

JWS Update



15 March 2024

Punctuality

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

School starts at 8:40am every day. Students who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss the beginning of the day with their peers and important messages. Pupils who miss the start of a lesson are disadvantaged as they miss the recap of prior learning and instructions for that lesson. There is a clear link between attendance and achievement. Lost learning time due to lateness is obviously something that we want to avoid:

- 5 minutes late to lessons each day means 3 missed days of school in a year
- 15 minutes late each day means you will miss 10 days of school in a year
- 20 minutes late each day means you miss 13 days of school in a year

Therefore, it is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others.

News

Students in Year 11 have really impressed us over the past few weeks with their approach to their practice examinations. They have worked extremely hard and are approaching assessments with maturity and commitment. We are very proud of them all!

Last week, Year 8 have had the opportunity to take part in a business innovation day. The project offers our young people the opportunity to identify a social issue that matters to them and through research, design ways to encourage more socially active and altruistic citizens. The organisers were impressed with the commitment and self-discipline that our students demonstrated. We are thrilled that four teams are through to the final. Some students in Year 9 attended the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the NextGen event. Here they met the Resuscitation Team and took part in a session about resuscitation and CPR. The trainers were once again impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement of our students. Thank you to Mr Bailey, Miss Luckett and Ms Halford for organising these opportunities.

More staff than ever dressed up for World Book Day to demonstrate the importance of reading and the power of books for us all. Reading is such an important aspect of our work and sharing our collective love of reading with our students will make a difference without doubt.

This week, we welcomed practitioners from The Globe Theatre in London who worked with Year 8 & 9 to develop their understanding of Romeo and Juliet. We also hosted the Birmingham and Coventry 'Speak Out Challenge' for Year 10 students. The aim is to develop public speaking and communication skills and build confidence. That is not all, 57 students in Year 9 undertook a full day walking and map reading at Cannock Chase in preparation for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Thank you to Mrs White, the English Team, Miss Luckett and Mr Warner for providing these experiences. Today, for Red Nose Day, students and staff performed their jokes in our very own 'Jokers Corner'. There was much fun and laughter in our playground!

Finally, I want to share with you something that we are so grateful for, on Wednesday we hosted our 'Welcome Evening' for our new Year 7 students and their parents and were supported by our PTA. It was wonderful to share the improvement journey of our school. I am so grateful for your support. So, from me to you all, Thank You.

JWS Iftar Invitation – Wednesday 20 March 2024

We are thrilled to invite you to our very first Iftar night. This event aims to bring together our staff, families, and surrounding communities in a spirit of unity and celebration. Tickets can be brought via ParentPay or for those without a ParentPay account please scan this code.



Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The next meeting for the PTA is **Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 5:30pm**. If you are interested in joining us and being part of our plans to support the school and raise money for needed resources, please join us.

Year 11 Prom

We have had an amazing response from the students wishing to attend the Year 11 Prom on Friday 12 July 2024, with over half of students already securing their place at what will undoubtedly be the 'event of the year'. Please secure your place on ParentPay via this link [here](#).

'Potential into Reality'

Year 10 Parents Evening: Thursday 21 March 2024 - 3:30-6:00pm

The support and challenge you provide is hugely appreciated. 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.

Key Dates

18 March	Year 11	Basketball (invite only)
19 March	Years 8-10	Careers Fair in School
	Years 8 & 9	Globe Theatre trip (invite only)
20 March	Year 11	Geography Fieldtrip (invite only)
	Year 8	Cyber first (invite only)
	Community	Iftar – 5:30pm
21 March	Year 10	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm
22 March	Years 7-10	Reward Trip (invite only)
8 April	Teacher Training Day – School closed to students	
18 April	Year 8	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 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.

PE Lessons

Can we kindly remind parents that students must bring their PE kit for all PE lessons. PE is a compulsory subject and brings many social and health benefits. 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

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.

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](#).

Child Benefit

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

Careers


Please encourage all students in Years 8 to 11 to familiarise themselves with the providers attending our careers fair on **Tuesday 19 March**. This will be an insightful opportunity for students to explore future choices and we would like all students to engage and speak to the exhibitors to support their understanding of courses.

Bevan Brittan	Employer
ISG Ltd Construction - North	Employer
Royal Air Force	Employer
Royal Navy	Employer
Royal Navy Reserves HMS Forward	Employer
Flair Windows	Employer
Birmingham Electrical Training	Training Provider
Crackerjack Training	Training Provider
Romulus Football Academy	Training Provider
Aston University Engineering Academy	Further Education Provider
Birmingham City University	Higher Education Provider
BMET	Further Education Provider
Education for Dental	Further Education Provider
Solihull Sixth Form College	Further Education Provider
Solihull College	Further Education Provider
South and City College Birmingham	Further Education Provider
University of Wolverhampton	Higher Education Provider
Walsall College	Further Education Provider

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
Service 	Luke H	Kaya A	Josh G F	Sarah A	Shivraj L
Integrity 	Arthur A	Heidi W	Corey S	Victor S	Toby F

Attendance

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](#)

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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

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Attendance: the top facts to know & share

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 regularly attended school.
- **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and Maths GCSEs**, compared to 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

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. Our Attendance Team are here to support with any barriers to regular attendance.

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:

Y7: 6JACP Y8: 9HKNM Y9: CDFRF Y10: J3CPH Y11: 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.

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.

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**.

Early Help Partnership Sutton Coldfield Their latest newsletter is available [here](#).

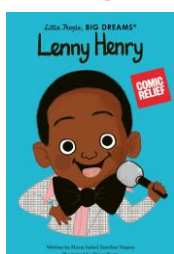
Managing Anxiety

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>

Reading Recommendation



Discover the inspiring story of Sir Lenny Henry, the quick-witted comedian and co-founder of charity Comic Relief. This inspiring book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the incredible comedian and activist's life.

Little People, BIG DREAMS is a bestselling biography series for children that explores the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream.

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.

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.

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](#).

Mental Health Information

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