



February 2024

Dear parent/carer/student

This half term sees the start of GCSE and A Level examinations; we wish all our students every success in these external examinations and encourage them to continue with their preparation and revision. Good luck.

Miss School, Miss Out

Attending school on a regular basis is the key to your child doing well and will set them up with good habits for later life. It will also give your child the opportunity to:

- Make friends and improve social skills.
- Learn new things and develop skills.
- Increase confidence and self-esteem.
- Achieve their potential and fulfil their aspiration

If you need any help or support, please do get in touch with us by speaking to your child's year team in the first instance

Immersive French Breakfast Experience.

Students in Year 8 who have consistently demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning were invited to take part in an immersive French breakfast experience at the Olive Grove restaurant in Cannock. Students (and staff) had a brilliant time eating a delicious and traditional French breakfast, learning lots about the French culture and fully embracing the opportunity to talk in French. The trip was led by JLH Languages and their leader was highly complementary of our students' attitudes and general demeanour. They represented our school impeccably and we can't wait to go back!



School Rebuilding Programme

We have been notified by the Department for Education that we are being included in their School Rebuilding Programme in order to fully remove RAAC from the school site. This is excellent news for the school. We should find out before the summer holidays in terms of which phase of the programme we will be included in and when that work will commence.

Parking

Once again, our local residents have raised serious concerns regarding a minority of parents that have caused issues in terms of their parking and collecting of students; this has been escalated to the local authority.

We would like to remind all parents/carers to please respect our neighbours by not parking or collecting your children from St. Paul's Rd, Sparrow Close, or the surrounding area.

Run 4 Joel

Run 4 Joel will return once again to Sandwell Valley on Sunday 9th June and this promises to be bigger and better than last year, continuing with the colour blast theme. The event at Sandwell Valley Country Park is held in memory of our former student Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and Grandfather Patrick Evans.

It would once again be great to see a large number of Wood Green students and their families taking part. More details can be found here:

<https://smileforjoel.com/event-details?event=runforjoel2024>

Registrations are open now!

Cricket Fans

Wood Green Academy have signed up to the 2024 Six4Schools initiative, which gives discounted tickets for two of the Birmingham Bears T20 fixtures.

The unique promo code has been created to allow staff and parents to purchase Bears T20 tickets online at the starting discounted price of £13 (that's a discount of up to £12), whilst under 5's go FREE and 5-15 year olds £5.

The unique promo code is **WGA24**.

Tickets can be purchased at tickets.edgbaston.com by entering your unique promo code in the field at the top of the page.

Please note the Six4Schools discount is valid only valid for two fixtures in 2024, Saturday 8 June and Sunday 14 July.

If you would like more information about tickets at Edgbaston and the Ticket Refund Guarantee, please visit the FAQs page. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Edgbaston team via tickets@edgbaston.com.

School Rules and Behaviour

One of the reasons, aside from excellent teaching, that ensures we get excellent outcomes for our students, is the high expectations that we have at Wood Green in terms of student behaviour. Can I thank parents/carers for supporting us with this.

Mobile Phones

Once again please can I thank the vast majority of parents/carers that ensure that their child does not bring their mobile phone to school, however there have been a number of incidents in the last half term that we have had to deal with, therefore for clarity, students in years 7 – 11 **MUST NOT** bring mobile phones onto the school site. If there is an emergency

safeguarding reason for a student to have a mobile phone on them on the journey to and from school, that parents **MUST** request temporary permission from Mrs Wood in writing with the understanding that the phone **MUST** be handed in to YL/SSM each day for the period of time that the emergency safeguarding reason is in place.

Students should not use their mobile phone as their bus pass/ticket as mobile phones are not permitted on the school site. If a student brings a phone onto the school site and it is confiscated, parents will need to either purchase an additional bus pass/ticket or will have to make alternative arrangements for their child's transport.

If students are found to be in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. Mobile phones confiscated on a Monday or Tuesday will be held in the school safe until the end of the school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 2.40-3.00pm (in the event of school finishing early, phones due to be collected, can be picked up between from the end of school and the following 20 minutes e.g. 12.00 and 12.20pm.). Phones confiscated on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday will be confiscated until the end of the following school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 2.40-3.00pm. If, however, the return of the mobile phone falls in a school holiday, the phone can be collected on the first day back to school by parents/carers between 2.40 - 3.00pm with the exception of the summer holiday, in which case the phone can be collected by parents/carers on the first Friday of the holidays between 2.40 -3.00pm. **So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 22nd May, Thurs 23rd May or Fri 24th May, it will not be returned until Monday 3rd June 2024 (between 2.40 – 3.00pm) as per our policy. EXCEPTIONS to this policy will not be made and ANY student that refuses to hand in their mobile phone when asked to, will be issued with a Permanent Exclusion. This sanction has been consistently applied where in the rare occasions this has happened in the past.**

Student Achievements

We are delighted that some of our year 8 sporting aptitude pupils trained for and officiated a SEN sports competition at Wood Green Academy on the 21st March, in the sport of Boccia. Primary and secondary schools from all over Sandwell came together to play Boccia, which is a very tactical game similar to indoor bowls.

