



June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

I hope you all had a good half term. We have now entered the final half term of the Academic year and the external examination season is well underway with students working hard and exhibiting all the traits to being successful. We wish them the best of luck with the rest of their exams.

Smile for Joel

Our charity day for the Smile for Joel charity will take place on Friday 7th July. The Smile for Joel charity was formed in memory of our former student Joel Richards who was killed alongside his Uncle and Grandfather in the Tunisian terrorist attack in June 2015.

On this day students are able to wear **sportswear** only instead of school uniform and students will be asked to donate £1 to the charity. There will also be a cake sale and an opportunity to take part in a variety of games. We thank you in advance for your support with this event.

Run for Joel

In addition to the Smile for Joel charity day the 7th Annual Run for Joel will take place on Sunday 11th June at Sandwell Valley Country Park. It would be great to see the Wood Green family once again supporting this event for one of our ex-students.

More details can be found here: <https://smileforjoel.com/event-details?event=runforjoel-2023>

National Thank a Teacher Day 2023

National Thank a Teacher Day is back on Wednesday 21st June. You can watch [last year's video here](#) to see the support of celebrities such as Dame Helen Mirren, Dame Joanna Lumley, Stephen Fry, David Walliams and Sir Michael Morpurgo as well as all the large education associations and charities.

This year is all about gratitude, celebrating the long-lasting impact that education has on individuals and throughout society. With the support of local and national press, we will once again be shining a positive light on the work taking place in our early years, schools and colleges. The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises ALL staff working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. If you're feeling shy you can even send a card anonymously!

You can send a personalised thank you to any member of staff at school by using the following link: <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Online safety

Can I please remind you to spend time checking your son/ daughter's phone and electrical device to ensure that they are only using appropriate age-related sites (this is usually 13 years old – including TikTok!) and they are not a victim or participant in any online issues.

We are getting an increasing number of young people thinking that it is OK to send inappropriate and hurtful message to other people and this is not acceptable and is causing both harm and distress to others. Similarly so, some young people are finding acceptable to send and share illegal images. CEOP have excellent resources on how to keep your child safe online as do the NSPCC. Please remember to download the Safer Schools app to assist with safety alerts.

Year 11 Students – After your exams are over.....

If you are in Year 11 and no longer need your uniform (sweatshirt, PE kit) and would like to donate it to the school we would be very grateful.

If the items could be laundered and dropped at the school office once your exams have finished please; we will ensure that items are passed on to those who require them.

Food Vouchers and second- hand uniform

If you require any vouchers or items of uniform, especially if your child is moving to KS4 Black jumpers, please contact the year office, Mrs YATES or Mrs Wood.

School intervention and Prevention Officer

Every week, we have PC Carter who works for West Midlands Police in school. Like all other schools in Sandwell, we are very fortunate to have this service available to us as PC Carter can talk to young people regarding any issues that they may face or have faced and be able to work preventatively and hopefully reduce the criminal footprint of young people.

Mental Health

If you are worried about your child's mental health and would like support, please speak to the school so that we can support them and you. We have a counsellor in school 3 days a week and there are other agencies available that we can help you access. Please spend time looking at our website under Safeguarding and Safety and Wellbeing for further advice. But please Speak out.

Speak out button and Concern boxes

Reminder to parents and students – if you are worried or in need of help, however small the issue may be, please make use of the **Speak Out** button that is on our website. You can contact Mrs Wood to pass on a concern 27/7 and she will respond within 24 hours. Concern boxes are also available in school and we ask that students use these if they prefer. If there is an emergency, please make sure that you call 999.

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 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, parents **MUST** request temporary permission from Mrs Wood in writing with the understanding if permission is granted 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.

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 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 19th July, Thurs 20th July or Fri 21st July, it will not be returned until Friday 28th July 2023 (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.**

Challenge Days

Parents/Carers are asked to ensure that they log-on to Parent Pay to complete the consent and medical form (for all activities requiring payment). Final payment or one-off whole payment cannot be made without completing the consent and medical form.

We have endeavoured to keep prices to a minimum; however some costs are unavoidable. Prices for activities relate to all three days and include resources and external companies attending (where applicable) on Day 1 and Day 2. For example, 'There's Been a Murder!' has a Crime Scene Investigation company coming into school to set up a crime scene for the students to solve on Day 2. On Day 3, students are taken by coach to external venues (where applicable) - the cost of travel has risen significantly and the difference in price to hire a coach virtually doubles between now and the end of July. Team Building and Race Across the Forest students will go out for the day on Day 1 and Day 2.

Student Success

Football

Year 11

Our Year 11 footballers progressed through the West Midlands County Cup only to be beaten 4-3 in the semi-final. A fantastic season for the boys who were also crowned kings of Sandwell for their cup exploits.

