



February 2024

Dear parent/carer/student

We now have less than 50 school days to the start of GCSE and A Level examinations; so this half term really sees the build up to the examination season intensify. This period is undoubtedly a challenging one, but it is also an opportunity for our students to showcase the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the academic year. I encourage all students to take advantage of additional study sessions, revision materials, and tutoring with teachers in the lead-up to the exams.

It is also crucial to make well-being a priority during the exam season. Please can you ensure that your child also gets adequate rest, maintains a healthy diet, and engages in activities that help alleviate stress.

Measles

A big thank you to those parents that have supplied us with their child's MMR vaccination status. If you haven't already completed the form for each of your children, it is available here: <https://forms.office.com/e/TQvT2WieiC>.

There is no obligation for you to do so, however providing us with the information will mean that we are in a better position to complete a comprehensive risk assessment should we have an outbreak in school.

Advice from Public Health is that as measles is going through Europe at the moment, it is expected that cases will be bubbling up for months. Therefore the best protection for students is for them to have the vaccine when they can.

Please complete a separate form for each of your children

Miss School, Miss Out

One of the most important ways a parent can support their child is to ensure they attend every day, on time and avoid any unauthorised absences. Even a relatively small number of days absent can have a significant effect on progress. Catching-up missed learning can be difficult for your child. Missing key learning, even just one day, can have a knock-on effect for years to come.

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

Job opportunities at Wood Green Academy

At Wood Green Academy, we recognise and value the positive impact that people with knowledge and shared values with our school community can make on the quality of our students' education. We regularly have support staff and teaching staff job opportunities advertised on our website (<https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/vacancies/>) and social media.

We would like to encourage parents and stakeholders to pass on our adverts or social media posts to people who they know have the skills and qualities to apply for our vacancies.

I Can I Will Challenge Days

Challenge Days spaces are filling up fast and staff continue to work hard on preparations for the big 3 days!

A number of students still need to submit their preferences – this can still be done, even though the initial deadline has passed.

If you haven't received communication around this, please check your Spam folder for unseen emails and keep the school informed of any changes to your contact details straight away. This is best done by informing your child's Student Support Manager. If you still cannot trace the Challenge Days' email that was sent in January, please inform your child's Student Support manager straight away (don't forget to include your new email where necessary).

Parent Pay will be set up very soon when activity payments can start to be made.

I Can I Will Loyalty Cards – Years 7 and 8 only

Year 7 and 8 students are working hard to get their I Can I Will Loyalty Cards signed as they demonstrate the 7 I Can I Will Characters in their work:

Resilience, Drive, Curiosity, Initiative, Risk Taking, Reflectiveness and Flexibility of Mind.

A number of students have completed Bronze, some have completed Silver and a handful of students have even completed Gold. We are in the process of designing a Platinum card in response to the excellent response from students!

Please ask to look at your child's card and ask them what they have done to achieve the respective signatures.

Extracurricular Offer

Our Extracurricular offer has been updated for this term and can be seen on our website – we strongly encourage all students to attend at least 2 extracurricular clubs each week. Students are awarded ClassCharts points for attendance, I Can I Will character points and the forms with the best attendance at clubs will score more House points!

Enrichment – Years 7 and 8 only

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 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 – we are informed by suppliers that the school tracksuit bottoms are now in stock! Students may also wear plain black base layer bottoms for the next half term, but MUST have their shorts on over the top.

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.

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 20th March, Thurs 21st March or Fri 22nd March, it will not be returned until Monday 8th April 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

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), Zak Millward (Shakespeare)

U14 Girls: Paigan Horney (Parks)

Black Country School Games/School Games Organisers

Our School Games Organisers continue to deliver a wide range of activities for students across Sandwell and Wood Green Academy students are taking advantage of this with some success.

