



Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

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A Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome to our March newsletter, where we share exciting updates from our school community.

As we venture further into the academic year, I am thrilled to share some noteworthy updates regarding our new School Council, upcoming trips, and opportunities for career exploration.

We are delighted to announce the formation of our new School Council, comprised of dedicated students who have been elected to represent their peers. The School Council plays a pivotal role in fostering student voice and engagement within our school community. Through collaborative initiatives and constructive feedback, they will contribute to enhancing the overall student experience at The Westminster School. We have already had our first meeting where we have spoken about our school values, recycling and the curriculum. They met members of the Leadership Team including Pat Evans our Chair of the Governing Board. We extend our warmest congratulations to the elected members and express our gratitude to all students who participated in the electoral process. British Values of democracy in action!!

As part of our commitment to empowering students to make informed decisions about their future, we are dedicated to providing comprehensive career guidance and exploration opportunities. Throughout the academic year, students will have access to a variety of resources, workshops, and guest speakers aimed at exploring diverse career pathways, developing essential employability skills, and navigating the ever-evolving job market.

At TWS, we believe in the power of experiential learning beyond the classroom walls. With this in mind, we are excited to unveil an array of upcoming educational trips designed to enrich students' learning experiences. From cultural excursions to outdoor adventures, these trips offer invaluable opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, foster meaningful connections, and cultivate a deeper appreciation for the world around them. This term we've been to Wales, Wicked and Wolverhampton! Have a great Easter Break and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 8 April 2024.

Mr O M Flowers
Head Teacher



School Uniform

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of our school uniform policy. We pride ourselves in preparing pupils for their lives after Westminster, this includes wearing appropriate clothing for the setting and activity involved. We are therefore asking for your support in ensuring your child is wearing the appropriate uniform as outlined below.

We do have a bank of school uniform available each day that your child can borrow if required.

Uniform for Pupils in Years 3-11:

- Plain black or grey skirt, trousers or joggers (no large logos)
- Plain White blouse, shirt or polo shirt (embroidered polo shirt available to order)
- Royal blue Jumper or cardigan (embroidered jumpers available to order)
- No hoodies

Uniform for Pupils in Years 12-14:

- Plain black or grey skirt, trousers or joggers (no large logos)
- Plain Black polo shirt (embroidered polo shirt available to order)
- Plain Black sweat shirt (embroidered jumpers available to order)
- No hoodies

When your child has Move (PE), they are still required to come to school in school uniform as above, and bring their PE kit with them to change into for their lesson. Pupils are supported if needed with changing, and this skill supports the child with their curriculum progress for My Care and Independence.

Move (PE) Kit:

- Shorts/joggers
- T-shirt
- Jacket/hoodie
- Trainers
- Swimming trunks/costume and towel (when going offsite for swimming)

Offsite My Community Visits:

If your child is due to go offsite and the nature of the visit requires alternate clothing, you will receive a letter/text to inform you of the dates for this. On this day, pupils can come to school in appropriate clothing as outlined in the letter.

Please can you ensure that all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Ordering Uniform:

If you require financial support to order school uniform or outdoor curriculum clothing for your child, please contact school and ask to speak to our Family Support Worker.

For pupils who are entitled to Pupil Premium, a £75 voucher (one per academic year) can be used partly or in full against a uniform order. There will be either a check box or code to be added at the checkout point which will be verified by the school before the order is delivered

Uniform can be ordered from Ace Embroidery Ltd, Ace House, Malt Mill Lane, Halesowen B62 8JF.

The embroidered uniform products include jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, book bags, fleeces and many other items. There are sizes available to fit all students.

Orders can either be collected from Ace Embroidery directly which is free of charge, or can be delivered to your home address with a delivery cost.

Please be aware that all enquiries, orders, deliveries and returns will be dealt with by Ace Embroidery directly, school will have no involvement.

To place an order please visit: <https://wms.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>

Careers

There have been lots of different activities going on this term, including National Careers Week.

In February, students visited a local branch of McDonald's for a special workplace tour. They had the fantastic opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of McDonald's, experiencing both front-of-house and behind-the-scenes operations.

