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A Message from the Head Teacher

WOW! I can't believe the end of term is upon us. We've had a fun packed term as we begin to get back to some normality.

The range of activities our young people have been involved in is incredible. We've been on the water in canoes developing skills that could lead onto the first water-based Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Students have been rock climbing, taking part in bicycle training and developing their navigation and conservation skills. These activities have enriched the curriculum offering and it was great to see how engaged they have been when trying new things.

The My Creativity aspects of the curriculum continue to go from strength to strength. Seeing how our students have been able to express themselves in a creative way and produce some phenomenal work has been truly amazing. We look forward to being able to showcase their newly developed talents in the summer term when we look forward to welcoming you into school to celebrate with us.

We were lucky enough to receive our first minibus which has given us greater flexibility with regards to our community visits. I would like to thank the Variety Club and DPD for supporting this initiative.

We launched our [Parent and Carer Survey](#) at the end of March. If you could take some time to complete the survey we would be most grateful as it gives us an opportunity to further develop key aspects of the school with your support.

Please note we have added our two final **INSET Days** to the school calendar. They are straight after the half term break on **Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 June 2022**. During this time the school will not be open to students as we have important curriculum development work to do in preparation for next academic year.

It has been an unpredictable term and the impact of COVID still continues. We have tried to minimise the impact of COVID on class closures however it is still impacting on our staffing levels. Please see the details of the latest school guidance and strategy to deal with COVID within the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we continue to deal with these challenges.

For all of our young people and their families observing Ramadan and I wish you "Ramadan Mubarak" and we look forward to celebrating Eid with you in May. I hope all have a safe and enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to seeing you when we are **back to school on Monday 25 April 2022**.

Mr O M Flowers
Head Teacher



Parent & Carer Survey

School greatly values constructive feedback, opinions, and involvement of its parents and carers towards the further development of the school. Our [Parent and Carer Survey](#) is aimed at helping us to improve and develop our provision even further. Please complete the survey sent to you via a link by 14 April 2022.

All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw to win one of four £10 Amazon vouchers.



The Westminster
School

School Survey

31st March 2022 to 14th April 2022

SCAN ME



Your opinion matters

The Westminster School Survey collects your opinions about school life. It's important to complete it as it gives parents and carers a valuable voice in planning for the future.



We want to hear your thoughts and opinions about The Westminster School so we can know what we are doing well and what we need to improve. Your voice can make a difference.

All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw to win 1 of 4 £10 Amazon Vouchers



Our First School Minibus



We are enormously grateful to Variety, the Children's Variety and local business DPD in supporting us to take delivery of a brand-new 17-seater School minibus. The minibus is the 5,736th Sunshine coach donated by Variety to date.

Having our own minibus means that School can now afford many more trips and visits as we will be spending less funds on transport and we will no longer be restricted by hired coach and taxi costs, availability or timings. Students are really excited to have their own dedicated transport just for use by Westminster!

The minibus enables many more off-site learning experiences outside the classroom, such as trips to nature reserves and activity centres, sporting events at other schools and music events. It also means that we can more easily access the Forest School at Baggeridge Country Park.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Wrekin class have been visiting Saltwells Nature Reserve practising skills to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award. They have been map reading, spotting wildlife, picnic lunch and left before positive SMILE cards for other Saltwells users to find during their own walks through the Reserve.



Fundraising

There have been lots of fun activities taking place this term to raise awareness and funds for good causes. For Children's Mental Health Week in February, students did lots of different activities to celebrate and came in their own clothes for Dress2Express Day. For Comic Relief Day in March, students came dressed in red and there were opportunities to buy red noses!

On 21 March, we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing odd socks.

Thank to you everyone for taking part and making donations.



DPD Sustainability Competition

Congratulations to Bredon for entering the DPD Sustainability Competition. They demonstrated great innovation and creativity for their idea of developing magnetic cars. The class were invited to the West Bromwich Albion Football ground for a presentation and a two-course buffet lunch. Bredon were brilliant ambassadors for the school and Ms Payne was really proud of them.

Kooth – Support for Students

[Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) is a free, safe and anonymous website for young people aged 11-25 years in Sandwell.

Kooth can be accessed on any web-enabled device 24 hours a day and is a safe and trusted place for young people to go to seek support with their mental health. They provide a range of services to support young people's wellbeing. Trained and qualified counsellors are available until 10pm each night, 365 days per year.



Congratulations to Our New Independent Travellers!

Congratulations to the following students for completing their Travel Training Assessments since September 2021 and are now travelling independently to and from school.

Liam Hodgkinson
Holly Burbridge
Steven Dutt
Tyler Brookes

And all of the other students who were successful

This is a massive achievement and we are all really proud of them. We look forward to making more referrals next term and seeing more students travelling independently in the Summer Term.

