



News

This week students have learnt about apprenticeships during form time and in their subject areas to make them aware of their future choices for example in English how to become a freelance writer and in MFL the amazing opportunities and careers languages can offer you.

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/>

Pathway CTM: is a useful resource for finding out about upcoming apprenticeships. It is free to join and search for apprenticeships <https://pathwayctm.com/> You can also find apprenticeships using this government site <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Amazing Apprenticeships have released parental podcasts to support National Apprenticeship Week and to guide parents and students with their next steps. Listen to it here: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/>

We are hosting our very first **PTA meeting** on Wednesday 21 February at 5:00pm. Thank you to all those parents who are keen to part of this group. Please do let us know if you are interested by emailing enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk. It is a great opportunity to become involved with the school and offer support.

A number of students in years 7 to 10 took part in the **Dodgeball Interform Challenge**. Taking part in our Interform Challenges is an important way in which students can demonstrate our virtue of service; by taking part in activities, they are giving of their talents and time. Congratulations to everyone involved and 'thank you' to Miss Da Silva for organising these events.

We were thrilled with the number of entries to the **Spring Acrostic Poem competition**. This is just a small insight into the wonderful things that happen here each day and must not be taken for granted by any of us. Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to the winners:

Tillie 8I

Halima-Sadia 7D

Subhan 7S

Daniel 11S

Thank you to Miss Rehmani and Mr Glorman for providing our students with this opportunity.

Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 29 February 2024 - 4:30pm – 6:00pm

The Year 9 GCSE Options process is about to be launched. This is an incredibly important time for us all and it is, therefore, critical for us to ensure all students feel well supported and receive the right advice and guidance to make positive choices and ensure the process leads to great outcomes at GCSE and beyond. Getting things right now, will enable them to follow the career plans they have started to think about in their Character Development lessons.

Key Dates:

Option booklets go live on 22 February

Options Assembly week beginning 19 February

Options Evening on 29 February (4:30pm-6:00pm)

Deadline for returning forms 12:00pm on 11 March

Options allocations – Summer Term

Year 10 Parents Evening: Thursday 18 March 2024 - 3:30-6:00pm

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 students, please click [here](#) to make appointments for your child. Thank you.

Year 11 Prom

We have had an amazing response from the students wishing to attend the Year 11 Prom, with over half of students already secured their place at what will undoubtedly be the 'event of the year'. Please secure your place on ParentPay the link is [here](#).

Year 8 & 9: Trip to the Globe, Tuesday 19 March

Reminder for those invited students of this great opportunity to go to The Globe Theatre in London, please make all payments on ParentPay.

The infographic is titled "TRIP TO THE GLOBE" and is divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant, labeled "WHERE?", shows a silhouette of London and a photo of the Globe Theatre, with text: "London, The Globe!". The top-right quadrant, labeled "WHY?", shows a silhouette of Romeo and Juliet, with text: "To watch Romeo & Juliet performed live." The bottom-left quadrant, labeled "WHEN?", shows a calendar icon and text: "Tuesday 19th March 2024. Save the date and tell your parents/carers!". The bottom-right quadrant, labeled "WHO?", shows a thumbs-up icon and text: "Everyone is welcome in Year 9, with limited spaces being available for year 8. It all depends on your positives. If you are invited, ask parents/carers to check their emails!". At the bottom, a banner with question marks says: "Any questions? Please ask your English teachers."

Year 7 - Modeshift STARS Active Travel Ambassadors Programme

Students in Year 7 have been working with Modeshift STARS, an organisation which supports sustainable travel and delivering effective travel plans in education. We have partnered with Modeshift and with Fairfax Academy to achieve the objective of reducing car use and promote active travel options such as walking, bus use and park and stride. Our students will be presenting their ideas to members of Birmingham Council Chamber in February and competing against four other schools. Thank you to Miss Wootton for her support of this project. For more information about Modeshift STARS, please click [here](#).

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.

Year 10 Work Experience

The majority of our Year 10 students have successfully found work experience placements. If you are able to support us with any work experience placements for 20 May to 24 May 2024 please contact enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk. All student, parent and company consent forms need to be returned to school by **Friday 1 March 2024**.

Year 7 to 11- Unifrog

As part of Apprenticeship Week, students have been exploring the wide variety of apprenticeships available and within their subject areas. On Unifrog there are a number of resources to explore with your child and about future choices.

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 and 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.

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, focusing and practicing:-

	Year 7 Champion	Year 8 Champion	Year 9 Champion	Year 10 Champion	Year 11 Champion
Respect 	Olly B	Lilly S	Javae T	Brooke T	Ben E
Courage 	Lillibeth H	Ameila D	Harry P	Reo O	Amelia T

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

Trips and Visits

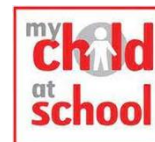
Please note, all information regarding trips will be sent out by email. Consent can be given via the link to parent pay. It is important that we have all correct and current contact information including an email address, if you have changed any of this information please update us by emailing enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk.

School Fixtures

Students participating in school fixtures and have consented to local visits we will send an email 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 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

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

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.¹

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.²

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**.³

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>

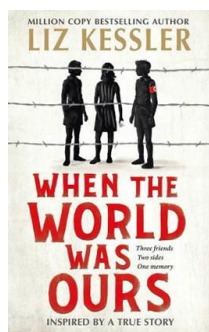
Mental Health Information

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?

Safer Travel

Or report an incident [here](#).