

# JWS Update



10 May 2024

## News

It is hard to believe we are already over half-way through this term! It is an exciting time of year as we begin our preparation for the transition for new Year 7 students, working closely with primary schools to get to know our new cohort. GCSE written examinations have begun. I know that our students are prepared but need self-discipline to work hard and commitment to stay focussed and calm. We will be there every day for them because they deserve just that and we will remind them of the things they can have if they really want it!

We would appreciate it if you could continue to support your child to ensure they are fully equipped for school and encourage them to check their bags before leaving so that they have all the relevant equipment they need for the school day. This includes their PE kit, blazer and a charged iPad. Thank you for your support with this.

The following students have been successful in their applications to become digital student leaders:

Eiliya I	Luca M	Nuh S	Damien G	Max H	Subhan S
Jack T	Victor S	Bryan A	Desire A	CJ A	Tosan O

These students will be working with the trust digital leads, as well as students from schools across the ATLP, to promote the digital strategy and use of iPads. They will be given access to a Showbie group exclusive to digital student leaders across the ATLP which will provide them with ideas for digital developments and the opportunity to collaborate with others. Congratulations to you all!

## History competition

The History Department set an Easter Project to create a piece of work that explained what the student's thought was the most significant event in History. This project could be handed in as a PPT, piece of writing, poster, model, booklet, leaflet and cake. We received over 20 submissions covering Years 7, 8 and 11. The projects included the following topics:

WWI	WWII	Chartists	Black Death	Ireland
Great Fire of London	Ancient Egypt	Industrial Revolution	Islamic Kingdoms	Magna Carta

The winners for this competition were: 1st Tabitha H 2nd Halima A 3rd Lucas H

## We need your opinion on our Intellectual Virtues!

At John Willmott School we are committed to helping our students turning their 'Potential into Reality'. As we thrive to develop our character education in the new academic year, we are going to introduce some **Intellectual virtues**. These virtues will work alongside our existing moral virtues and will help students understand how a 'Sutton Scholar' embodies these characteristics to achieve academic excellence and success. We value the opinion of our school community so we would be very grateful if you could help us select our Intellectual virtues by completing the Microsoft form here by 17 May 2024: <https://forms.office.com/e/hzptDJ0LDK>.

## Year 10

On the 30 April, Year 10 welcomed the British army for a careers event. A special assembly gave the whole year group an insight into the challenges and opportunities a career in the military can offer. 120 students then tested their Courage and Self Discipline by participating in mental and physical team building tasks, including navigating a 'minefield' whilst blindfolded and a highly competitive tyre pulling race. It was fabulous to see so many students working together and demonstrating leadership. The soldiers leading the event commented on the positive attitude and engagement demonstrated by everyone who took part. Well done Year 10!

## Year 10 Support Evening Thursday 16 May 5:00pm

We look forward to welcoming you to this evening to share with you the next steps and GCSE journey for our current Year 10 as they transition to Year 11. This will be highly valuable as we will share key examination dates, information from subject areas and effective revision skills.

## Year 10 Work Experience

Work Experience commences for Year 10 from 20 to 24 May. Work placements employers will receive a daily call to check the attendance of students. Any students who are not on work experience must attend school as normal.

## Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 22 May 5:30pm–6:30pm

We are now running a school affiliated PTA WhatsApp group. In this group we will post pictures and key date reminders. If you would like to join this group please email [pta@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:pta@jws.bham.sch.uk). Please title the email PTA WhatsApp and include your name, child's name and number. Once your number is checked on our records we will send you the code to join the community group.

## Key Dates

16 May	Year 10 Support Evening
15-17 May	Year 7 Residential at Whitemoor Lakes
20-24 May	Year 10 Work Experience
22-24 May	Year 9 Residential

## 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 & 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, it lists 'YOUTH CLUB SESSION' and 'BOXING' with a small icon of boxing gloves. Under Wednesday sessions, it lists 'YOUTH CLUB SESSION' and 'FOOTBALL' with a small icon of a soccer ball. At the bottom, it says 'WHO? TO ALL JWS STUDENTS' and 'TIME? 3.15 - 4.15'. There is also a small logo for 'John Willmott School' at the bottom center and a stylized figure logo at the bottom right.

## 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).

## 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](#). 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).

## 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
<b>Service</b> 	Lucas H	Ellie May H	Justin J	Rebecca L	Bilal W
<b>Integrity</b> 	Eyituoyo O	Tin Y	Zivi K	Georgia H	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](#)

## 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.<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>

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



**Royal Sutton Coldfield  
Town Council**

Date For Your Diary



[www.suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Residents are invited to attend the

**Annual Town Meeting**

Your opportunity to have your say and shape the future of the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.

**Wednesday 15th May 2024**  
Trinity Centre, Trinity Hill, B72 1TF  
6pm

For more information:

✉  
[enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

☎  
0121 663 1765

**'Potential into Reality'**

## iPad Devices

All students should have joined their Year groups on Showbie using the following class codes:

Y7: 6JACP Y8: 9HKNM Y9: CDFRF Y10: J3CPH Y11: 3BUA

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](mailto: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!

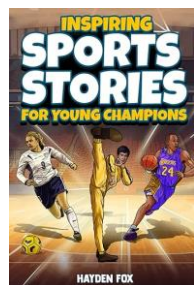
Here's the link to the podcast on



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



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



## Reading Recommendation

In our Year group assemblies, we have encouraged our students to take part in Active April, by trying out a new sport or activity, or walking more than usual each day. This book is a celebration of sporting heroes to inspire the next generation.

## 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.