Unified Basketball Tournament

Westminster hosted students from Sandwell Academy and Gospel Oak School at a basketball tournament in April. Eight of our students took part and it was fantastic to see them practicing the skills they had been developing in school in games against their opponents. Well done to all the pupils and staff involved for making the tournament a success.



Fantasy Premier League



The spring term saw the launch of The Westminster School Fantasy Premier League. Students have created their own squad using a budget they'd been set and each week they select a team that they think will score them the most points.

We have 47 teams in the league. This initiative will support students to develop their numeracy and problem-solving skills and most importantly they get to have a lot of fun! Currently, Mrs Jones is top of the league.

Leavers Day 2022

Leavers Day for Year 11 and Year 14 students this year is 24 June 2022.

Details of celebrations will be sent to parents and carers in the Summer term.

Juniper's Trip to West Midlands Safari Park

As part of their Spring 'My Communication' and 'My Care and Independence' areas of learning, Juniper Class successfully planned their own day trip to West Midlands Safari Park from start to finish. Everyone had a fantastic time.



Malthouse Stables Activity Centre

This term has seen nearly 80 students attend The Malthouse stables in Tipton. Malthouse Stables is a Local Authority owned outdoor adventure centre. As part of the My Community Area of Learning, students have been completing activities in climbing, abseiling, and rock climbing. Students have also experienced canoeing towards the end of the term. The students have absolutely loved experiencing these new skills and have developed their resilience, teamwork, and communication skills. We would like to thank all the staff at Malthouse for their hard work and support. We look forward to working with Malthouse to give us alternative ways of delivering our Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Volunteering at The GAP Centre

In April Three students from Post 16 and Key Stage 4 volunteered at The GAP centre in West Bromwich.

The centre runs a community café, community allotment plot and a wraparound childcare service. Students helped decorate the centre by sanding, painting and cleaning. This was a great experience for them and helped them refine the skills they have learnt in their social enterprise ventures. Well done boys!



Bostin Tea Party

Students on the Move Forward programme visited Boston Tea Party to find out about what goes on behind the scenes in a busy restaurant. The group spent time with staff, who gave them an insight into their roles, before having a tour of the premises. They also enjoyed a delicious lunch! They collected their own food from the kitchens and checked off the tickets to get a feel for how the staff work. Students said they enjoyed learning something new, meeting the friendly staff and most of all, the food!

My Creativity

In the My Creativity Area of Learning, students had a number of different options that they could choose to take part in, encompassing activities including mask making, land art, photography, sugar craft, dance, music making, hair and fashion, embroidery and textiles, film making and musical theatre. Students have really enjoyed trying new things and working with other students they may not have had the opportunity to learn together with before.



Bikeability Cycle Training with Open Trail

Several classes have been working with Ola from Open Trail to learn how to ride a bike safely over this academic year. Students have been using the MUGA to learn cycling skills in a safe and secure environment.

Some students will be taking part in Bikeability Level 1 and 2 courses after Easter and will learn how to maintain their bike and make simple repairs, understand road markings, signs and signals and ride a bike with confidence.



Bushcraft Skills at Frank Chapman Centre

Students have continued to regularly visit the Frank Chapman Centre in Bewdley this spring term.

There are lots of amazing things to do at Frank Chapman including environmental care, lovely long walks and learning bushcraft skills. Here, Cedar and Rowan Classes have learnt how to make damper bread and cook it over the campfire. Looks like they had a fantastic time!



Preparing for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Saltwells Nature Reserve

Wrekin have been practising the skills they need to successfully complete their Duke of Edinburgh award. They did some map reading and wildlife spotting before stopping for a lovely picnic lunch.

Just before they left the reserve, hung up some positive SMILE cards for other Saltwells users to find during their travels.



Working with West Bromwich Albion Foundation

A massive well done to all of our students who have been developing their sporting skills with Imogen and the staff from the Albion Foundation. They have been working on their skills in tennis, football and basketball and have really grown in confidence!



Contacting the School 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 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 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.

Help us raise money
for our school for FREE
every time you shop online



We're now registered with easyfundraising.org.uk, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising.org.uk to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising.org.uk whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://bit.ly/31qQhJR>

Updated COVID Guidance

In order to keep the whole school community safe, we are continuing to ask parents to keep children at home if they display any symptoms of COVID and get a lateral flow test. If you do not have access to a lateral flow test, please let school know as we have a small stock of kits for use by students.



Students can return to school once they have two negative tests from Day 5 and Day 6 onwards.

We hope parents will support the school with this approach in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Should you have any concerns, please ring the school or email headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk