



Autumn 2
2024/25

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

As we approach the end of the term, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on a wonderful and festive season here at The Westminster School and to thank you all for your ongoing support.

Attendance Matters

First and foremost, I would like to celebrate the excellent attendance we've seen this term. Attendance is crucial for learning, and we are so proud of the effort our pupils—and you, as parents and carers—have made to ensure children are in school, engaged, and ready to learn. Let's continue this momentum into the new year so that all our pupils can thrive!

Festive Market and Christmas Meal – A Magical Day

On Tuesday, we welcomed pupils who were engaged in the Festive Market here at school, and what a wonderful day it was! The market was filled with stalls offering handmade crafts, treats, and festive delights, creating a joyful and buzzing atmosphere. It was a great opportunity for students to run stalls, and practice their customer service and social enterprise skills. Yesterday, we shared our much-anticipated Christmas Meal, where pupils and staff came together to enjoy a festive lunch complete with all the trimmings. We were joined by our Governing Board and it was wonderful to see everyone tucking into delicious food, sharing laughter, and wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats with pride. A big thank you to our fantastic kitchen staff for preparing such a memorable meal!

Thank You for Your Support

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you—our parents and carers. Your support, whether through attending events, ensuring children are ready for school, or encouraging them to participate in all aspects of school life, makes an incredible difference. It's through this partnership that we can provide the very best experiences for our children.

As we close the term, I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas, a happy holiday season, and a fantastic start to the New Year. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday 6 January as we continue to learn, grow, and achieve together.

A message from the

Headteacher

Mr O M Flowers



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LPPA – Leading Parent Partnership Award



As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the school continues to work towards achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award. We envisage that by completing this award we will improve the way in which we engage with our parents and carers. The award is split into eight sections which focus on supporting parents to help their child at home and have a better understanding of the curriculum and the progress their child is making.

The Award also focusses on how the school supports students to transition between key stages and to life after school. There is also a focus on how the school environment is welcoming for parents and visitors.

This term the school working party met and discussed some of the key focuses for the spring term 2025 and this being our welcoming environment and implementing feedback form the most recent parent survey.

In order for us to work toward achieving this award, we are looking for a group of parent volunteers to support us. This may include short consultation sessions, drop-ins and supporting in the development of surveys and feedback methods. Additionally, we are keen to hear from you on how we can best support parents and carers in engaging with TWS. If you are interested please email lppa@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk.

This term we had a wonderful festive bakery workshop where parents and their children made mince pies. Thank you to Laura Rogers, our Food Technology Teacher, for organising this. It really was a lovely atmosphere!



Attendance

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 students:

- Making friends and feel included.
- Learning new things and developing skills.
- Increasing confidence and self-esteem.
- Improving their social skills.
- Having better career prospects.
- Achieving their full potential and fulfilling their aspirations.

The school is working hard to raise awareness of the importance of regular attendance and our Attendance Monitoring Group (AMG), chaired by the Head Teacher, meet weekly to discuss attendance and develop strategies to support students and their families to improve attendance. We will continue to update you with your child's attendance. If you would like to discuss any issues regarding attendance or require further support please contact the school through the main office or at attendance@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk.

A gentle reminder that if your child is absent from school that this must be reported into the school. This can be done by contacting the school on 01215616884 and selecting option 1. If you are not able to speak to someone, please leave a voicemail and a member of the AMG will endeavour to call you back.

Stars in Our Schools Awards



We were delighted that 26 members of school support staff received Unison's Stars in our Schools Awards in recognition of their dedication and hard work over the last academic year.

This is a fantastic achievement and recognises the valuable contribution of support staff.

Our Admin Team were winners of Sandwell's Team of the Year and were treated to tea with the Mayor of Sandwell in her Chambers. This amazing team work tirelessly behind the scenes to help the school run as smoothly as possible.



We are incredibly proud of our curriculum offer and the outcomes we have for our students, and this would not be possible without them. From all the Westminster Community thank you Emma, Heather, Natalie, Rachael and Rebecca for everything you do for the pupils and staff every day.

My Community

TWS

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh a group of Post 16 students have been visiting Woodlands Adventure Centre each week to complete voluntary work. Students work tirelessly throughout the morning to support the running of the centre and then have some fun in the afternoon by completing adventurous activities such as climbing and archery.