Squad: Tyler Jones (Einstein), Brad Page (Ali), Ryan Hickman (Einstein), Conrad Alobwede (Nightingale), Marquez Green (Parks), Liam Evans (Da Vinci), McKenzie Pearce (Einstein), Tate Williams (Parks), Daniel Cooper (Nightingale), Adrian Orogun (Shakespeare), Zachary Waite (Da Vinci). Mr Hopkins, Mr Baggley and Mr Richards

Year 8

Year 8 have picked up from where they left off last season. They have progressed to the next stage of the West Midlands County Cup and won convincingly against Q3 Great Barr. The squad consists of: Paigan Horney (Parks), Ruaan Joe (Parks), Zak Millward (Shakespeare), Codey Smith (Einstein), Aden Foster (Ali), Harry Simms (Da Vinci), Charlie Element (Parks), Alfie Chappell (Da Vinci), Mason Foster (Einstein), Malakya Meeson (Da Vinci), Isaiah Goodall (Einstein), Joe Bird (Shakespeare). Mr Baggley and Mr Agatiello

Zak Millward and Alfie Chappell recently signed schoolboy forms for Walsall (Zak) and West Bromwich Albion (Alfie).

Year 7

The Year 7 footballers became Sandwell Schools' FA Cup Winners following a 9-0 victory over St Michael's capping off a fantastic first season. The squad is made up of: Alfie Simcox (Nightingale), Ollie Scott (Parks), Oliver Corbett (Parks), Jake Brazier (Nightingale), Ronny Cooper Griffiths (Shakespeare), Fletcher Woodcock (Ali), Ryley Williams (Shakespeare), Beau Callaway (Einstein), Archie Leon Bolding (Da Vinci), Brandon Bradshaw (Shakespeare), Chaiden Hennefer (Da Vinci), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), Daniel Hall (Parks), Maxwell Knight (Shakespeare). Mr L Brown and Mr Chidziya

Year 9 Boys Sandwell Schools Athletics

The Year 9 Boys Athletics team won the Sandwell schools championships and have qualified for the Black Country games finals:

Ricky O'Gorman (Parks)
Owen Niwuwu (Shakespeare)
Kamari Stephens (Nightingale)
Jake Harding (Ali)
Romario Joe (Parks)
Jude Small (Ali)
Roshan Randhawa (Parks)

Year7 Tennis Leaders

Year 7s were Leaders at the Black Country School Games Mini Tennis level 3 Finals. This was a Primary school competition that saw students from Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton competing. The students trained for the role in enrichment, then had to use their training at the competition to umpire games across 8 courts for students from the 4 boroughs of the Black Country Games.

Hayden Adams (Parks)
Peyton Birch (Da Vinci)
Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare)
Sophie Cockayne (Ali)
Ronny Cooper-Griffiths (Shakespeare)
Micah Ejizu (Da Vinci)
Daniel Hall (Parks)
Jack Handley (Nightingale)
Muhammad Ali Muhyiddeen (Da Vinci)
Mya Ruby (Shakespeare)
Ollie Scott (Parks)

Alfie Simcox (Nightingale)
Malik Sterling (Da Vinci)
Olivia Stevens (Einstein)
Lily-Rose Thomas (Ali)
Aimee Whitehouse (Einstein)
Jessica Woodhouse (Ali)
Shaan Daly (Einstein)
Charlotte Bagdi (Parks)
Maddison Geddes-Moore (Parks)

Y10 Handball

After a very strong Sandwell South division competition our Y10 Girls Handball team were placed 1st. This has secured them a place in Sandwell Schools Handball Finals. The girls were only introduced to the sport of Handball at the start of the Year so their knowledge and understanding of the game needed to be developed extremely quickly. They went from strength to strength which saw them crowned the Y10 Girls Sandwell Handball Champions for 2023.

Aaliya Rai (Da Vinci)
Amaria Deans (Da Vinci)
Alexandra Becky (Ali)
Isabella Rollason (Parks)
Pheena Smith (Parks)
Hope Busher (Shakespeare)
Lillie Hales (Nightingale)
Aishat Quadri (Ali)



West Midlands School Games – Boccia

On Friday 19th May we took our Boccia team and Y10 Boccia leaders to the West Midlands School Games Finals. It was a great day with our Boccia team qualifying for the semi-finals. We unfortunately were beaten by a very good Streetly Academy team in the semi-finals. Which gave us the opportunity to still place 3rd, which they did.

Our Y10 Leaders ran the whole event from start to finish, they demonstrated an “I Can, I Will” attitude throughout the whole competition with several staff from other school commenting on how well they led the matches. They were a credit to Wood Green Academy.

