



The
Westminster
School

Newsletter

Safe, Happy and Learning Together

February 2021

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COVID 19 - IMPORTANT

If your child or anyone in your child's home has coronavirus symptoms, however minor, including:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss, or change to, sense of smell or taste

or you have been contacted by the NHS Track and Trace service to say that your child or anyone in your child's home may have been in contact with someone who has COVID 19:

- Do not send your child into school.
- Contact the school to report the reason for the absence so we can instigate our testing and tracing procedures, if required.
- Please ring 119 to organise a test or go to www.nhs.uk to book a test online.

As we approach the half term break, we still seem to be in a similar position to last term. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. As the vaccination roll-out continues to be implemented this will have a positive impact on our ability to return to normality. As many of you have a child with a learning disability you may be classed as carers and therefore you may qualify for the vaccine. If you contact your GP they will be able to clarify this for you.

This half term has been a little challenging for all of us. However, seeing how young people and families have responded to online learning has been incredible. Engagement in Teams lessons, Evidence for Learning and our new [YouTube channel](#) has been excellent. Thank you for supporting online learning through this period of time, as a parent I know it can be challenging trying to juggle all of the priorities and it's not easy, but your stoic response has been sublime!

So what next? It is still a little unknown however we anticipate further details from the government the week beginning 22 February. From the 8 March we are planning to open the school more widely in a phased return. We have been working hard this week to contact families to see how many of you wish to take up a place. We will finalise our plans for a wider opening on Thursday 25 February and contact you in due course. Please take some time to read my latest letter which provides more detail about our plans here <https://bit.ly/3jHeLWQ>.

And now for something positive. We have received encouraging feedback from Sandwell Local Authority about our proposal to open a Specialist College from September 2021. We are working tirelessly behind the scenes to turn this dream into a reality for a small cohort of young people and we are in the midst of curriculum development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your encouraging words and support; this wouldn't have been possible without your help.

Even during a global pandemic we have been able to maintain our commitment to supporting our young people into employment. Jordan has begun his Apprenticeship with Ground Control and Chrissie has gained employment with Interserve/Mitie as part of the cleaning team. Congratulations for both of you and our thanks goes out to everyone who has supported the pathway to employment.

Have a safe half term and continue to follow government guidance.

Mr O M Flowers
Head Teacher



KS3 Learn about Fair Trade

KS3 have begun this term looking at Fair Trade with Mrs Guest, which has included learning about rainforests. Part of their learning included creating an edible forest floor. Abbey and Marshall sent in some photographs of the work they'd been doing at home and they looked fantastic. Marshall even went as far as adding 'crocodile eggs', gummy snakes, mushrooms and bananas to his!



Social Enterprise 7to97 'Pop-up Shop'

It has been an extremely successful term for our Social enterprise 7to97 students, both financially and personally. The 7to97 initiative is aimed at supporting our students to gain an understanding of the world of work and gain valuable employability skills. The students put these skills into practice by planning, organising and taking part in their own sale event here at The Westminster School.

The students organised a 'Pop up shop' and 'online' sale in order to sell their unique and handmade items their businesses had been making. This was a great opportunity for the students to further enhance their employability skills, in particular customer service skills, and also showcase their amazing talents and products they have made.

It was a delight to see how the students embraced the experience and as a result they made a small profit which has been reinvested back into the future of the 7to97 companies.

Thank you to those who supported the sale either through the pop up shop or online purchases.

Keep a look out for the next sale!



Supported Internship and Apprenticeship Programmes

Congratulations to Jordan, who has completed the first week of his apprenticeship with Ground Control. He says "It's been a great first week". Jordan started his apprenticeship after successfully finishing his supported internship.

Jordan is following in the footsteps of former Westminster student Wayne G, who completed his supported internship and apprenticeship programmes and is now employed by Ground Control and supports their operations on campus.

The initiatives' success continues with Kenny H now starting his supported internship with Ground Control.

We are really proud of your achievements, Jordan and Kenny.



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 INSET Days - school closed to students
 Holidays

Contacting the School's Senior Leadership Team

If you have any questions or queries, please do email us on headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk.

This is the quickest way to contact the Head Teacher, the Deputy Head Teachers and Pathway Leaders.

We will respond to all emails as soon as we can.

Evidence for Learning (EfL)

We are continuing to use Evidence for Learning to capture and record evidence of your child's learning. This is used by all teachers throughout the school to evidence their achievements across all subjects. You will also be able to upload pictures, videos and make comments about learning achievements at home. If you haven't already received your log in, we will be in touch with this over the next few weeks.

For more information and details on how to log in, please go to <http://thewestminsterschool.co.uk/efl>

Class Webpages

To make it easier to communicate the plans for this academic year with parents and carers each class group now has their own webpage.

On the webpage you will find useful information including:

- A video introducing your teacher
- Class timetable
- Drop-off and pick up times
- Curriculum Pathway Handbook

We will update this throughout the year with useful information and celebrations of pupil achievements. To see the information please go to <http://www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk/classgroups> and click on the relevant class group.

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