

November 20th 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

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 have been deeply impressed by our students and their commitment to their studies, even more so this year.

Our students are almost a third of the way through their academic year already, and we wanted to take the opportunity to update you about life at Kimberley College. We understand supporting your child in education is very important and that you may have questions about how best you can do this, or how this has been planned at the college. To answer these questions, we are committed to making a phone call to every parent/carer to discuss your child, before the end of the term. In the spring term we will be introducing virtual subject consultation evenings, where you will be able to talk to your child's subject teachers about the progress they are making. More information on virtual consultation evenings will follow.

We are happy to report that the vast majority of our student community have engaged with the health and safety changes we have implemented this year. Within college our students follow our health and safety guidance strictly, including the wearing of face coverings at all transition points. We have reminded students of their social responsibility of maintaining the rigorous adherence to the current government guidance once they have left the building and would be grateful if this message is supported from parents and carers. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that Wootton Academy Trust operates a nut free policy as we have members of our community that have severe nut allergies.

Please note that the college has updated the CCTV coverage of the premises. This covers the car park and one-way road system. We understand the need to drop students off and would respectfully request that drivers on site follow the one-way system and are considerate about waiting to pick up learners. We would ask that disabled bays are not used for waiting at any time to collect students as these are in regular use.

We have just completed our annual student college survey and hope to share these with you once our college student leaders, led by our student presidents, have had chance to present the results to their peers and members of the Local Governing Board. The interim results show students have confidence in their learning and are making good progress in catching up the skills and content of subjects delivered during lockdown and since the start of term. Please find attached to this letter two documents that shows what our learners are studying in each subject area. We intend to share this with you each half term so you can support your child at home.

Across the college, students and teachers are implementing Microsoft Teams to support remote and blended learning. The necessity to develop the skills and resources to continue to deliver education to students who are unable to attend lessons in person has led to very creative and innovative use of this online platform. We are delivering all PSHCE sessions to our students through MS Teams and there have been a number of presentation and guides uploaded to MS Teams by our careers and higher education team. It is important that all students are using Teams. Not only will the ability to engage with MS Teams help with a transition to remote learning if larger cohorts of learners need to do so; it will also develop essential communication skills that will be important to them in their future studies and/or place of work.

If your child does not have access to a laptop at home please make the college know as we are aware circumstances are always changing.

Mrs Ashby (Head of Careers) and Mrs Stewart (UCAS coordinator) have written to you recently to update you on the wide range of additional support on offer to students at the college. We would like to draw your attention to two video presentations they have created showing how students are being supported in applying for university through UCAS www.kimberleycollege.co.uk/ucaspathwaypresentation and those students who are preparing for employment www.kimberleycollege.co.uk/employmentpathwaypresentation.

On the evening of Wednesday 18th November, 32 students took part in an online mock interview event designed to support students who are applying for highly competitive university places at Oxford or Cambridge or for Medicine/Veterinary Medicine (27 Kimberley students, 4 from Biddenham Upper School and one from St Thomas More School). This event was organised by Mrs Everett, our Head of Key Stage 5 Biology. We are very grateful to the fantastic range of interviewers (many of whom are currently enrolled on these prestigious courses and universities) who provided the students with a very valuable and positive experience. In addition, we would like to thank Kimberley staff who hosted the interviews online. Feedback from the interviewers praised the efforts of **all** the students. We are very proud of you all and wish you luck in the next stage!

Student achievements

Golf: 2020 Scratch Championships:

Congratulations to Kimberley College Students Aidan Abbott (Y13), Ketal Lall (Y12) and Zach Peters (Y12) who teamed up with Wootton Upper School students Connor Tallentire and Vikram Singh to play amidst torrid conditions in the Bedfordshire Schools Scratch Championships, both Aidan and Ketal's top scores contributed to Wootton Academy Trust winning the Cyril Rose Shield. The students will now go on to represent Bedfordshire Schools at the National Team Championship at the home of England Golf -Woodhall Spa in early July.

A special congratulations to Aidan who also won the U18's Boys Individual Championship.



UK senior Maths Challenge - Garrett McTernan - Director of Maths

At the beginning of November 44 students from Years 12 and 13 competed in the annual UKMT Senior Maths Challenge pitting their problem-solving skills against fellow elite mathematicians across the UK. The challenge encourages **mathematical reasoning, precision of thought,** and **fluency** in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

Our students performed superbly with many achieving bronze, silver or gold awards. Congratulations to all students who took part. The following students who achieved a gold award (top 10% in the UK) have qualified for the Senior Kangaroo competition at the end of the month:

Senior Maths Challenge

Reese Kilby	(Year 13)
William Briscoe	(Year 13)
Sheridan Muir	(Year 13)
Kofi Wilkinson	(Year 13)
Connor Wilding	(Year 12)
Leo Toze	(Year 12)
Jamie Whiting	(Year 12)

An extra special congratulation goes to **Jamie Whiting** who has qualified the British Maths Olympiad Round 1 (top 1000 students in the UK) at the end of the month.

Remembrance Day

Students and staff wrote messages of thanks and remembrance on poppies to help form a large Poppy display in the Atrium. A special thank you to Billy Manyweathers who played the Last Post to start the two minutes silence.

Thank you also to College President Prabhjot Kaur (Y13) and Evie Thomas (Y13) who laid a wreath on behalf of the Trust at Stewartby Village Hall.



Children in Need

Thank you to all of those who got involved in the Children in Need Duck race – we raised £202.99. Well done to Mrs Thorn, Daniel Itiosi (Year 13) & Aman Loi (Year 13) who chose the winning duck: 'Quackman & Bobin'.

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



Student Leadership: We have over 40 students involved in our Leadership Programme; as College Presidents we meet weekly with Mrs Genders whilst the College & Subject Ambassadors meet fortnightly with Mrs Morrow on Microsoft Teams. We are now looking to get Year 12 students involved in the programme – applications for Year 12 Subject & College Ambassadors have gone live this week. **Deadline for Applications is Monday 30th November.**

Duke of Edinburgh: We are delighted to see that 23 students have signed up to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year, we look forward to hearing about the Silver and Gold expeditions in due course.

Inclusion Focus Group: A group of students and staff from both Kimberley and Wootton, met for the first time last week, to discuss different ways in which we can become more inclusive across the Trust. The purpose of this focus group is to explore ways in which all stakeholders can feel safe, be respected and have a sense of belonging. The students were amazing at presenting their experiences and ideas, and we now look forward to putting an Inclusion Action Plan into place.

Ready2Lead: We have 10 students involved in the Ready2Lead Programme; students have been attending a series of four virtual twilight sessions. These have involved key-note speakers and reflective sessions with students from other schools and colleges across the Borough to help them realise their own uniqueness and the positive impact they can have on others.

Bedford Borough Member of Youth Parliament: We are excited to announce that **Year 12 Student Jamaal Otieno** is running for Bedford Borough's Member of Youth Parliament. The Youth Parliament enables young people to change the world for the better by providing opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. Jamaal will hopefully be joining **Matthew Stubbs**, also in Year 12, who is currently a deputy Youth Parliament member.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Detheridge'.

Mr T Detheridge
Head of College.
Kimberley Sixth Form College