

# JWS Update



26 January 2024

## News

Throughout this term, students have a range of activities to participate in. Over the next few weeks, we have students attending a series of **academic enrichment** events: year 7 are going to the Symphony Hall to take part in the Key Stage 3 School Concert. We have Year 11 going to a Construction Experience Day at Birmingham City University and there are further inspirational opportunities to take learning beyond the classroom with a theatre trip to the Globe theatre in London for Years 8 and 9, a trip to Symphony Hall for Year 7 as well as are upcoming residential for Years 7 and 9. Students in year 11 will have the opportunity to watch a production of Macbeth in school next half term with a visiting theatre company. As ever, my grateful thanks go to all the staff involved for making these trips and experiences possible and to Mrs Norton and Mrs Fahy, for ensuring so many events are able to run so smoothly. Our students are the very best ambassadors for the school, and we continue to be very proud of them when we accompany them on extracurricular visits.

With so many opportunities available in school this term, this is a good moment to share the importance of positive school attendance. You may have seen recent messages in the media from the Department of Education which highlight the value of **positive school attendance** and the crucial link between attendance and attainment. Simply put, there is a very strong link between excellent attendance and examination success. Some useful statistics are below:

## Attendance: the top facts to know & share

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

### The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, **just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

### And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.<sup>2</sup>

### But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.<sup>3</sup>

## Parents Evenings

**Year 9 – Thursday 1 February** The support and challenge you provide is hugely appreciated. You are interested in the education we are providing and the opportunities to grow our community. So far, we have held three Parents' Support Evenings and Parents Evenings for Year 7 and Year 11. The average attendance at those evenings has been high. We are looking forward to seeing the parents of our Year 9 students, please click [here](#) to make appointments for your child. Thank you.

## New Bus Service (77B)

We are liaising with Councillor Richard Parkin in relation to the new bus service (77B). We would appreciate your feedback as to whether the service has improved travel to and from school. Please email the following address: [77b@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:77b@jws.bham.sch.uk).

## Year 7 to 10 - Unifrog

Students have access to Unifrog and will be using this in their Character Development Lessons as well as completing psychometric testing quizzes on unifrog to find out what careers might suit their skills and personality. They will also have "future readiness" sessions during form time to consider and learn about what skills may be needed in the future.

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## 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 of the school iPads. Please talk to your child about their use of this app for their learning.

## Reminder: Launching Kerboodle for students in Years 10 & 11

We are excited to announce the latest addition to our online educational resources – comprehensive online textbooks for GCSE Geography and History. Students can access these resources online to deepen learning taking place in the classroom and as a revision tool. These resources are free and available to all Year 10 and 11 students and login information will be shared with students.

## 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). Click [here](#) to read more about a **NHS Careers Untapped Webinar**.

**Week beginning 5 February 2024 is National Apprenticeship week.** Students will be learning about apprenticeships during form time and in their subject areas to make them aware of their future choices. There are also many online resources for you to visit and engage with in supporting your child with post 16 choices:

<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/resource-hub/>

**Unifrog:** Wednesday 7 February join the virtual Apprenticeship Fair to learn about apprenticeships and network with top employers including BBC, NHS, Lloyds Banking Group, and the British Army.

<https://www.unifrog.org/events/upcoming/833-unifrog-apprenticeship-fair-2024>

**Pathway CTM:** is a useful resource for finding out about upcoming apprenticeships. It is free to join and search for apprenticeships <https://pathwayctm.com/>

## 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
<b>Self Discipline</b> 	Levi Mc	Thubayta A	Carter O	Nathan F	Saffiya M
<b>Integrity</b> 	Keranique R	Sophie T	Kaela B	Leah S	Rory S

## Work Experience

### Can you help provide work experience placements?

Do you or a family member own a business that could offer one of our Year 10 students a work experience placement? We are looking for support in securing placements for our Year 10 students from Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2024. We hope that this becomes an integral part of our Careers Education moving forward.

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## 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:

**Compulsory items:** Sport shirt (Black school sport t-shirt) and long-sleeved school zip top (Black)

**Non-Compulsory items:** Tracksuit bottoms or plain-black sport leggings

**Additional optional items:** 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 10:	J3CPH
Year 8:	9HKNM	Year 11:	3BUAA
Year 9:	CDFRF		

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 and child benefit

[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](#).

Families could be missing out on a minimum of £24 per week! If a parent/carer is responsible for bringing up a child who is:

- under 16
- under 20 and in approved education or training

They could [claim child benefit](#) there's no limit to how many children a parent/carer can claim for but only one person can get Child Benefit for a child. To find out more visit [www.gov.uk/child-benefit](http://www.gov.uk/child-benefit)

## Trips and Visits

**Please note, all information regarding trips 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 emailing [enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk).

## 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.



## 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.

## 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."

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](#)

### Useful Attendance Reminders:

- Students should attend school even if they have a cold or feel slightly unwell
- Holidays in term time cannot be approved
- Written proof of medical and dental appointments must be provided

**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**

### 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. We also have other online safety advice that can be found on our website [here](#) and other additional useful links and support [here](#).

### Winter Water Safety

As the weather gets colder, please see this [link](#) for advice about safety, especially winter water safety.

### 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>

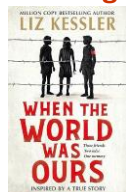
### Mental Health Information

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



Elsa, Max and Leo are firm friends and live in Vienna. They love playing tag in the park, swimming and doing all the normal kid things. But Elsa's parents decide in 1937 that it's too dangerous for them to live in Vienna anymore and move to Czechoslovakia. In 1938, Max's father gets promoted to being an SS Officer in Herr Hitler's new Germany, and the family move to Munich. Shortly after, Hitler takes Czechoslovakia. Leo's family search desperately for a way out of Germany, but opportunities for Jews to leave are very few.

As the holocaust goes on, Max and Elsa find themselves brought to the same concentration camp, yet on opposing sides. As the story leads to its terrible conclusion, will friendship ever be enough to bridge the gap that has widened between them?

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