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A Message from the Head Teacher

This term has been extremely positive and our attendance rate has increased to 90.7%, which is an improvement from last term. We are continuing to focus on improving attendance rates as we know that our young people benefit from regularly attending school in a range of ways including improved levels of confidence, self-esteem and social skills. We have recently updated our Attendance Policy and we can provide support for parents and carers with attendance matters. Details of how to access this support and a link to the Attendance Policy are on page 2.

As you will be aware, our Ofsted inspection took place over two days in early March. We are currently awaiting their final report and we will communicate this to parents and carers as soon as it is received. Thank you to everyone who completed the Ofsted Parent and Carer Survey and spoke to the inspectors during their visit.

We have been busy preparing for the opening of WestminStore, our new retail venture in Blackheath Town Centre. The shop will be managed by our young people, supported by staff, and they have been involved in stock-taking and merchandising activities ready for the shop to open after Easter. The majority of goods on sale have been designed and produced by our young people in Social Enterprise sessions, and the quality and range of goods demonstrate the considerable skill and talent of our students.

Robin Walker MP, who is the Chair of the Parliamentary Education Select Committee, visited the school this term to look at our Careers and Futures provision and supported internships and apprenticeship programmes. He spoke to students, staff and our business partners and was extremely impressed.

I hope you and your family have a safe break over the Easter period and we look forward to seeing you return to school on Monday 17 April 2023.

Mr O M Flowers
Head Teacher



Attendance Matters

The Westminster School continues to strive for excellence for all its pupils. In order to achieve this the school takes attendance very seriously. We firmly believe that good attendance leads to:

- Make friends and feel included.
- Learn new things and develop skills.
- Increase confidence and self-esteem.
- Improve social skills.
- Have better career prospects.
- Achieve their potential and fulfil their aspirations.



The school is working hard to raise awareness of the importance of regular attendance and our newly formed Attendance Monitoring Group, chaired by the Head Teacher, meet weekly to discuss attendance and develop strategies to support students and their families improve attendance.

We will be updating parents and carers regularly on their child's attendance.



Our new Attendance Policy is available by scanning the QR code.

If you would like to discuss any issues regarding attendance please complete the google form link below and a member of the attendance team will be in contact with you.

<https://forms.gle/cEwUjKXZGQwmnNZf8>

There are 190 school days per year					
190 days attended	181 days attended	171 days attended	161 days attended	152 days attended	134 days attended
0 days missed learning	9 days of missed learning	19 days of missed learning	29 days of missed learning	38 days of missed learning	56 days of missed learning
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	70%
Good attendance Best chance of success.		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress.		Serious Concern Very limited progress. Damaging effect on future prospects.	

Sandwell Changes Programmes

The Sandwell Council Parent Support Team are running a series of FREE programmes to help support families in Sandwell. There are antenatal sessions to book at (including a session for Grandparents-to-be too!!)



The Changes programme for Parents is also offered to support parents and families on their parenting journey. The sessions are split into three age ranges - Early Years, Primary Years and Secondary Years to support families at key stages of change.

They are also offering a whole range of free and fun family activities from birth upwards (sensory play, splash & chat, mini Baggies, Zumbini to name just a few!). Find them at <https://bookwhen.com/book4changes>

Super Spring Term Activities

There has been so much going on this term – here's what we've been up to.



Ingestre Hall Arts Residential



Rowley Forest School Den Building



Boxing Gym Visit



Snow Fun at Forest School



Wrekin take 2nd Place at SEN Table Cricket Competition



Hazel Class at Challenge Academy



Learning Construction Skills at Startright



Visit to the Sandwell Aquatics Centre to learn about construction jobs

Duke of Edinburgh Award Skills at Challenge Academy





Comic Relief – Red Nose Day



Work Experience at The Woodman Pub



Rock Your Socks – World Down Syndrome Day

WestminStore



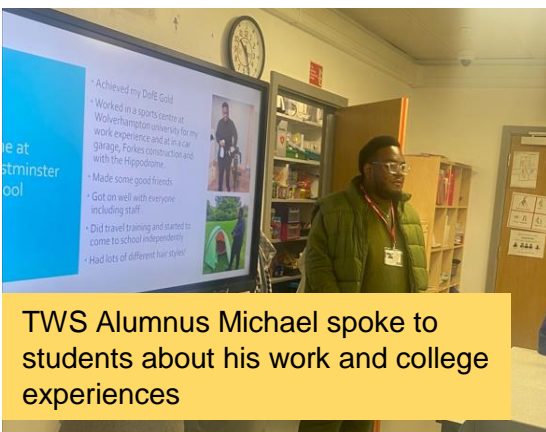
We are really excited to announce that we now have a shop in Blackheath! The shop will be run by students supported by School staff, and will stock a range of unique products designed and made by our students as part of their social enterprise activities. There will be opportunities to learn a range of retail skills including merchandising, customer service and stock management.

National Careers Week

Students took part in lots of different activities during National Careers Week 2023 to learn more about different jobs and careers. These activities provided opportunities for students to identify their skills, interests and career goals. Our Futures programme at The Westminster School supports students and their parents to make informed choices about their future.



