

# JWS Update



1 December 2023

## News

Since our return from half term, our staff and students have been busy focusing on the preparation for assessment week and Year 11 mock exams. All exams will be undertaken under strict exam conditions. We ask that you can support your child's preparation over the next couple of weeks to ensure that they can give of their best. These assessments are essentially a point in time check of what our students know and where they still need to work extremely hard. Students will receive feedback in January, this will enable them to really understand where they are currently, what needs to happen next in their learning.

This week we held our first Parents Evening for Year 7 students. The staff really enjoy these evenings and see them as a privileged part of their role in schools. Personally, I am so grateful that we work with a community of families that care so deeply about their children and their education. Nothing is more important in my view.

As many of you know, changing lives is important to us but we are also very interested in our students having the ability to think for themselves and, in doing so, consider the needs of others. We are very lucky because so many of our young people do that every day within their friendship groups but also more widely. From Monday 4 December to Friday 15 December, we are asking students to bring items into school for the local food bank. This includes cereal; soup; pasta; rice; tinned tomatoes; pasta sauce; lentils, beans and pulses; tinned meat; tinned vegetables; tea/coffee; tinned fruit; biscuits; UHT milk. We do hope you can support students in this endeavour.

Over the next few weeks, we have the following events:

- Tuesday 5 December: Parental Mental Health Workshop, 4:00-5:00pm in school
- Thursday 7 December: Rewards Trip (Jump Xtreme/Ninja Warrior)
- Monday 11 December: Year 11 Assessment Week
- Thursday 14 December: Dawn Ward CBE, Deputy Lord Lieutenant is visiting the school to receive letters that students have written to His Majesty The King, Charles III
- Thursday 14 December: You are invited to our Christmas Celebration hosted by our Expressive Arts Faculty (5:00-6:00pm). Tickets will be available shortly. We do hope you can join us
- Monday 18 December: Assessment Week (Y7 to Y11) School finishes at 2.30pm each day. The 813, 814, 815 and 77S school buses will be available
- Wednesday 20 December: Christmas Dinner will be available and for this day only, students may wear Christmas accessories with their full/normal school uniform
- Thursday 21 December: Last day of the Autumn Term
- Monday 8 January 2024: Teacher Training Day
- Tuesday 9 January 2024: Students should arrive on the playground for 9:15am
- Thursday 18 January 2024: Year 11 Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm

## Homework and Revision - SENeca Learning App



We have invested in the SENeca Learning App for all students. This is an online platform with a wealth of high-quality resources for all key stages and subjects to support students with their learning. An email has gone to parents/carers with details for how to view the tasks set for students. This is a great way for students to make effective use the school iPads. Please talk to your child about their use of this app for their learning.

## Year 11 Parents Evening

This will be a face to face appointment in school and will a fantastic opportunity to discuss your child's progress following the assessment weeks. Appointments will be going out via schoolcloud, a text message will be sent to inform you of when the appointments are live for booking.

## Consultation on admission arrangements

Every 7 years each school is required to consult on their admissions arrangements. We have entered into a period of consultation that runs from Monday 20 November 2023 to Monday 8 January 2024. Our proposed admission arrangements are published on the Birmingham City Council school Admissions website [here](#). You can comment on the Birmingham BeHeard website using this link [here](#).



### Celebration of Achievement

Simran in Year 8 has been recognised for her talents. She plays cricket for Warwickshire County Cricket Club under 13s girls and has been awarded, 'The Best Batter' and 'The Player Player 2023'. Huge Congratulations to Simran!

### Extra-Curricular activities

We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities available, providing breakfast, lunch and after school clubs to engage students. Along with these activities, we offer trips, both day trips and residential trips across the year groups to enhance cultural experiences and engage student's minds wider than the national curriculum programme. Take a look at the [extra-curricular timetable](#) and encourage your child to attend.

We are always open to new ideas and activities, if your child has an interest and would like to see if we can offer it in school, please speak to Mr Grove.

### Careers

On site we have a careers advisor who will support current Year 11 students with their destinations post 16. If you have any specific questions please do email [Yvonne.green@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:Yvonne.green@jws.bham.sch.uk).

### Year 7 to 10 - Unifrog

Students have received a launch to access Unifrog and will be using this in their Character Development Lessons.

### Parental Webinar on Apprenticeships

On Wednesday 6 December 6:00-7:00pm Mrs Lockley will be hosting a webinar provided by Workpays. The teams link is <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fb19f93f-ea84-4be8-aaea-ee3ba2615816@645473a2-62c5-4bab-8a6d-837c0d96587c> This is for all parents.

### Y10 Work Experience

Year 10 students should be finding a suitable work experience placement and parental consent and company consent forms need to be returned to school. By 8 December. Our Careers Advisor is willing to help with any questions or queries her email is [Yvonne.green@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:Yvonne.green@jws.bham.sch.uk)

**Live Webinar: NHS Careers Untapped**, developed by 10 London trusts working in partnership and supported by the Talent for Care and Widening Participation programme in the London region, showcases clinical and non-clinical careers on lesser known roles, that students may not have heard of in the NHS using videos, podcasts and webinars.

### The next live webinar is being held as follows:

Primary Care Careers: Wednesday 6 December 4:30-6:00pm. For further information is available [here](#). These webinars are open for young people aged 13-19 years and teachers careers advisors.

### Apprenticeship Opportunity for Current Year 11s

Interested in an apprenticeship opportunity with Flair Windows? Please read their [flyer](#) for more information.

