

JWS Update



12 April 2024

News

There is so much that has been happening in school in the last week of term. Students in Years 8 to 11 took part in a career's fayre, with over 22 exhibitors. They had the opportunity to engage and speak with employers and providers about their future choices. Students were challenged with seeking out exhibitors that provided apprenticeships, T levels and university courses. 30 Year 8 girls attended the Cyber First Empower Event at Aston Villa Football Stadium, where students were able to delve into the latest technological innovations and take part in immersive workshops with world-leading tech organisations and hear from distinguished women in STEM fields. Thank you to Mrs Norton, Mrs Lockley, Miss Luckin and Mrs Crowther for providing these wonderful opportunities.

Also, in the last week of term, we held our first Iftar. It was such a lovely event with staff and students gathered in our hall to break fast and pray as part of their religious observance during the holy month of Ramadan. Miss Rehmani organised everything with the help of some students. This event was a testament to just how our school community is growing. Thank you to everyone who attended.

ATLP Awards

Thank you for all your nominations for the ATLP Awards; the 6 categories being: Charity Fundraiser, Community, Contribution to school life, Extra-curricular, Creativity and Special Endeavour. We have spent so much time debating the students, as anyone of them could be worthy winners, but we can only put forward one student in each category. Those chosen will receive a notification via email, however, we wanted to recognise them all:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Mollie T	Adam C	Joshua B	Kian W	Madaleine B
Emily H	Vinnie A	Angeline C	Malachi S	Megan B-T
Luke H	Heidi W	Alex N	Cade T-D	Binila R
Isobel H	Carlie H	Logan S	Demetris P	Mohammad A
Hana M	Jesila R	Corbin Mc	Levi D-D	Callum W
Bethany M	Rayan A	Isobel G	Manpreet S	Deema D
Halima-Sadia A	Noah J	Zainab A	Victor S	Grace B
Milly W	Malak Y			Kayliegh K
Ellie-May E	Thubayta A			Jonathan A
Mia-Rose K	Lilly S			Ireoluwa A
Sophie C	Riyadh I			
Ellis B	Phoebe-Grace M-D			
Miah W	Damien G			
Lucas H	Ellie-May H			
Cruz C	Alfed A			
Layton M	Connie-Leigh F			
Lily-May P	Isabelle S			
Phoebe-Grace L	Carly S			
Lana-Mai H	Ruby B			
Andrew T				
Olly B				
Olivia H				

We spend each day watching these young people do the normal everyday things like go to lessons, eat lunch and be with friends but they are not normal, anything but. They are incredibly talented and special, and thankfully we have a school full of such young people.

Year 11 Prom

We are looking forward to celebrating with our students at Villa Park, however due to major construction work at the venue once the football season has finished, they have had to change the date of our celebration. The Prom will now be held on Friday 21 June. To compensate us for the change in date, Villa Park have agreed a reduced price of £34 per student, which is a reduction of £8. This will be refunded to you if you have paid in full. All outstanding payments must be made by Friday 19 April, an extension on the original deadline, which was 29 March. Please secure your place on ParentPay via the link [here](#).

Year 8 Parents Evening: Thursday 18 April 2024 - 3:30-6:00pm

Attendance to our parents evenings thus far has been high. The support and challenge you provide is hugely appreciated. It matters that families are involved in their child's learning and progress, and I am so grateful for your support. We are looking forward to seeing the parents of our Year 8 students, please click [here](#) to make appointments for your child. Thank you.

Key Dates

- 15 April MFL Speaking Exams commence for Year 11
- 22 April Art Exams commence for Year 11
- 24 April CGI Final for Year 8
- 25 April JWS is hosting the Annual Parliamentary Debating Competition 2024
- 29 April Photography Exams commence for Year 11
- 9 May GCSE written exams commence
- 10 May Extra Curricular Fayre Periods 1 to 4 hosted by Character First

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 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.

The poster is titled 'AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS' in large yellow letters. It features a logo for 'Foundations 4 the Future' in the top left and a soccer ball icon in the top right. The poster is divided into two columns: 'Monday sessions' and 'Wednesday sessions'. Under Monday sessions, there are 'YOUTH CLUB SESSION' and 'BOXING'. Under Wednesday sessions, there are 'YOUTH CLUB SESSION' and 'FOOTBALL'. At the bottom, it says 'WHO? TO ALL JWS STUDENTS' and 'TIME? 3.15 - 4.15'. There are icons of boxing gloves and a group of people. The John Willmott School logo is at the bottom center.

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.

Free School Meals and Child Benefit

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. 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. [Apply online](#). 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.

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	Jesila R	Huzaiyah V	Nuh S	Daniel P
Self Discipline 	Syan F	Alex R	Emi S	Chideria O	Alexis B

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](#)

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

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance: the top facts to know & share

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
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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.**

'Potential into Reality'

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: 3BU

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!

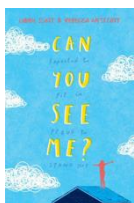
Here's the link to the podcast on



Apple <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/connection-counts/id1694897376>

Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/show/7BSiALohnG9JiZyZk2NfHb>

Reading Recommendation



Tally is eleven years old and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same as her friends. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic. Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand, her and feel frustrated by her. People think that because Tally's autistic, she doesn't realise what they're thinking, but Tally sees and hears - and *notices* - all of it. And honestly? That's not the easiest thing to live with.

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.