Year 8 Team

Holly Nardon (Shakespeare)
Jalean Hawley (Nightingale)
Megan Lawrence (Da Vinci)
Stanlee Wright (Ali)

Leaders - year 10

Ryan Deakin (Nightingale)
Kyle Deakin (Einstein)
Cameron Harvey Trail (Parks)
Gurshan Singh (Da Vinci)
Pheena Smith (Parks)
Poppy Whincup (Parks)
Libby Jo Edwards (Nightingale)
Isabella Rollason (Parks)
Alicia Poole (Parks)



Year 7 Netball

Year 7 Netball Team were crowned the winners of the North Sandwell Year 7 netball league and they did not lose a single game.

When they started training, they had limited knowledge of the rules and only basic skills, but they were committed to training each week and just got better and better.

Lucie Cooper (Nightingale)

Jessica Dale (Nightingale)

Alaana Smith (Parks)

Phoebe Russell (Da Vinci)

Maddison Geddes-Moore (Parks)

Amber Keeling-Cartwright (Parks)

Emily Morris (Nightingale)

Jiaxin Huang (Nightingale)

Maddison Burns (Parks)

Lexi Halford (Parks)

Ella Richards (Parks)

Harkiran Batth (Shakespeare)

Student Leadership

We celebrated the Kings Coronation with lots of activities during form time and a cake sale. We raised £50 which will be going towards the development of our new Wellbeing Garden.

Results from the Coronation Quiz are:

1st Place: Ali

2nd Place: Da Vinci and Parks

To celebrate Star Wars Day “May the 4th Be With You” students and staff had the opportunity to participate in a house quiz. The winning house of the Star Wars Quiz was Ali! Well done to all those that participated! A big shout out to the staff that also got involved in this competition and scored full marks! Mr Lockley, Mrs Norton, Mr Nicholls and of course our Star Wars super fan Mr Dale!

Well done to all those students that participated in the House Numeracy Quiz.

Results from the Numeracy Quiz are:

1st Place: Da Vinci

2nd Place: Ali and Shakespeare

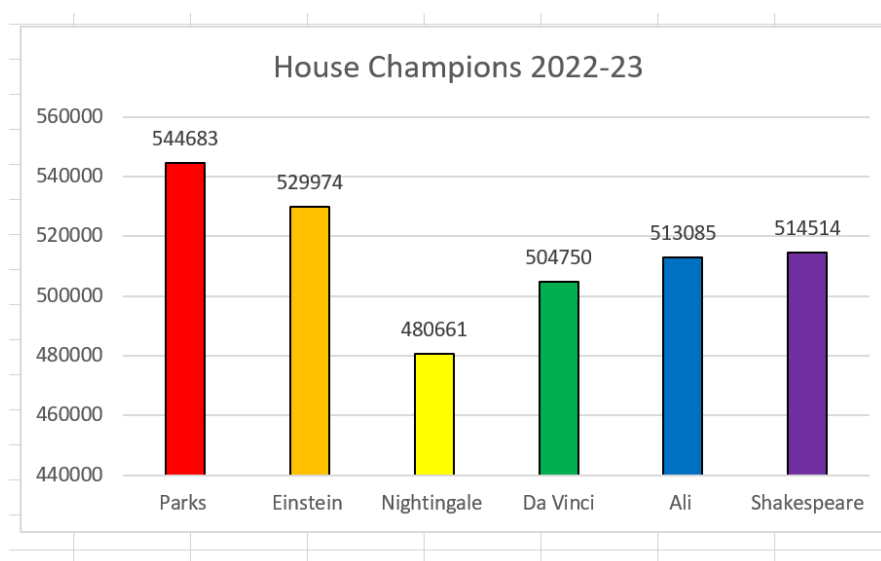
During the week of Mental Health Awareness Monday 15th May – Friday 19th May our Student Ambassadors were making and selling green ribbons. There were a range of activities in the learning hub during lunchtimes designed to help students escape the daily pressures of life and enjoy having some time to focus on themselves! The ambassadors also organised a cake sale to raise money for Minds and Dementia UK. We raised £73.92. Well done to all involved and thank you to everyone that contributed.

A huge well done to Lucy Price (Shakespeare), Gurpreet Cheema (Shakespeare), Chloe Mynett (Parks) and Kyle Barham (Nightingale) on the completion of their Persil Dirt is Good Project. These ambassadors have worked on projects over the last few months focusing on Health and Wellbeing, Fundraising and Student Voice. Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you again to all those that continue to share their views and respond to the Student Voice Listening Ear Forum. Our head ambassadors have discussed how empowering they have found the process and how privileged they feel to have the opportunity to share your views with senior leadership. Look out for the next meeting after half term and please get in touch if you have any ideas or thoughts to share.

The recruitment process has begun for our new cohort of student ambassadors. Please check your emails and the student hub area for more details. Good luck to everyone; we look forward to reading your applications. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all ambassadors who have been a member of the team this academic year we hope you will apply to continue your leadership journey.

This is how things are looking in the house leader board! Lots more opportunities to earn points for your house next half term including sports day!! Who will be house champions this academic year?



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/>

Many thanks

Mr J Topham
Headteacher