Handball

Our Year 10 Boys Handball were extremely excited to go back to the Sandwell tournament after a great showing last year. They played some very strong competition but showed resilience and determination which resulted in them finishing the tournament with a Bronze Medal. The team was:

Thomas Barham (Nightingale), Tishy Blake (Einstein), Joel Mudyawabikwa (Nightingale), Ismail Nazir (Shakespeare), Tejwinder Nijjar (Da Vinci), Owen Nwiwu (Shakespeare), Ricky O'Gorman (Parks), Roshan Randhawa (Parks), Kamari Stefan Simmons (Nightingale), Abdul Mahi (Einstein) - Miss McCurdy

The Year 8 team did fantastically well on their first outing at a competitive Handball tournament. They played 4 games in total, winning 3 and losing just the 1. They were a credit to the school and themselves walking away with the Silver medals (2nd place) and what's more impressive is the fact they had only learnt the basic rules of the game on the day, having not covered it in Core PE lessons yet.

The team: Charlie Blackhall (Ali), Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Brandon Bradshaw (Shakespeare), Ronny Cooper-Griffiths (Shakespeare), Oliver Corbett (Parks), Archie Leon-Bolding (Da Vinci), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare). Mr Allsopp

'Active Black Country' and Opening Schools' Facilities Funding

Our School Games Organisers – Miss Parker and Miss Fisher – have secured some excellent football coaching for girls through 'Active Black Country' and Opening Schools' Facilities Funding. Coaches from West Bromwich Albion are coming in every Tuesday after school to work with our fantastic female footballers. All are welcome!

Table Tennis

Wood Green Table Tennis Club based here at Wood Green Academy has recently secured Pathway Development Centre Status. The club and Academy will use this status to further develop Table Tennis recruitment and delivery. Mr Blackband, Miss Lower, Mrs Peters, Mr Perry, Mr Baggley

Football

The Year 10 football team played the next round of the West Midlands Cup against Ernesford Grange Community Academy from Coventry, beating them 3-2. They are now into the quarter finals, which will be played after half-term against Bishop Milner.

The team: Jack Farren (Shakespeare), Rohan Hayer (Da Vinci), Josh Smith (Parks), Chase Jones (Nightingale), Jake Vincent (Einstein), Charlie Evans (Ali), Alex Briscoe (Einstein), Joel Mudyawabikwa (Nightingale), Romario Joe (Parks), Callum Breckell (Nightingale), Szymon Frankowski (Einstein), Ricky O'Gorman (Parks), Ashton Pearce (Einstein), Navjot Mann (Nightingale)

House Events and Results this half term.

	Parks	Einstein	Nightingale	Da Vinci	Ali	Shakespeare
Yr7 Pop2 Dodgeball	12	16	9	15	7	14
Yr7 Pop2 Table Tennis	19	6	3	13	9	6
Yr7 Pop1 Table Tennis	24	6	2	8	13	24
Yr7 Pop2 Penball	9	3	7	5	7	5
Yr7 Pop1 Dodgeball	5	11	9	9	13	16
Yr7 Pop2 Fitness	27	26	21	18	17	23
Yr7 Pop1 Fitness	62	54	54	56	60	52
Yr7 Pop1 Penball	3	4	6	6	8	8

With the romantic day of the year upon us the students have been showing their heart love! ♡ A number of activities have been taking place to raise money and awareness for the British Heart Foundation.

Just Dance House Competition

Students have been showing their heart some love by being active and having fun!

Monday 5th Feb Year 7 & 8

Thursday 8th Feb Year 9, 10 & 11

Friday 9th Feb Sixth Form and Staff

Results to follow....

Jump Rope for Heart House Competition

Students have been putting their heart through its paces to see what house can do the most amount of skips in 1minute!

Results to follow....