Our students got hands-on experience, learning what it would be like to work at McDonald's, from taking orders to preparing meals. They even got to make their own delicious lunch.



Waseley had a great day at IKEA in February learning about careers and key values such as the importance of employability skills to work as a team 'to create a better everyday life for many people'.

They completed a workshop and had a tour of the store finishing with a sample of traditional Swedish meatballs!



We also welcomed visitors from GRAHAM construction this term, offering our pupils an inside look into potential careers in the construction industry.

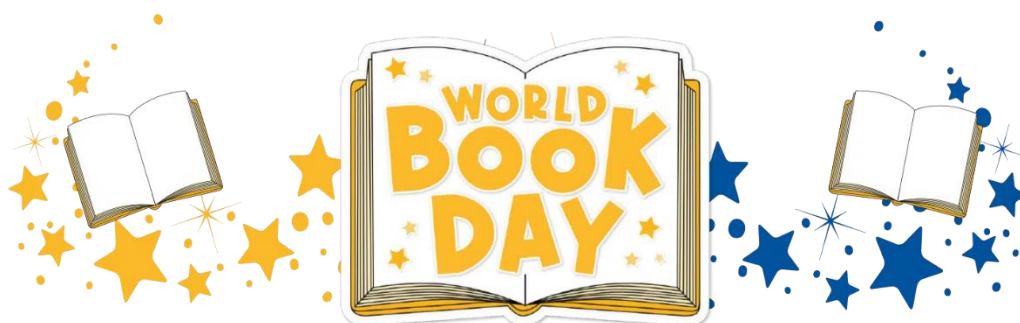
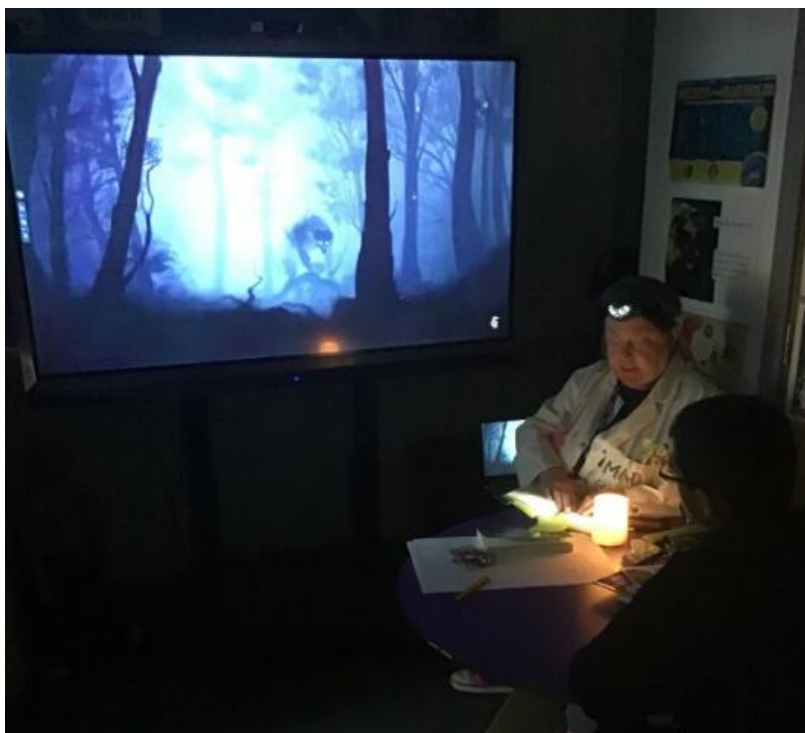
GRAHAM also generously provided an exclusive opportunity for our students to visit a live construction site, followed by the chance to apply for work experience.



National Careers Week ran from 4–8 March, and we had events every day during the week for pupils to think and learn about more about careers options and choices open to them after school and education. Ex-students came in to talk about the jobs they were doing and their career paths. Students also visit a virtual careers fayre, took part in enterprise activities and listened to careers talks from visitors and went on workplace tours. It was a really busy week which we hope everyone enjoyed and gained some inspiration from!