Thomas learnt barista skills and made drinks for SLT



TWS Alumnus Michael spoke to students about his work and college experiences



Birmingham Children's Hospital Paediatric Nurse Intensive Care Tilly came to talk about her job

MP Visits TWS

Local MP Robin Walker, who is Chair of the Parliamentary Education Select Committee, came to visit The Westminster School with The Careers and Enterprise Company to look at our employability skills and supported internship and apprenticeship programmes.

He chatted with students and staff about our Futures programme and spoke to some of our interns.

We were able to showcase the amazing work our students do with our partners at Mitie, Ground Control, Chartwells and DPD.





SPDC
sandwell parents
for disabled children

April 2023

Easter Holidays



4-11 years Activities
Laser Quest

Tuesday 4th April @ 9.00am-11.00am

**Laser World (Inside Jitterbugs), Black Country Retail Park,
Charles St, Great Bridge B70 0BF**

Join the team and your friends for 3 games of laser tag with friends.
Please be mindful when booking this event that the laser quest arena has
areas of strobe lighting.

Food and refreshments will be available to purchase.

This is a free activity

(This venue is not wheelchair accessible)

11-18 years Activities
Laser Quest

Tuesday 4th April @ 12.00pm-2.00pm

**Laser World (Inside Jitterbugs), Black Country Retail Park,
Charles St, Great Bridge B70 0BF**

Join the team and your friends for 3 games of laser tag with friends.
Please be mindful when booking this event that the laser quest arena has
areas of strobe lighting.

Food and refreshments will be available to purchase.

This is a free activity

(This venue is not wheelchair accessible)

Book these activities by emailing

spdcbooking@sp-dc.org by 9am on Tuesday 21st March.





Family Activities Hydro Pool



Wednesday 5th April 10.00am-11.00am

Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane, Oldbury B69 1HE

SPDC invite you to join us for a 45 minute relaxing family session in Portway's Hydro pool.

This session is aimed at families who have young people with Profound/Complex Needs to provide a truly therapeutic experience for families who are unable to access other sessions offered during this half term.

This is a free activity

(This venue is wheelchair accessible)



Cinema

Wednesday 12th April 10.00am

ODEON West Bromwich, New Square, West Bromwich B70 7NN

Join the team at the cinema to watch **Super Mario Bros Movie**

During the showing of the film:

- Lights will be kept on.
- The volume will be lowered.
- Advertisements and trailers removed.
- Doors will be opened early for our young people/ children to have time to get used to their surrounding



This is a free activity

(This venue is wheelchair accessible)



Book these activities by emailing

spdcbooking@sp-dc.org

by 9am on Tuesday 21st March 2023

Contact us!

Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children, Galton Valley Childrens Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick B66 1DH

Tel 0121 565 2410, Diane D 07594 486930 & Gary 07763593877

Website-www.sp-dc.org

Email admin@sp-dc.org



Sandwell
Children's Trust




Charity Reg 1125576

September 2022							October 2022							November 2022							December 2022										
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35					1	2	3	4	39					1	2	44		1	2	3	4	5	6	48				1	2	3	4
36	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	40	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	45	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	49	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
37	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	41	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	46	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	50	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
38	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	42	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	47	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	51	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
39	26	27	28	29	30			43	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	48	28	29	30					52	26	27	28	29	30	31	
								44	31																						

January 2023							February 2023							March 2023							April 2023										
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52							1	5			1	2	3	4	5	9			1	2	3	4	5	13						1	2
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	9	27	28						13	27	28	29	30	31			17	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5	30	31																													

May 2023							June 2023							July 2023									
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	22				1	2	3	4	26						1	2
19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	23	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	27	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	24	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	28	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	29	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	29	30	31					26	26	27	28	29	30			30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																31	31						



The Westminster School

Term Dates
2022/2023



School Holidays

INSET Days (school closed to pupils)



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.

You Now Need Photo ID to Vote

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station. This new requirement will apply for the first time in Sandwell at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following to vote at a polling station:

Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

- A passport
- A photo driving licence (including a provisional licence)
- A Blue Badge
- A biometric immigration document
- A national identity card
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom Pass
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- And some other forms of photographic ID



You can still use photo ID if it's out of date as long as it still looks like you. If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. And if you don't want to vote at a polling station you can apply for a postal vote or proxy vote.

How to get a free Voter Authority Certificate

- For voters living in Sandwell - for more details and to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/elections2023. You will need your National Insurance Number.
- Call the council's Voter ID helpline on 0121 569 6999.
- Go into any Sandwell Library or Sandwell Council House in Oldbury for help to apply for free photo ID.
- [If you vote in another local authority area, please check the Electoral Commission website.](#)
- The deadline to get a Voter Authority Certificate to vote in this year's Local Elections is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

All communities are reassured that photo ID can be checked in private. A privately screened area will be provided for anyone who wishes to have their ID checked in private. Head coverings will need to be removed in this area for a voter's identity to be checked. All polling stations will have a female member of staff to do these checks. Mirrors will be provided for voters to replace head coverings in comfort.

There are no changes to the way people vote by post. If you are registered to vote by post, you will receive your ballot paper pack and vote in the same way. Anyone who wishes to [apply for a postal vote](#) should do so before 5pm on Tuesday 18 April to vote by post in this year's elections.

You can also [apply for a proxy vote](#) so someone you trust can vote on your behalf. A proxy voter will need to show their own photo ID in the polling station.

Further questions?

The answers to frequently asked questions can also be found on the council website: www.sandwell.gov.uk/voterIDFAQs