The young leaders who officiated were :

Inaaya Ahmed (Da Vinci), Ronny Cooper-Griffiths (Shakespeare), Ava Giles (Shakespeare), Daniel Hall (Parks), Mohammed Hoque (Ali), Haamidah Hussain (Einstein), Riley Lister (Shakespeare), Muhammad Ali Muhyiddeen (Da Vinci), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Sarah Shahbaz (Da Vinci), Mazy Smith (Da Vinci), Lily-Rose Thomas (Ali), Aimee Whitehouse (Einstein).

Enrichment – Years 7 and 8 only

Students in Years 7 and 8 have now completed four units of Enrichment and will soon be awarded with the respective ClassCharts points for their excellent engagement in the fourth unit.

I Can I Will Focus Areas:

Activity	I Can I Will Focus Areas – all areas are addressed in all units. The areas identified are addressed to a greater degree.
Year 7 - Memory	Flexibility of Mind, Reflectiveness, Drive, Resilience
Year 8 – DofE	Risk Taking, Initiative, Drive, Resilience, Reflectiveness
Martial Arts	Drive, Resilience, Risk Taking, Reflectiveness
Leadership	Risk Taking, Initiative, Drive, Resilience, Reflectiveness
Word Detective/ Word Inspector	Curiosity, Flexibility of Mind, Resilience, Reflectiveness, Risk Taking
Top Table/ Leagues and Ladders	Initiative, Curiosity, Reflectiveness
Street Dance	Reflectiveness, Risk Taking, Drive, Resilience

Please note that enrichment is a **compulsory** activity that is identified in **Period 6** on your child's timetable. **Please avoid requesting medical appointments during this period** wherever possible.

A decision has been made for all students to continue to come to school in their PE kit on the days that they have enrichment until the end of the Summer Term 2024, regardless of their Enrichment activity.

It is essential that only items outlined on the school PE kit list are worn – hoodies and non-school sweatshirts may not be worn.

Students wishing to wear tracksuit bottoms should be wearing plain black tracksuit bottoms with the school logo on. These items are now in stock at our uniform suppliers. As a result, **students may no longer wear plain black base layer bottoms.**

Students may wear their school sweatshirts over their PE tops, but **must** remove them when they do their activities. This does not apply to PE lessons on other days of the week.

Elite Performers

West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools' FA Representative Teams

U16 Girls: Hope Busher (Shakespeare) - Captain

U15 Boys: Ashton Pearce (Einstein)

U14 Boys: Aden Foster (Ali), Alfie Chappell (Da Vinci)

U14 Girls: Paigan Horney (Parks)

Black Country School Games

Our SGO's, Miss Parker and Miss Fisher hosted the Black Country School Games, the PAN and Physical SEND Boccia Competition at Wood Green Academy. The event was supported by a group of WGA leaders who officiated the event, whilst we had teams competing in each category.

Physical Impairment team won GOLD!

Alfie Hadley (Shakespeare), Sam Fellows (Einstein), Aisha Ali (Ali).

Pan disability team won SILVER!

Holly Nardon (Shakespeare), Jaelen Hawley (Nightingale), Megan Lawrence (Einstein), Rocco Artwell (Ali), Tyler Hill (Ali)

A fantastic achievement by all involved. Both teams will now go forward to qualify for the Black Country School Games Final next term.

Gym and Dance Show

Our annual Gym and Dance Show brought a number of our elite performers to the floor. The show was very well attended and quality of performance was very high.

The show was opened by Year 11 dance students who were tasked with fulfilling Component 3 of their BTEC Dance course. The students included: Ellie Pye (Einstein), Chanelle Alexander (Parks), Nimrita Jewan (Da Vinci), Marnie Carter (Einstein), Danni-Leigh Hall (Shakespeare), and Jessica Maton (Da Vinci). The piece was choreographed by the students focusing on the set stimulus of 'Treasured memories'. Students have used an image to inspire the narrative of their piece.

Year 11 students: Alexandra Becky (Ali), Aaliya Rai (Nightingale), Aishat Quadri (Ali), Aminata Diallo (Ali), Ellie Smith (Einstein) and Osanoherumwun Imagbenikaro (Parks), performed a piece choreographed by themselves also focusing on the set stimulus of 'Treasured memories'. The students created a narrative of two characters from different cultural backgrounds forming a relationship and the challenges they face for this to be accepted.