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day as part of our My Communication Area of Learning Day on 7 March. We had a visit from local author Joe Savage who talked about his book "Sea to Believe" and gave us tips on writing our own stories. There were also picture story trails, sensory trails, comic strip creating activities and story sessions. We also loved seeing everyone dressing up as their favourite story character.



My Community

A very big thank you to the staff at Carluccio's Café in Sainsburys Blackheath who very kindly gave students from Kinver class fruit goodies and Easter eggs during their My Community visit to Blackheath Town Centre. Students were very excited to receive such lovely treats. The treats were given out as part of the Café giving back to the community it serves.

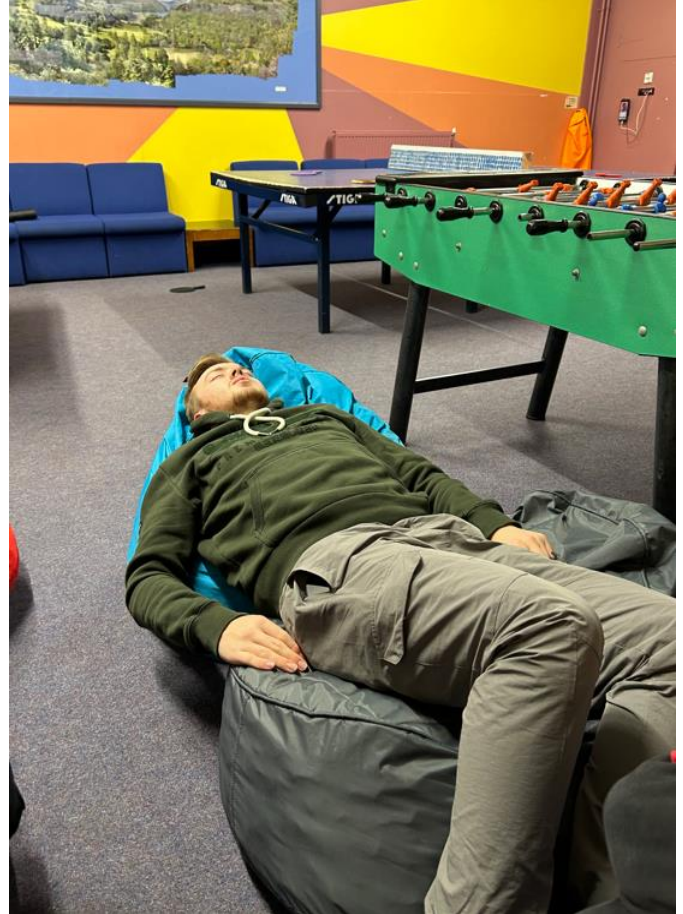


The whole school took part in My Community Area of Learning Day in January. There were lots of interesting learning activities going on including a Chinese Dragon workshop, Bhangra session and tastes and sounds of our communities sessions. There was also an opportunity for parents to come in to a Marketplace where community agencies shared information on services available to families in their local community.



Plas Gwynant

Students working towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award were put through their paces at the weekend. The conditions in Lyn Padarn in Wales were quite different to those on the canal in Tipton! They were positive and determined throughout and a pleasure to be with over the weekend. Well done!



My Creativity

We were thrilled to be able to take part in Young Voices children's choir concert at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham again this year.

It was a very memorable evening and everyone had an amazing time.

Well done to everyone who took part!



We have some amazing pieces of artwork being created by students. We have so many talented artists that we now have an Instagram account, @westminster_art_department!



Meet Our School Council

Our School Council elections took place this term. Students who wanted to stand for election prepared their manifestos which were shared with the whole school. Students voted for their chosen candidates and all of the votes were counted. The students elected will now be members of School Council for 18 months. One of the first things Council did was meet with Miss Guest and talk about issues students wanted to raise with the Senior Leadership Team.

The Council then gave a presentation to Mr Flowers, Mr Taylor and Ms Evans, our Chair of Governors. They introduced themselves and talked about how students had come up with some new School values – Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and how these could be celebrated within School.

