

Windsor News and Information



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15th March 2024

Issue: 24



- Thursday 21st March - DTP and Meningitis Vaccine - Year 9. (Catch up date for any Year 9 students that miss Thursday 21st March is Thursday 16th May 2024).

IMPORTANT

Reminder: KS3 Toilets



To ensure we are supporting all of our students in school, we have implemented duties and support in the KS3 girls toilets. Students across **Years 7, 8 and 9** are allowed to use the central KS3 toilets, **Year 10 and 11** students are **not allowed to use, enter or approach these toilets. They should be using the Austen KS4 toilets.**

To support this practice, we have limited numbers in the toilet to a **maximum of 15 students allowed in at one time** during break and lunchtime. **This is the same practice for the boys KS3 toilets too - only Year 7, 8, 9 students should be using the boys KS3 toilets and KS4 students in Years 10 and 11 will be directed to Austen toilets.**

Any KS4 students seen or found in the central KS3 toilets will have an immediate Refocus sanction. Should they repeatedly ignore this rule they will also be likely to face a suspension for their persistent disruptive behaviour and defiance. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this message to your child.

Under 14 Girls Indoor Cricket

On Thursday 7th March, our under 14 girls indoor cricket team played a league match against Bishop Milner.

The girls demonstrated some great bowling, fielding and batting skills, resulting in Windsor winning 83-77.

Well done girls! You worked hard and showed great teamwork skills! Mrs Rhooms



Reminder: System for Lateness



A polite reminder that we introduced a new system last year regarding lateness. Lateness can be classed as:

- Students who arrive after 8:40am (they are officially late to school).
- Students who are arriving late to lessons (officially after the majority of other students have entered the classroom).



Students who arrive at school after 8:40am are required to sign in at the Science foyer between 8:40am and 9:10am. This will result in a 30 minute lunch-time detention. Students who are late to two or more lessons in a day will attend a 30 minute detention after school on the same day. We appreciate your support in ensuring we maintain our high expectations.

Special points of interest:

- **PTA** – for information about joining, contact Mr A. Buckley on 0121 550 1452
- **Lost Property** is kept for two weeks. Students are notified of items via the daily message sheet.



Spanish Year 11 GCSE - Additional Speaking Exam Booster Sessions



These sessions will take place every week in A4 on **Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes** with Ms Newton. These sessions are to help with homework and to practice speaking Spanish.



There will also be a session on **Fridays after school, from 3:15pm to 4:00pm** with Ms Dunn. This session is to focus on the Speaking Exam. Please note, the above sessions are **IN ADDITION** to the whole school revision programme.



Dudley Holiday Activities

With only four weeks until the Easter holidays, Dudley Council are running a government funded programme called the Holiday Activity and Food Programme that offers free activities during the school holidays for children aged 5 - 16 who receive free school meals.

You're eligible to register for the holiday activities programme (HAF) if the following applies: You live in Dudley or your child goes to school in the Dudley Borough, your child is aged between 5 and 16 years and your child is eligible for benefits related free school meals (FSM).

Children not eligible for free school meals may still be able to register for HAF activities but please make sure you read this part of the website: <https://www.dudleyholidayactivities.org.uk/non-free-school-meals> before you apply.

They have over 60 providers for Easter with a vast range of activities, but families must be registered to book. For more information please see the flyer attached to this newsletter or visit:

<https://www.dudleyholidayactivities.org.uk>

Heritage Careers Fair - Black Country Living Museum

On Friday 8th March a group of students attended the Heritage Careers Fair at the Black Country Living Museum.

This trip offered our students who are interested in heritage work or careers, the chance to explore the different opportunities in this sector.



The students listened to talks from people already in these roles and they learned about how to volunteer in this field.



Under 15 Girls Softball Cricket Competition

On Thursday 7th March, some of our students took part in a Lady Taverners under 15 girls' softball cricket competition at The Arena, Worcester. Windsor played against Kings School and RGS Dodderhill.

Although this was the girls first experience of indoor school cricket, they played well against some established girls cricket teams.



Across the four games, the girls took 19 wickets and scored 188 runs. Throughout the competition the girls made some fantastic catches, crucial stops to save runs and took some important wickets.

The girls had a great day. Well done to all involved and a big thank you to our Year 12 leaders who umpired.



Mrs Rhooms and Mr Hickman

Label Uniform and Equipment

A polite reminder to please ensure uniform and any items brought into school have your child's name on.



This is to help keep lost property to a minimum and ensure any lost items are returned to their owner quickly.



Free School Meal Vouchers



As per the recent Government directive Free School Meal vouchers are to be issued to families for the Easter holidays. The vouchers are for £10 per week, therefore you will be receiving a voucher for £20 per eligible child. The process is unchanged and vouchers will be sent for eligible students on **Wednesday 20th March 2024**.

If you are new to receiving Free School Meals the process is as follows:



Step 1 - Click on the link received from evouchers.com.

Step 2 - Enter your email address or mobile number to claim your voucher.

Step 3 - Confirm your details if you are new to Evouchers, to create your account.

Step 4 - You will then be sent a secure login link to your email address to verify your email.

Step 5 - Click on the link within your email.

Step 6 - Choose the retailer you would like your voucher for. **Please note - once selected this cannot be changed.**

Step 7 - Click 'View Voucher'.

Step 8 - You now have your voucher to be spent in your supermarket of choice.



Mr B Morley

Netball Trip – Seven Stars vs. Manchester Thunder



On Friday 8th March some of our PE teachers took girls from Years 7 to 11 to watch a netball match (Severn Stars vs. Manchester Thunder) at the Worcester Arena.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed supporting our local netball team (Severn Stars) and came out with huge smiles on their faces despite the loss!