Million Dollar Bill - A street piece performed by Grace Mary Primary School.

Falling - A contemporary piece was performed by the after-school Dance Club. These students attend extracurricular dance every Thursday after school with Miss Painter. They have worked hard to enhance their performance skills in a range of dance styles.

Matilda - A Matilda medley, was performed by the Year 9 BTEC Dance group.

Houdini - Year 5 & 6 Students from Old Park Primary School performed a Contemporary piece.

A Chorus Line - Is a musical theatre piece which was performed by Year 10 BTEC Dance students. The piece has some movement that is directly replicated from the professional repertoire and shows the performers in an audition scene which then progresses to the finale scene.

Kickstarts Rebel Force Under 8 Street dance team from Wednesbury. In their 2023 competition season they won first place at every competition in the Under 6 Street Dance category, including winning the Championship final earlier this year. They performed their winning routine.

Alexander Performing Arts (APA) solo performances by primary aged children Amelia, Ella, Bella and Eliza.

People help the people - A lyrical contemporary piece choreographed by Miss Lowe and performed by the Year 9 BTEC Dance group.

Burlesque Express - A sassy piece performed by the after-school Dance Club.

Kickstarts Synergy Under 18 Street dance team from Wednesbury who qualified for the Championship final last year, scoring highest team of the day and all of their solos placing in the top 6. Half of the team performed a version of their competition routine.

Our Year 9 and 10 dancers included:

Olivia Paddock (Einstein), Macey Williams (Parks), Lillie-Jo Higham (Nightingale), Harley Walters (Ali), Mollie Wilkes (Parks), Taylor Mellor (Nightingale), Amy-Leigh Tilley (Ali), Hiamot Quadri (Nightingale). Alessa Chung (Shakespeare), Ruby Worley (Nightingale), Kelsey Nock (Shakespeare), Crystal Ward (Da Vinci), Silvia Amo-Obi (Nightingale), Lexi Oliver (Nightingale), Tai'jah Dixon (Ali), Taylor Mellor (Nightingale), Carly Phillips (Nightingale), Hiamot Quadri (Nightingale), Harley Walters (Ali), Grace Cox (Nightingale), Naeem Choudhury (Nightingale), Lucy Downen (Ali), Maisie Duckers (Parks), Josie Wignall (Da Vinci), Poppy Mitchell (Shakespeare), Tiah Rogers (Shakespeare), Maddie Forrester (Da Vinci), Lucy Stewart (Da Vinci), Chloe Bridgwater (Einstein), Niamh Hazel (Shakespeare), Ashleigh Steele (Da Vinci), Isobel Evans (Shakespeare), Ruby Worley (Nightingale), Bryonie Brazier (Einstein), Maddison Tandy (Ali), Leah Owen (Einstein), Lily Davies (Ali), Scarlett Holmes (Ali).

Also performing were: Kelsey Hall (Einstein), Brooke Crumpton (Parks), Shantel Esnath Tshuma (Shakespeare), Khushi Patel (Parks),

House Captains Alaana Smith (Parks) and Casey Clews (Parks) supported the event: Our visiting performers came from Old Park Primary School, Grace Mary Primary School, West Bromwich Gym Club, Kickstarts and Alexander Performing Arts.

Student Leadership Success

Well-done to the following students who completed their Peer Support buddy training at Wood Green Academy. They are going to be offering drop-in sessions for help and advice after Easter.

Shayma Begum (Parks), Cassey Clews (Parks), Harmeet Powar (Einstein), Ashlee Hicken (Parks), Tasmia Zannat (Nightingale), Shanya Taha (Shakespeare), Carly Phillips (Nightingale), Tami Ajayi (Einstein), Lacie Powell (Einstein), Joe Bird (Shakespeare), Tanzina Zannat (Einstein), Olivia Edis (Ali).

Watch out for assemblies to explain their launch week beginning 15th April.

Reminder of events run by student leadership committees:

- Tuesday- Lego Club- Lunchtimes T001
- Wednesday-Random Acts of Kindness- Lunchtimes N002
- Thursday- Litter Busters- Afterschool meet by Sports Hall
- Friday- Board Games Club- Lunchtimes N002

School Calendar

Just a reminder that the school calendar is on the school website and has all the Academy's key dates and activities listed: <https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/school-calendar/>

For all students completing exams in the next 50 days, let's approach the upcoming exams with a positive mindset and a determination to do our best. Your hard work and resilience will undoubtedly yield great results.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Topham', with a small flourish at the end.

Mr J Topham
Headteacher