



The Westminster  
School

# Newsletter

May 2021

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## A message from the Head Teacher

This half term, although extremely tiring for everyone, has been an exceptional start back and a return to relative normality. It has been fantastic to see our young people return to swimming, Baggeridge Country Park and community visits. These aspects of school life enrich their educational experience and allow them to synthesize their skills in a variety of different ways. Alongside off-site visits we also have some exciting residential trips planned for next half term (see page 3 for more information).

We have also planned our parents evenings towards the end of June. This can either be in person or virtually depending on your preference and we are keeping a close eye on government guidance to ensure we do this in a safe manner. It would be great to see as many people attend as possible so we are able to collaboratively plan for their exciting next steps.

We will continue with the vast majority of our control measures after half term. These measures will begin to relax next year as our curriculum demands it. This is vitally important in order for us to develop the oneness of the school community rather than the fragmented sections where people don't see each other. Although this has been an important health and safety measure, it has divided our school community.

Student attendance has been extremely good and is fluctuating between 85 - 92%. We are exceptionally proud that our internal COVID control measures are working well and we haven't needed to close any bubbles or classes this half term. A vaccination programme has been rolled out to the vast majority of staff and it is warming to see communities return to some normality as lockdown restrictions ease. This also means that we can have a well-earned break and return refreshed for the final half term of the academic year.

Have a lovely break and keep safe.

Mr O M Flowers  
Head Teacher



## 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](http://www.nhs.uk) to book a test online.

## INSET Day!!

Don't forget - INSET Day on Monday 7 June. School will be closed to all students and will reopen on Tuesday 8 June.

# Careers at TWS

This term I have been really excited to be back in school conducting one-to-one career interviews with many of our students to help them prepare for their future lives.

During the interviews, we complete an Action Plan which will be shared with the student and at the student's EHCP review. Our Action Plan has been developed by our school and designed to help students to think about themselves and plan for their future.

The Action Plan finishes with a number of suggested action points for each student to carry out, and one of these action points will always be **'to talk to parents/carers/family about your plans'** as parents/carers and family are the most influential and important people in a student's life.



To help you with these discussions, a new publication called "My Choices- Your Guide to Further Education" has specifically been designed for our students, it explains all the options available for when the students eventually leave The Westminster School. This publication will be made available for you soon.

**Sue Gough, Independent Careers Adviser**

## Social Enterprise - Key Worker Hampers

We have been blown away this term by our Post 16 Prince's Trust Social Enterprise students, who wanted to give a little something back to our local community. The students decided they would like to make a 'gift hamper' to show their appreciation to the NHS and key workers for their hard work and efforts throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. Students researched, planned, designed and made wooden crates to hold a range of carefully considered small treats to be enjoyed by the staff during break times.

Two of our social enterprise companies joined forces to create the gift hampers. The Rainbow Foundation Company interviewed NHS staff to find out what items would boost morale during break times. The students then independently sourced the items identified during the interviews and then commissioned our WestminSTARcreations company to make the crates ready to package and present their gifts.



The hand-made gift hampers will be dropped off at a local hospital so that they can be distributed amongst the staff to thank them for their tireless efforts throughout this year.

Our Post-16 students have demonstrated some excellent local community and social enterprise skills. Both companies have demonstrated excellent teamwork, initiative, communication and collaboration skills. This hands-on project has really engaged the students in their work resulting in a greater depth of learning. Well done to everyone involved.

# Work Experience

Due to COVID restrictions we have been limited with our usual wide range of work experience placements. As an alternative, a group of students in Snowdon have been invited to participate in a 6-week virtual work experience! They are working for a company called IWR (Independent and Work Ready). They have been designing themed merchandise, such as bags and caps which will be fed back to IWR and checked for quality.

The students involved have had to book personal meetings with IWR using Microsoft Teams to communicate their ideas and they have been expressing their creativity using graphic software packages and hand drawn skills. Over the next two weeks they will see their designs come to life and be sold on IWR's website! Students that enjoyed the experience could look at the prospect of working in the creative industry such as illustration or graphic design or even advertising. Watch this space as we have further virtual work experiences set up with DPD and the NHS.



Some students have been able to go out on to work experience placements due to companies now being allowed to open fully following easing of lockdown restrictions. Justin and Alex have started a placement with Blakemore's and have settled in really well to their roles and are now working now as part of the team.

Well done to all involved!

## Community Parent Champions

Is your child involved with community groups or activities outside of school? Do they take part in voluntary work? Are they members of any clubs or associations? Do they take part in any sports during the weekend? If so, we would love to hear about this. We are keen to encourage and support our students with these activities and share this with our school community, as we hope it will inspire and encourage other students to get involved with similar activities.

To let us know, please email the details to [headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk)

## Residential Trips

Following the lifting of some lockdown restrictions, we have arranged a number of residential trips in June and July.

We have organised a residential at Ingestre Hall which is going to take place over 5-9 July 2021 and trips are going to the Frank Chapman Centre between 23-25 June and 12-16 July.

Letters have gone out to parents/carers regarding these trips.

Residentials offer students a range of fantastic opportunities to develop new skills, make new friendships and have lots of fun. If you would like your child to take part, please let us know.

## Parents Evenings - June 2021

Parents Evenings will take place this year on 22, 23 and 24 June. Parents/carers will have the option to come in to school to meet with teachers face to face or have virtual meetings online. More details will follow shortly.

# The Westminster School 20/21 School Calendar

## Contacting the School Leadership Team

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

Sep-20							Oct-20							Nov-20						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

  

Dec-20							Jan-21							Feb-21						
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

  

Mar-21							Apr-21							May-21						
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														31						

  

Jun-21							Jul-21						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

INSET Days - school closed to students  
 Holidays

## Pupil Transport Enquiries

If parents and carers are experiencing any issues with pupil transport, please contact Travel Assistance directly. The contact details for staff at Travel Assistance are as follows:

Email: [travel\\_assistance@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:travel_assistance@sandwell.gov.uk)

Robert Shenstone	07392 285426
Dee Watson	07392 285423
Jagdeep Tiwana	07392 285414
Joann Hodgetts	07825 098219
Karen Beaumont	07392 285405
Rina Viridi	07392 285412
Sabby Gakhal	07760 172015



Evidence for Learning is our school's chosen platform 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.

### Parent View Portal

The Parent View Portal can be accessed by any Internet-connected device (iOS, Android, PC, Mac, etc.)

This enables us to share evidence of your child's learning with you. We share the evidence with parents via the Parent View portal. To access the Parent portal, you will be sent login details via two emails, the first email will contain your unique link to a secure webpage (please save it to your favourites or save the email for future reference) and the second email will contain your password.

If you ever need your password resetting, please email [services@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:services@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk) requesting a reset of your Evidence for Learning Parent View account. You will then receive a password reset email from TheTeacherCloud alternatively please let your child's class teacher know by providing them with your email address and we will ensure this is sent across to you.