This half term they have been focusing on planting new trees and clearing leaves in order for new plants to grow. Great work guys!



KS4 visited the Black Country Living Museum to recap on their Community Humanities topic of Local History - The Black Country.

We focussed on employment during the Industrial Revolution and visited the mine, the hairdressers, the chemist, the hardware store and of course, the fish and chip shop!



Careers at Westminster

Our students have been gaining valuable work experience and learning about different careers and workplaces this term.

As a school we continue to provide nearly 80 students with work placements at least once a week, gaining real-world experience and developing employability skills. At the end of each term staff complete assessments and speak to employers about their progress so we look forward to the glowing feedback we get about how great our students are.

This term students who are in their final year with us attended a careers fayre at The Hawthorns where they learnt about which providers/employers they may want to start with in September 2025. As a school we appreciate that the thought of transition to a new education provider can be daunting so we aim to provide as much support for families as possible. This academic year we have been pro-active in inviting further education providers, specialist colleges, employers and training providers to carry out assemblies and present to students in more detail their offer. Please look out for when these are.

The most notable careers activity that has taken place this term has to be the amazing Post 16 students who attended DRPG in Kidderminster. Students developed their creative skills and were able to plan and deliver a live broadcast to the rest of the school on 4 December. This was truly incredible and the students were amazing.

If you get chance to visit our Facebook page you will be able to find the video of this wonderful broadcast. Watch out Midlands Today!



Formal Opening of The Hub

In December we officially opened our new Employment Hub which is located down the road from the school on Rowley Village. This exciting new premises will result in students attending dedicated employability lessons that will enable them to develop the skills and knowledge to be prepared for the world of work.

Over 40 businesses attended the afternoon and were amazed by the work that the school continues to do to give meaningful experiences to our students. We also asked them to pledge what they will do to support our students so watch this space.

It was a joyous occasion bringing together both our school and college communities to honour the amazing employers who have supported us and the incredible achievements of our students.

Many thanks to all the businesses that have supported the development of The Hub. Donations have included CCTV, Printers, Desks and furniture.

The Hub represents more than just a space; it's a mission to break down barriers and create opportunities for SEND learners to thrive in employment

The future is bright, the future is at The Hub!





Curriculum Topics – Spring Term

In our last newsletter we made you aware of all the qualifications and exam boards we are working with. For this addition we have added the exciting topics that students in Key Stages 2 & 3 will learn next term. Happy learning!

My Thinking	Maths	Measure, Geometry and Statistics
	ICT	Controlling Devices Micro Bit
	Science	Light and Sound
My Communication	Reading	Animal Tales Stories from Other Cultures Adventure
	Writing	Instructional Writing/Persuasive Writing
My Care and Independence	Care	Managing body changes
	Positive Contribution	Pencil Holder (Design Technology) My Strengths
	Skills for Life	Delicious Desserts (Food Technology)
My Creativity	Art	Mixed Media Art
	Music	Brass Band
	Performing Arts	Travelling Shows
My Well-Being	Move	Net Games
	RSE	Identity/Body Image
My Community	Natural World	Conservation
	Community Around Me	Community Provision
	Humanities	Beliefs and Teachings (RE) Medicine Through Time (History)

We are excited to be able to discuss student progress at key points throughout year during progress review meetings.

If you have any questions or queries about our curriculum or your child's learning at any time, please contact their class teacher via School Office.

The Westminster School Calendar 2024/25

September 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

January 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9						1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						

April 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14							1
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				

May 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18							1
19	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						

July 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27		1	2	3	4	5	6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31	28	29	30	31			

INSET Day Bank Holiday
School Holidays

EXTENDED DEADLINE

WORD LOUNGE

THEATRE COMPANY

DO YOU LOVE PERFORMING AND THEATRE?
JOIN OUR WORD LOUNGE THEATRE COMPANY!

Word Lounge is for 13-17 year olds who are care experienced, are young carers, or who have additional educational needs.

This 10 week programme is where you will be developing skills in:

- Music
- Drama
- Poetry
- Performance

With a showcase at the end to share what you have created!

Deadline: 13 January 2024

Contact: Vicky Pritchard (Associate Director)
vickypritchard@womenandtheatre.co.uk