Ms Bird and Mr Bevan



IMPORTANT

Reminder: Lunch Accounts



Can you please ensure that you regularly check your child's lunch account online to ensure that they do not have a negative balance. Accounts can be topped up via parentmail or by sending in enough money with your child. While we never wish to refuse a student food at lunchtime we cannot allow them to overspend on their accounts.

Please be aware that Year 11 students will not be allowed to enter a negative balance once we return from the Easter holidays and any monies owing on their account will need to be cleared prior to the holiday. If you wish to receive a copy of your child's lunch account, which shows what they have purchased and the amount spent, please contact Mrs Thompson, Pastoral Secretary who can arrange for this to be made available to you. If you are experiencing financial difficulty in what are challenging times, please contact your child's Head of House and we will explore suitable support.

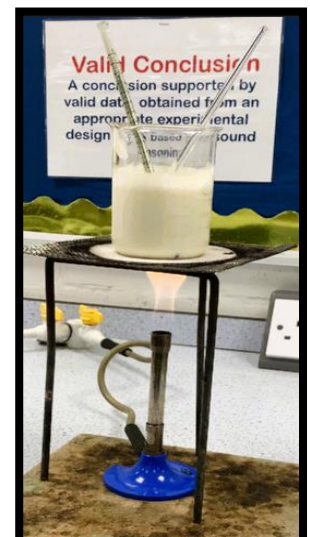


Spotlight on 'Microbiology Club'



Microbiology Club runs every Monday after school (3.10pm to 4.00pm) in S4. This club is for students in Years 9, 10, and 11. In microbiology club students learn about different microorganisms. For example, the students are currently making yoghurt and looking at the bacteria in yoghurt.

In future sessions the students will look at the germs that are on their hands under UV lights (this will help students to learn more about how germs and bacteria spread). If that sounds intriguing or you would like to learn more then come along to S4 on Monday's after school!



Dr Frost Maths

Dr Frost Maths is an online learning platform that we use to set maths homework and classwork tasks. The platform can also be used for independent study or revision.

How can I use Dr Frost to help with Maths and earn points?

- Complete homework and classwork tasks set by your teacher.
- 'Start a Practice' independently.
- **Clean up Task** of questions you've previously got wrong.
- **By Topic** to practice a certain Key Skill
- **Times tables** to brush up on your mental arithmetic.
- **Past Papers** for Years 10 and 11 preparing for GCSE.



What to work on next?

Start a Practice

If a student earns enough points, they could make it onto the Dr Frost Maths leaderboard and be awarded extra credits. Please see below to find out which students topped the leaderboard for the months of January and February 2024:

Year 7: 10,865 points

- Ruby J 461 points
- Ryan-Temi E 416 points
- Hannah M 407 points

Year 8: 3,498 points

- Yasha S-N 323 points
- Daisy B 277 points
- Neve B 234 points

Year 9: 25,106 points

- Max A 864 points
- Millie M 834 points
- Charlotte S 784 points



Year 10: 56,030 points

- Alex N 1075 points
- Vaughan M 914 points
- Eleanor S 859 points

Year 11: 17,965 points

- Lara P 1006 points
- Joshua N 907 points
- Muhammed M 759 points



Intermediate Maths Challenge 2024

Earlier this year, set 1 students in Years 9 and 10 competed in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a national competition that sees students trying to solve challenging problem solving questions under time pressure by thinking outside of the box.



We are proud of all of the participating students for the resilience and courage they have shown to sit the paper, but those whose performance was noteworthy received certificates in recognition of their achievement. Across both years, we were really pleased to receive 29 bronze certificates.

Particularly well done to Sid who received a silver certificate, scoring the best score in Year 9, Dylan in Year 10 who also received a silver certificate, and Ashraf in Year 10 who received a gold certificate and scored best in the school. Well done everyone!

Healthy Sleeping Habits



Research has suggested that around 70% of teens get less than the recommended 8–10 hours' sleep per night. The effects of poor-quality sleep on a developing mind, of course, can be harmful over a prolonged period. Please see the guide attached to this newsletter for tips on how children can get a good night's sleep.

Year 7 Enterprise Club



Our Year 7 entrepreneurs have been busy making up orders for over 45 personalised bottles in their bid encourage staff and students to be more sustainable.

Students have developed their creativity skills while learning about how to be successful in starting up their own business.

Their courage, enthusiasm and determination has seen them make £85 profit which will be sent to Comic Relief.

WELL DONE

There is still time to order yours before half term (please see the attachment to this newsletter for more information).

Well done to all students involved and hopefully our students can reach their £100 target!



World Book Day Celebrations

Thank you to all who took part in our World Book Day celebrations.

Congratulations to the house competition winners: Jess, Ivy and Martha who won the 'Book Bake Off' competition. And Amelia who won the bookmark competition.

Dudley Children's Book Award Ceremony - 19th March

Students from Years 7 -10 who have been reading the shortlisted books will be attending the Award Ceremony on Tuesday 19th March at The Dormston School, Sedgley. We will be leaving school at 12 noon.

Author Visit - Tia Fisher - Wednesday 20th March

Debut author Tia Fisher will be visiting our school on Wednesday 20th March to work with selected Year 9 students in the library. Students have been chosen to take part by their English teacher.

Tia's book 'Crossing the Line' is a brilliant verse novel, based on a true story, in which 12 year old Erik is groomed to sell drugs for a county lines gang.

Tia will be delivering two sessions; a presentation about the book with a question and answer session and a 'verse novel' workshop. Books are available to purchase priced £5.60 via ParentPay.

