

JWS Update



14 June 2024

Active Step Challenge on Thursday 20 June 2024 : 'Don't drive it, stride it'.



The Active Travel Ambassador programme gives pupils the chance to tackle transport issues affecting schools, helping to change behaviour, encourage us to be more active as well as safe when travelling to and from school.

John Willmott School and Fairfax School joined forces to take part in the Active Travel Ambassador programme and were successful in securing £450 from Birmingham City Council earlier this year to encourage more pupils to use their feet rather than cars or buses to get to school.

John Willmott School and Fairfax School will be running a steps challenge day for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on Clean Air Day – Thursday 20 June 2024. On this day we want you to step up and be as active as possible by logging as many steps as you can – by walking to school, park and stride or hopping off the bus a stop early.

We are giving you the chance to win part of our prize fund of £200 worth of Love 2 Shop vouchers.

Every pupil who achieves more than 4,000 steps will be entered into our Active Travel Ambassador prize draw. The lucky winners who are drawn at random for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 at each school will win a £25 Love 2 Shop gift voucher. Please email evidence of your steps, this can be a screen shot of your steps for the day to atatravel@jws.bham.sch.uk and title your email 'Active Step Challenge'.

News

Since returning from half term, we have been straight back into teaching, learning and exams. I have been impressed with our entire community for the way they have seamlessly returned to the routines we expect. Students have been reminded of demonstrating pride in themselves and the school by having their shirts always tucked in.

In other news, our Year 11 students have had a busy two weeks of external GCSE exams and they have been wonderful throughout. Many of the exams have been tough as you would expect but the students have felt well prepared and supported to do their best and that is all we ever ask of them each morning and afternoon. The majority of Year 11 will now have finished and can enjoy a much-deserved break. It is an emotional time of year; I look forward to and dread in equal measure because I feel we have played our part in shaping their young lives but also that they have been so much a part of our community that seeing them off is really quite emotional. You know they have grown to be wonderful and thoroughly decent young people; you are excited for them about the future; you can't help but think about the amazing things they will do and achieve. I want to thank them for their undoubted contribution to John Willmott School and its improvement.

That told, I know that the students across our school are also amazing young people who continue to do the most incredible things. Students in Year 9 have recently returned from their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. This qualification is not just about the expedition, these students have been volunteering. Some students have done this in school and others in external organisations. What is important about this award for me is this element of 'paying it forward' to the wider community. Thank you to Miss Lockett and the other staff involved in providing this experience to our students.



'Potential into Reality'

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) next Meeting Wednesday 19 June at 5:30pm

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. 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

June 2024

20 June Aim Higher Trip Year 10 to UCB
Sutton Schools Athletics
25 June Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Birmingham
28 June BMET trip for Year 10

July 2024

1 July Year 10 Summer Assessments begin
2 July Summer Celebration
3 July Year 6 Transition Day
5 July Teacher Training Day
8 July Year 7-10 Summer Assessments begin
16 July Year 10 Mock Interviews
17 July Culture Day
Year 10 Geography Field Trip
18 July Rewards Trip
19 July Sports Day
Reports sent out
End of Term

Assessment Weeks

Year 10 summer assessments begin on 1 July for two weeks. It is important that students are on line up at 8:40am with the correct equipment and full school uniform. The summer exams will be taken in the gyms and follow full JCQ guidelines. Students will need to hand in any electronic devices prior to going into the exams. All assessment timetables will be included in the newsletter and are available on Showbie. During assemblies students have received important information about their conduct during assessments and how to revise. Students and parents will be receiving topic lists of revision in order to prepare for their assessments. During the assessment week 8 July students will be finishing school at 2:30pm and school buses will be provided.

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.

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.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Monday sessions

- YOUTH CLUB SESSION
- BOXING

Wednesday sessions

- YOUTH CLUB SESSION
- FOOTBALL

WHO? TO ALL JWS STUDENTS

TIME? 3.15 - 4.15

John Willmott School

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. We have received information from **Kings College Hospital** who are offering a number of online events and visits over the summer for any students who maybe interested in a medical career. Students can register with the support of parents and carers via [this link](#).

Doctors Surgery Live

SurgeryLive - Virtual Surgical Theatre Operating Experience - Saturday 6 July 2024
SurgeryLive course is an innovative and interactive virtual course that gives students a real glimpse of what it's like to be a surgeon in an operating theatre, delivered by practising surgeons <https://doctorslive.co.uk/surgerylive/>.

Year 10 Work Experience

We welcomed back our Year 10s following a really successful work experience. The students had a fantastic time learning new skills and working in a different environment. We are really thankful to all the employers who offered places to Year 10. Year 9 will be finding out more about their work experience this term in order to secure places for work experience in 2025.

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.

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
Self Discipline 	Melody M	Maisey M	Deborah E	Charlie T
Integrity 	Olive M	Jahzara H	Harry W	Lailah D

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](#)

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 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.**



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

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

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

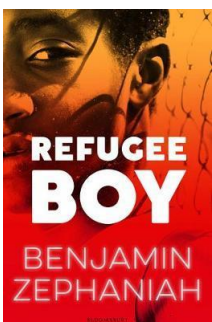


Apple <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/connection-counts/id1694897376>



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

Reading Recommendation



Each year on 20 June, the world celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is a chance for us to reflect on the struggles faced by others and show solidarity with them. 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah is an honest, wry and poignant story of a young refugee left in London is of even more power and pertinence today than when it was first published.

Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian, his mother Eritrean. Their countries are at war, and Alem is welcome in neither place. Alem is excited to spend a holiday in London with his father – until he wakes up to find him gone. What seems like a betrayal is in fact an act of love, but now Alem is alone in a strange country, and he must forge his own path.

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.