**Key Stage 2 Representatives –
Luca and Chelsea**



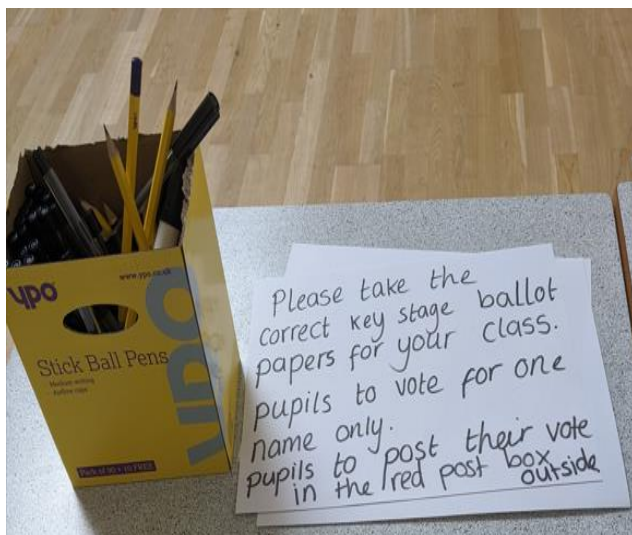
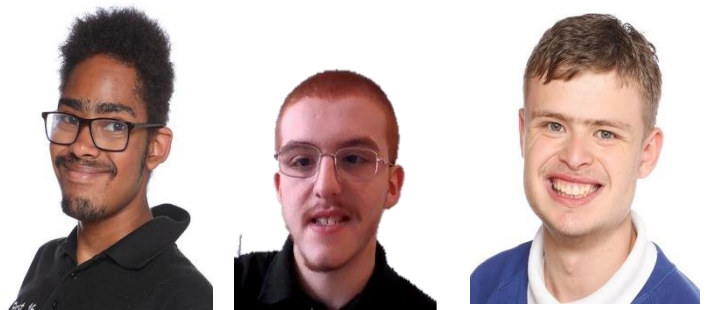
**Key Stage 3 Representatives –
Lylah and Kelsi-Jai**



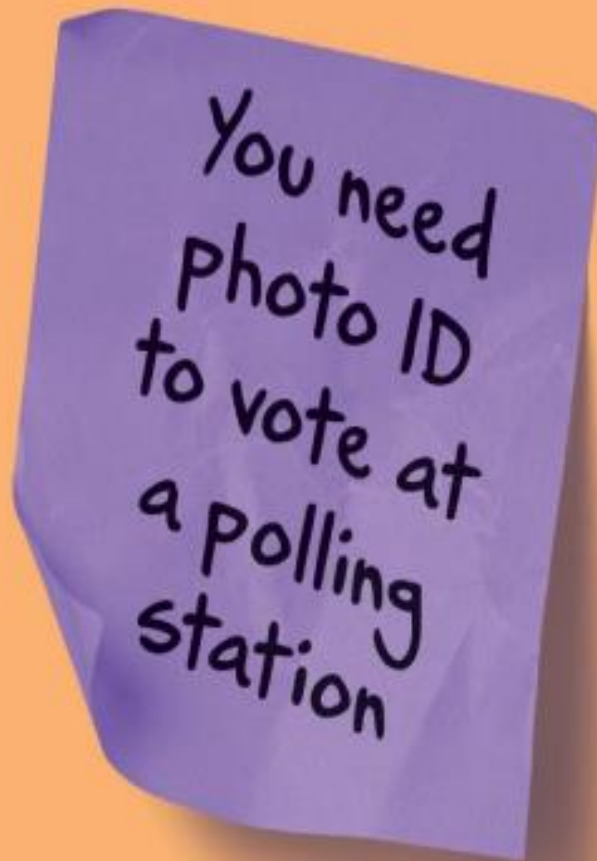
**Key Stage 4 Representatives –
Greer and Luke**



**Key Stage 5 Representatives –
Faris, Ben and Thomas**



The
Electoral
Commission



Elections are happening on Thursday 2 May 2024

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station

No ID? You can apply for free Voter ID

Find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/voterID

The Westminster School Calendar 2023/24

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35					1	2	3
36	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39							1
40	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
44	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44			1	2	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
48	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48					1	2	3
49	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5				1	2	3	4
6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

School Holidays INSET Days

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 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>

