

Windsor News and Information



Website: www.windsor.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

12th February 2021 Issue: 21

As a reminder, all our safety advice, organisational details and information for parents and students can be located in one place in the weekly newsletters section of our website.

<https://www.windsor.windsoracademytrust.org.uk/news-vacancies/weekly-newsletters/>

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to give you some feedback on the recent questionnaire you completed about our Remote Education

Firstly, thank you very much to everyone who took the time to respond. The overall picture is very positive with the interactivity of the live lessons that we have introduced improving engagement and quality since the first lock down. We are looking to expand live lessons whilst balancing this with the need for students to work independently through a blended learning approach.

We are very grateful for the numerous messages of support and thanks that you have sent. These messages have been passed on to our staff and are much appreciated. You rated highly the support provided by staff, the amount of work that is being covered and the routine we have established by following the normal timetable.

Below are some points of clarification for you and some changes we will make in the light of your feedback.

- You like the information provided by Class Charts. We are messaging you when your child is not in a live lesson at the time the register is taken. This is so you can prompt them if you are at home. Be assured that no negative points are attached to this as we know there are often justifiable reasons why a student is late or cannot take part. We will be providing our staff with more training on Class Charts to improve communication channels
- Some of you want longer breaks and in particular a longer lunch break for students. Unfortunately, we are not able to do this because of the complexity of timetable in a large school such as Windsor, which this year has staggered breaks, lunch and lessons for all years.
- We are keen to support you in reducing screen time, increasing physical activity and injecting some fun where possible. We are initiating a series of Aspire Challenges, physical activity workouts and enrichment options to give students a break from their screens. This started with Aspire afternoon on Wednesday
- Some of you asked about Tutor activities. Every student has a Tutor Class on Google Classroom and should participate in tutor time before lessons start; this includes reading time, assembly and discussion and some PSHE delivery.

As a staff, we continue to share ideas and develop strategies for live lessons and remote learning. However, all of us are looking forward to the time in the near future when students can return to school and lessons and social interactions can be face to face.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Rogers
Deputy Headteacher

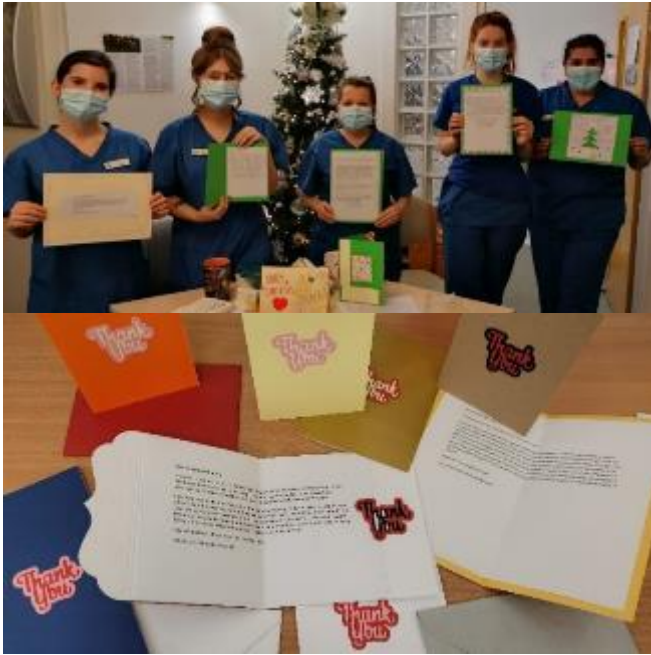
Reporting positive Covid-19 cases

Please remember that it is important to continue to inform us if your child tests positive for Covid-19. This can be done via the following link that allows us to keep up to date records and understand if any contact tracing is needed in school.