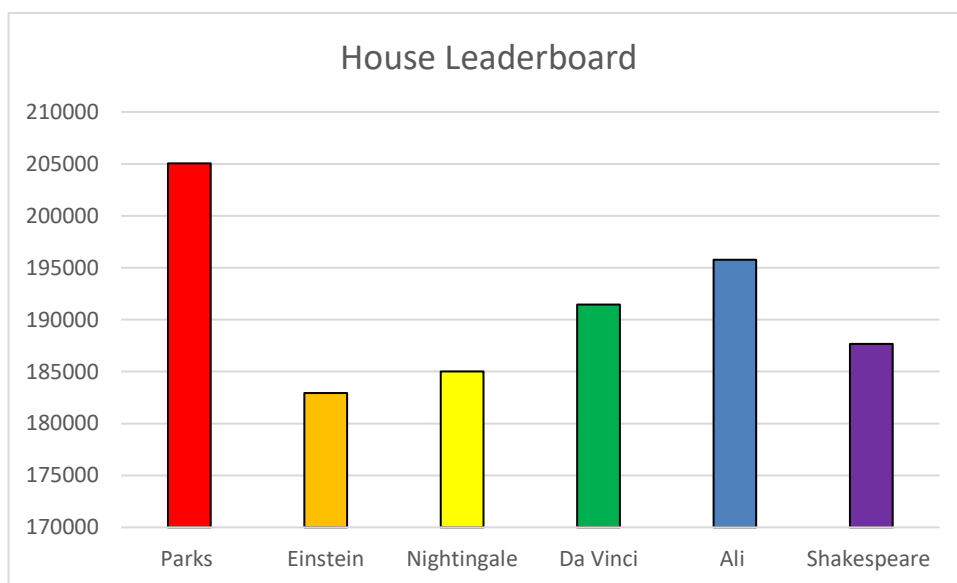
Rose Sale 🌹

Students have been giving the gift of a Rose to put a smile on someone's face 😊

The money raised is going towards the British Heart Foundation.

Total raised to follow...

Current House Leaderboard



Competitions coming up...

- KS4 Poetry Slam
- Art Competition
- KS3 and 4 Science BSW Competition

Student Leadership Success

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Congratulations to our first cohort of Anti-Bullying ambassadors who completed their training through the Diana Award on January 16th. Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Olivia Stevens (Einstein), Kian Russell (Parks), Sanjula Sapkota (DaVinci), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Zunaira Kamran Khalid (DaVinci), Mohammed Raihan Islam (Parks), Alaana Smith (Parks), Abbie Edis (Ali) and Ayesha Akhtar (Einstein).

All of the students spent the day completing workshops learning about the roles and importance of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in school. They are currently working hard to develop a student friendly Anti-Bullying Policy and support students on the issues in school. Well-done.

Peer Support Buddies

We are proud to be able to shortly offer our students the chance to meet with fully trained peer-support buddies. As part of the Mental Health First Aiders scheme offered nationally, these students have been trained in skills to support students with concerns about exams, social issues and mental health needs. They can listen, help you find support from appropriate adults or simply provide a friendly face when needed.

The students who completed their training are:

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).

Student leadership activities after half term

Open to ALL Students and ALL year groups.

The Well-Being committee are proud to offer a variety of events:

- Tuesday Lunchtimes T001- Lego Club- Come join our Student Ambassadors and create Lego models/designs.
- Wednesday Lunchtimes N002- Random Acts of Kindness- Either join in with spreading some kindness around school or watch out for a #randomact coming your way every Wednesday.
- Friday Lunchtimes N002- Board Games Club- Come join in with the competitive fun. Everything from Chess to Uno.

The Eco-Committee need your help!

- Litter busters- Thursdays after school meet by the sports hall until 3:20. Help us achieve our Green Flag Schools Award and claim a free cookie in the process.

Student Ambassadors Meeting Dates

- 26th February- Well Being Committee after school in N002 until 3:30 with Mrs Williams
- 4th March- Peer Support Committee after school in N002 until 3:30 with Mrs Williams
- 11th March- Eco-Committee after school in N002 until 3:30 with Mrs Williams

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



Mr J Topham
Headteacher