### PE Lessons – Winter Months

A reminder notice: with the colder months, can we kindly remind parents that students are permitted to wear the following items to keep them warm during PE lessons:

<b>Compulsory items:</b>	Sport shirt (Black school sport t-shirt) and long-sleeved school zip top (Black)
<b>Non-Compulsory items:</b>	Tracksuit bottoms or plain-black sport leggings
<b>Additional optional items:</b>	Black gloves and black base layer

### iPad Devices

We have begun giving the iPad devices to students who were absent for the first roll-out. All students have been asked to join their Year groups on Showbie using the following class codes:

Year 7:	6JACP
Year 8:	9HKNM
Year 9:	CDFRF
Year 10:	J3CPH
Year 11:	3BUAA

Please view [here](#) the behaviour expectations for all students with an iPad and consequences for misuse of an iPad, that is aligned to our Praise and Behaviour Policy.

### Free School Meals

[Apply online](#) In light of the current circumstances, it is possible that family financial situations may have changed and that your child may be eligible for free school meals and we strongly recommend you apply if you believe you may be eligible. It is quick and easy to find out if your child is eligible for Free School Meals by applying through the online checking service which will instantly advise you if your child is eligible. Your details are also updated automatically so there is no need for a formal review process, everything is kept up to date after your initial application. For more information [click here](#).

### Trips and Visits

**Please note, all information regarding trip letters will be sent out by email.** Consent can be given via the link to parent pay. It is important that we have all correct and current contact information including an email address, if you have changed any of this information please update us by completing this [form](#).

### School Fixtures

Students participating in school fixtures and have consented to local visits we will send a letter of communication concerning the fixture, a consent slip will not need to be returned.

### My Child At School App

If you encounter any connection difficulties with the My Child At School App, please email [enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk) using the email title of 'My Child At School Parent App'. The school is unable to reset passwords but can send you a new link to get you connected if you get locked out of the system.



### Attendance

**Winter illness:** We know that the cold, winter months can increase the chances of minor illnesses, coughs and colds, but it is important that students make every effort to attend each day. NHS guidance tells us that "It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat."

We want to reassure you that students feeling under the weather will be well looked after. Students with coughs and sore throats are permitted to use throat sweets throughout the day. Tissues and hand sanitizing station will also be available to prevent the spread of minor illnesses.

For detailed advice on when to keep an unwell child at home and when to send them to school, follow the link to the NHS page here - [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

**In the rare event that your child is unable to attend school, please remember to notify us every morning of their absence, before 8:30am. You can:**

**Email: [attendance@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@jws.bham.sch.uk)**

**Telephone: 0121 378 6564**

**Please ensure that you clearly state your child's name, Tutor group and the reason for absence. Thank you.**

**If we do not receive a reason for absence, we are required to record this as unauthorised absence.**

**Every day spent in school makes a difference  
We attend to achieve!**

**On average, every 19 days of school missed = one grade less  
progress**

### School opening times



Please be aware that students do not have access to the school playground or building before 8:00am. If students arrive before 8:00am, they will need to sit in main reception until they are directed through to the main hall or playground, students do not have access to any other parts of the building or site until they are escorted in by form tutors.

**'Potential into Reality'**

## Virtues and Virtues Champions

Each week our heads of year nominate a 'Virtues Champion' - a person in their year group who has gone above and beyond to demonstrate our virtue of the week.

Thank you to our Virtues Champions for leading the way and focusing and practicing:-

	Year 7 Champion	Year 8 Champion	Year 9 Champion	Year 10 Champion	Year 11 Champion
Kindness 	Amayah B	Yudvir B	Michaela E	Isla B	Mohammed B
Service 	Joseph B	Jahzara H	Corbin M	Idris O	Mohammed B

## Safeguarding


Please [click here](#) to view some important parental safeguarding information. If you have a concern that any student is being harmed or is at risk of harm, you can contact school reception and ask for a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**. Alternatively, or in the case of school being closed, if you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child or young person you can contact **Birmingham children's advice and support line** on **0121 303 1888**. The emergency out-of-hours number for **CASS** is **0121 675 4806**. If you are concerned, always call **999**.

**The SHARP system** - You can report any incidents of concern within the school or local community using the SHARP system which is located on the school website.

Help and support for children and adults click [here](#) to view support and guidance services.

**Online safety** – please see this [link](#) for advice about keeping your child safe online during the summer holiday. We also have other online safety advice that can be found on our website [here](#) and other additional useful links and support [here](#).

**Safer Travel**



**SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING**

Have you experienced anti-social behaviour on your bus journey? Report it to us.


Text 'SeeSay' to 81018 with incident details.

Or report an incident [here](#).

## Managing Anxiety

Cherished have announced a podcast called 'Connection Counts'. It offers advice about how to connect with a child with anxiety. Cherished have collaborated with Jennifer Wyman from the organisation 'Bridge the Gap', on what anxiety looks like, how it can be displayed in the classroom, and some easy wins for supporting well. They have lots of other helpful podcasts, so please take a listen!

Here's the link to the podcast on

Apple  <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/connection-counts/id1694897376>  
 Spotify  <https://open.spotify.com/show/7BSiALohnG9JiZyZk2NfHb>

## Mental Health Information

Please see this [link](#) where you can find other information about managing anxiety and free webinars to watch.

## Early Help Partnership Sutton Coldfield

Their latest newsletter is available [here](#)

## Reading Recommendation



Twelve-year-old Flora Winter and her mother are off to the small seaside town of Helmersbruk for Christmas. When they arrive, Flora soon discovers an abandoned mansion straight out of a fairytale.

But it's not just the manor that's mysterious - porcelain figures are appearing out of nowhere, a strange boy in a green cap seeks her friendship, and she hears eerie whispers in the night.

Flora is determined to unravel the secrets of Helmersbruk Manor - but as the clock ticks down to Christmas, Flora must solve the mystery before time runs out...