<https://forms.gle/LjoY9neyErXA8Loc7>

Special points of interest:

- **WHSA** – for information about joining, contact Mr Andi Buckley on 0121 550 1452
- **Lost Property** is kept for two weeks. Students are notified of items via the daily message sheet.
- **Uniform:** Sales are now online: <https://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>



Letters of Kindness

In the English department at Christmas, students wrote letters of kindness to residents and staff at local care homes. We have since received messages of thanks from Mary Stevens Hospice, whose staff and patients received the letters with joy.

Residents at Yew Tree Care Home have also since responded with their own cards to the students, which will be shared to them via Google Classroom and live lessons.

Thank you and well done to the students involved for showing such excellent character.'

English Faculty



Half Term Reading Challenges

Please remind your child of an exciting opportunity to take part in our half term reading challenges:

- Half Term Reading Challenge - 7 day simple reading related activities
- World Book Day Creative Challenge - World Book Day is 4th March and with this in mind please create a book trailer, making it as professional as possible with a variety of techniques.

For further information read our website article [here](#). Google Forms and entries should be completed by Friday 26th February.

To our amazing French students:

It is so difficult to just pick some of you as you are all doing great work and we all appreciate your effort and perseverance. Well done!

Our top linguists this week are:

- Y7: Alyssa S, Harry P, Eleanor S, Hollie B, Rania N
 Y8: Basil G, Charlie T, Chloe S, Muhammed M, Holly B, Zack B
 Y9: Rose M, Isabel P, Helena W, Freya T, Isabelle W, Jemima T, Sarah S
 Y10: George A, James H, Brandt L
 Y11: Alexandria R, Fayzha A, Xi H



Spanish linguists of the week:

- Year 7 – Lily J/ Alyssa B
 Year 8 – Luke D/ Sam K
 Year 9 – Aizah N/ Balsam S
 Year 10 – Huda J/ Laaiba W

¿Qué equipo de fútbol?

Last week Year 9 were given the opportunity to choose a local football team for Mrs Newton and Miss Gonzalez to support. After completing a poll the team that we are going to support is....

West Bromwich Albion FC!



German Superstars this week are:

- Y7: Eleanor G, Moosa A, Phoebe G, Alex K, Ethan B, Katie W, Rukman R
 Y8: Zoe E, Emily W, Sofia R, Harrison C, Katie W, Jack O, Callum B, Joe H, Chloe D, Paige O
 Y9: Maryam B, Jacob C, Deepak K, Anna S, Ella W, Andrew K

Keep up the great work!



German Baking Week!

Students in KS3 have enjoyed some time away from their screen this week to put their German baking skills to the test by baking some traditional German biscuits called Engelsaugen.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Speaking Revision Opportunity for Year 11 German Students

All German students in Year 11 have been offered an amazing opportunity to take part in fully funded speaking sessions from experts at the Goethe Institut. Sessions take place on certain Thursdays throughout February and March. If your child is interested in attending, please visit the following website and register or contact your German teacher for more information.



https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/m/spr/unt/ver/ver.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&event_id=22094148&

The Festival of Literature

Take part in live sessions with authors or enjoy the recordings from last week's sessions - see who inspires you and let your English teacher know what you think of the excellent sessions!

To access the materials students will need to follow these steps to register:

- 1) Click this link <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/festivalofliteratureSecondaryprogramme>
- 2) Once loaded, click on 'Use Coupon' and enter code 'Secondarypupil'
- 3) Once the code has verified, click 'Register Now'
- 4) Enter their email address and details
- 5) They will then receive an email with a link.



We highly recommend:

Year 7: Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Award Winning author of 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' and 'The Island at the End of Everything'

Year 8: Anthony McGowan, Carnegie Award Winning author of 'Lark'

Year 9 to 11 Anna McHuff, adventurer and author of '100 Adventures to Have Before You Grow Up'

Full programme here: <https://www.festivalofliterature.co.uk/schools-programme/>

We can reserve any books mentioned for you when you return to school or even order the books for the School Library if we don't already have them! If you would like to make a request, please just send Mrs Wood or Miss Grace an email.

Enjoy and do let us know what you think of these wonderful authors!

