

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Friday 12 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Next week is half-term and I know many pupils and students and staff are looking forward to a break from the remote learning everyone has been involved in over the last six weeks. I know from comments Mr Detheridge and Mrs McMorn have forwarded to me, along with comments many of you have sent to me directly that you appreciate the hard work that the Trust's staff have put into developing our blend of remote learning including the live lessons. A few of you have commented that you have enjoyed listening to the lessons yourselves! The virtual parent/teacher/student consultation events that have taken place have also been very well received by many of you.

The Prime Minister is due to make a statement on Monday 22 February in which he will outline the steps for coming out of the current lockdown. He has already said that a top priority is the re-opening of schools and colleges. We will find out more after the half term holiday. We are also due to find out more during that week about how GCSE and A levels and BTEC courses will be assessed in the summer.

## **Term Dates for 2021 – 2022**

A number of parents/carers have asked the Trust to publish our term dates for next year.

<b>Wootton Academy Trust Term Dates 2021 - 2022</b>	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	
First day of term for pupils/students	Thursday 2nd September
Half Term	Monday 25th – Friday 29th October
Last day of term for pupils/students	Friday 17th December
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January
<b>Spring Term 2022</b>	
First day of term for pupils/students	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Half Term	Monday 14th – Friday 18th February
Last day of term for pupils/students	Friday 1st April
<b>Easter Holiday</b>	Monday 4th April – Monday 18th April
<b>Summer Term 2022</b>	
First day of term for pupils/students	Tuesday 19th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May
Half Term	Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June
Last day of term for pupils/students	Friday 22nd July

Please note we are still to finalize four out of the five Staff Training Days for 2021 - 2022 – the first day will be Wednesday 1st September 2021.

## **Staff Update**

Four teachers joined the Trust in January: **Mrs Chick** as Assistant Head [Director of Science], **Mr Mercer** [Teacher of Science], **Miss Harrington** [Teacher of History & RS] and **Mrs Puchalski** [Teacher of Drama].

After half term, **Miss Kirkup** [Year 9 and GCSE] and **Mr Lennon** [A level] will be teaching the timetable covered last half term by Mrs Puchalski. We thank Mrs Puchalski for her help over the last half term.

**Mrs Holmes** – Assistant Head [SEND] - and **Mrs Johns** - Teacher of History - have both started their maternity leave. During Mrs Holmes' absence, **Mrs Enser**, Deputy Head of School at Wootton has become the senior leader with overall responsibility for SEND. **Miss Wilkinson**, Teacher of English, has been appointed Assistant SENCo. **Mrs Bottomley**, has joined the Trust, to teach English for three days a week to enable Miss Wilkinson to undertake her new responsibilities.

**Mrs Gaishouser**, Head of Dance, is now additionally Acting Head of Drama - whilst Mrs Graham is on maternity leave.

Two colleagues have joined our Learning Support Team: in January, we welcomed **Miss Bailey** and after half term we welcome **Miss Farrant**.

**Mr Stewart**- Assistant Head [Pupil Premium] is now additionally senior leader with responsibility for attendance and standards of behaviour at Wootton Upper School. **Miss Stockton**, Head of KS3/4 Biology and **Mrs Rydeheard**, Safeguarding Officer, have been appointed as Deputy Pupil Premium Co-ordinators to lead key strands of the Pupil Premium Strategy at Wootton Upper School.

At the end of February, we bid farewell and say thank you to **Mrs Jones**, one of our Pastoral Support Officers for the last year.

After half term, we welcome [back] **Mr Bailey** to the Trust who is joining the Trust as **Lead Pastoral Support Officer**, a new role leading the team of Pastoral Support Officers at Wootton Upper School.

### Vacancies

The popularity of Kimberley College continues to increase. We are expecting Year 12 in September 2021 to have around 375 students in the year group. This means that we need to appoint additional staff to deliver the curriculum there. We shall therefore, be seeking to recruit great teachers for the roles of: **Head of Social Sciences, Teacher of Psychology, Head of KS5 Biology & Head of KS5 Physics**.

More broadly we are currently advertising for a **Teacher of Girls' PE** and a **Teacher of Design Technology** for September 2021 and will shortly be advertising for a new **Year Leader** who will become Head of Year 9 in **September 2021**.

We are also seeking to appoint a **Design Technology & Engineering Technician** and an additional **Pastoral Support Officer**, both ideally for April 2021. Finally, we will shortly be advertising for a new **Cover Supervisor** and an **Administrative Assistant**, for April 2021.

Details for the position can be found on our website <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/staff-vacancies>. Please email [recruitment@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@wootton.beds.sch.uk) if you require any further information for any of the above posts and also please let others know about these opportunities.

### Teacher Regulation Agency Prohibition Order

Finally, further to the letter I sent to you on Wednesday in respect to the report published by the Teaching Regulation Agency on February 9 2021, I have established that the Trust **should** have been informed in advance that a report concerning a former member of staff was going to be published. **The TRA has confirmed to me that on this occasion it appears that no communication was sent to the Trust in advance of publication of the report.** The TRA's usual practice is to write to schools/ or other authorities who have completed referrals so that parents/carers and others can be advised that the report is about to be released.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Michael Gleeson  
**Executive Principal**  
Wootton Academy Trust