch.uk. We are very grateful to Mrs Stewart, Mrs Ashby and our team of tutors who have worked exhaustively to make sure all applications are of high quality and are processed in a timely manner.

The college will be running the first of a series of online information events for parents and carers next week. There are two events next week, one for parents and students in Year 12 who are considering university at the end of Year 13. The second is aimed at parents and students in Year 13 who have applied, or are in the processes of applying, to university and need support and guidance on understanding and applying for student finance. Mrs Ashby has emailed letters earlier this week outlining the process of booking a place on these virtual events, copies of which can be found on our website.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent Year 13 virtual subject consultation event. The event was attended by more than 70% of parents/carers and students. This is the first time the Trust has used this platform and we have been encouraged by your feedback. We will be using this platform for our Year 12 subject consultation event in February, more details of which will follow in a later communication. Please be aware that next week is a Year 12 progress point. Students will be set a range of tasks by subject teachers in order that we can ascertain where individual learners are up to in their studies. This progress point will form the basis of discussion at the Year 12 consultation event after half term when you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress in more detail with their subject teachers.

Update from our College Presidents – Prabhjot Kaur and Jacy Uko:



Student Leadership: At the end of last term, we had a fantastic response from our Y12 students applying for student leadership positions and now have over 80 students involved in the programme. We have our second Teams meeting scheduled for next Wednesday 27 January to discuss what actions we would like to focus on this term. Here are some updates from last term:

Food Bank:

We managed to collect four large boxes full of donations from students in the final week of term which were delivered to Bedford Foodbank just before Christmas.



Save the Children:

On the last day of term students donated money for wearing something 'Christmassy' for the day, we managed to raise £183.66 for Save the Children.

Ready2Lead 2020

Year 13 students: Chiemerie Alozie, Mckenny Ndifor, Tilly Macinnes, Areeb Shahid & Max Greaves took part in the Harpur Trust Ready2Lead Conference last term; this involved attending four two-hour online Teams sessions with guest speakers and students from sixth forms across the county. The students were encouraged to come up with a project that they felt could make a difference locally and put a video together to share their idea.



Our students were one of only two groups (from approximately 20) whose projects were selected to be delivered live via Microsoft Teams to a large audience which included the Mayor of Bedford, Mr. Dave Hodgson and the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Mrs. Susan Lousada.

Our students' idea is to teach basic sign language to other students at Kimberley, and then hopefully Wootton, and local feeder schools with the aim of reducing the barriers faced by students with disabilities such as hearing impairments and to also raise awareness about being a more inclusive community.

Students doing their bit for the Pandemic:

Bethan Solomon works at Movianto Pharmaceuticals, the distributor of the Covid Vaccine in the UK. She is based in the Transport Office along with her front-line Manager and other co-workers where they ensure all the HGV and van drivers reach their delivery points on time. Bethan worked full time over Christmas to make sure the Vaccines were all delivered.

Student Art:

Y13 Student Ebony Guy's Art – summing up how some of us are feeling right now!



Yours sincerely

Mr T Detheridge
Head of College.
Kimberley Sixth Form College