English Faculty

Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 25 February 2021

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our parents' evening as a face to face meeting as normal, so we will run the evening via video appointments using a new system called School Cloud. This is a web-based system and does not require an APP to be downloaded. Parents will be invited to make an appointment and then will join a video call with the member of staff on the evening at the appropriate time.

Details of the new system have been sent to parents via ParentMail to explain how to book appointments and access the new system.

Mr Morley



Where can your languages take you.....?

Languages are classified as a **facilitating subject** preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.

Above 74% of **employers want language skills** and many recruit specifically for them.

In fact, according to Rachel Usher, Independent Schools Career Organisation "***I can't think of a single career area where language skills are NOT an advantage.***"



Well done to all our budding linguists for working so hard in their language lessons. We are very proud of you. The world is your oyster!

To read more on languages apprenticeships click [here](#).



LANGUAGES

WE'VE GOT THE APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU!

- **AVIATION OPERATIONS MANAGERS**
manage the environment, facilities and services at airports, military bases, heliports and airfields - including the safe arrival, turnaround and departure of aircraft.
- **INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDING SPECIALISTS**
ensure that the company they work for complies with customs, import and export laws and regulations.
- **CABIN CREW APPRENTICES**
provide excellent customer service to passengers while ensuring their comfort and safety throughout the flight.
- **EVENT ASSISTANTS**
arrange a broad range of activities including cultural events, conferences, trade shows and sporting and music events all over the world.
- **AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS**
direct aircraft on the ground and through controlled airspace.

There are many other apprenticeships you might be interested in:
Travel consultant, Transport Planner, Heritage Engineering Technician, Commercial Procurement and Supply and many more!

MORE INFO

Brought to you by National Apprenticeship Service

Visit apprenticeships.gov.uk to find out more.



Watch this space coming soon - a range of extra curricular challenges for you to try!

Faculties have planned over 20 challenges for you, have some fun, get away from the screen, house points to be won for your participation. How many challenges can you complete?

Online Safety

Free to access online safety courses provided by nationalonlinesafety.com:

[Online Safety for Parents of Children aged 7 – 11](#)

[Online Safety for Parents of Children aged 11 – 14](#)

[Online Safety for Parents of Children aged 11 – 18](#)



Ideas to help your child avoid stress

Sleep



Regular Sleep schedule: Our bodies thrive on routine. Going to sleep at the same time each night ensures that the body is primed to complete all the important recovery processes it needs to while we rest.



Keep the room cool: People tend to find it easier to drop off slightly chilly rooms. We also recommend that you play around with other habits and see what works to help you get to sleep – white noise, journaling, etc.



No screens before bed: Looking at screens prevents the release of melatonin, a hormone which helps us get to sleep. Leave devices out of the bedroom and out of use at least 30 minutes before sleeping.

Exercise



Aerobic exercise: exercise that gets your heart rate up and lowers cortisol (stress hormone). Studies suggest that people who go for a run before a test improved their memory recall by 15-20% compared with people who were sedentary.



15-20 minutes daily: we don't need to spend hours of each day exercising to improve our stress management. 20 minutes of accelerated heart rate daily is enough to increase memory consolidation and decrease stress.



In it together: going for walks with your child is a great way to ensure they are taking necessary and refreshing breaks, as well as providing a neutral territory to check in with how they are feeling.

Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds)

We recognise that times are tough for many people right now. Parents may find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual.

A mixture of concern about covid, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact can make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six simple questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond). It is quick (2 minutes to complete) and easy and will lead to lots of really useful advice and guidance.

Find the help finder here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>
Alternatively, remember you can contact your child's Head of house for further support.

When emotions explode (Young Minds)

Young Minds have also created a useful poster highlighting ways to give support to children when they have angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.

When emotions explode

Last year and the start of 2021 has been extra stressful and, understandably emotions may be heightened at home. It's normal to feel frustrated, worried or angry about the situation, but it can be hard to know how to communicate in these very emotional or angry moments.

This poster aims to support parents when their child has angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.

