



WOODBROOK VALE SCHOOL

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5 June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

International news

It has been a terrible week for racial justice in the world. I know many of our young people feel strongly about injustice and hope they will feel they have a voice. We can write to our MP Jane Hunt expressing what we think and how we feel about racial injustice. We can create posters, artwork, music and poetry expressing our strength of feeling. I would encourage students to get busy on this topic and send in any poetry, prose, posters, moving image, music or artwork on the theme of racial injustice to HBenfield@wbvs.co.uk We can share their work with the world in a virtual display.

School news

New Timetable

We have had some contact from parents asking about set changes on new timetables. For students starting Year 9, their class for subjects such as geography, drama and ICT are dictated by their choice of language that they wish to study. For example, 9B2 is a class of students studying Spanish where as 9B1 and 9B3 are studying French. The groups are not set by ability.

For Year 10 English, previously the students were in sets in the two half year groups so there were sets 1, 2 and 3 in each half-year group. In Year 10 and 11, all students have English at the same time, so the two sets 1 from Year 9 have now become two groups (1 and 2) in Year 10. Students should not think that their new class code means they have moved down.

Year 10 (New Year 11) Return to school

The following information is subject to change in line with any government announcements:

New Year 11s have received a letter inviting them to begin attending school from 15 June 2020 subject to governor approval. The provision is for one day per week per student supplemented with 4 days of remote learning through Google Classroom. If for some reason you have not received this letter, please contact us and we will be able to give you the relevant information.

Parents and carers are advised that there will be some changes to the behaviour procedures to accommodate this extraordinary situation. We will send detailed information early next week so that you can talk through everything with your child. We have had over 120 responses to the questions and it looks like over 80% are likely to be sending in their children. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cUF9bBc6S8Hu2c1CAaL3cqdqHU-nfYIHHxx0ldvdIS4/edit?usp=sharing>



Schooling for Children of Essential Workers

Schooling for children of essential workers will continue as before. Please note this provision is under extreme pressure as parents are returning to work. It is ONLY for children of critical workers and those in the vulnerable category. I can confirm these students will be completely separated from the Year 10. There will be NO crossover of staffing, students or section of the school. The school will be 'zoned' to ensure this.

Staff Training in Google Classroom.

We are delighted to announce that staff have now received training in the use of Google Classroom. This platform will enable us to give students feedback and communicate directly with them in a safe environment. Please note this is not yet a 'live lessons' offer. As students and staff grow in confidence with the platform, we will be able to explore some of the other functions within Google Classroom to ensure remote learning just gets better and better. Many parents who contacted us to ask for a better method of remote learning will welcome this and some have already sent in positive feedback. Thank you.

Students will be able to enter their virtual classrooms in one of two ways: by typing in the code that their teacher has put on G4S for them: or by clicking the link in an invitation email that their teacher might have sent them. Please note the user name and password for Google Drive and Google Classroom is the same as their school user name and password. Many students have required a password reset. We understand you may need some help and are dealing with calls and emails on this topic at a rapid rate. It will not be long before everyone is up and running.

Google Classroom does however rely on having good computer access, so some families in New Years 8 to 10 may wish to continue using the offline work packs. All students in New Year 11 will need IT access and we are working to help families in this regard.

Contact with Home

This week we began to contact more families in the New Year 8, 9 and 10 to check how our students are doing. Many of you appreciated this and we will continue to check in with you over the next 6 weeks.

Last year's Year 11

We are delighted to announce that the leavers' hoodies have arrived. We will begin to hand deliver them from next week, so look out for a longer haired, (possibly bearded) version of your old teachers and support staff who will say, 'Hello!' (at a distance).

Year 9 (New Year 10)

Some of our families have asked about suitable revision guides and resources for students starting GCSE courses. Mr Hayes is putting together an up to date list with the correct exam boards for each subject that we will make available sometime next week. I am not sure about the availability of the texts. Some educational literature is quite difficult to source at the present time, but you should not worry as ample content and resources will be supplied by school. However, it might be something you want to look at in due course.

Year 6 moving up to Woodbrook Vale School in Year 7

We are currently preparing a 'one stop' web page for everything relating to transition for our Year 6 students. It is true that some of the information in our original 'welcome letter' is changing as we move forward. Aspects such as the uniform ordering system and Parent Pay are likely to be a little different to previous years. Miss Harper is preparing a new letter with the most up to date



information. It is our intention that by 1 July 2020, which would have been our induction evening, the web page will be ready with virtual tours, plans and resources for our families to use.

Home Heroes

Many parents are still using the Home Heroes award scheme and I would like to thank you. We really enjoy hearing about students' achievements and many, with your permission, make their way to the Home Heroes gallery on the website. I know the teachers all look at them. I hope you do too. To nominate your child you just send an email to Homeheroes@wbvs.co.uk

School Uniform and Financial Support.

I appreciate it is difficult to decide what to do about uniform with the situation as it is. I can confirm the present arrangements under the Covid – 19 risk assessment is to ask for school trousers or skirt and a white shirt. We have not asked for blazers or ties, as blazers are harder to clean and ties cause a risk as they can touch tables and surfaces.

Families who qualify for assistance with uniform will be able to discuss this with the key worker who does the weekly catch up call. They will have copies of order forms from later next week that they can work through with you.

Finally, thank you for all you are doing at home to support your child's education. The partnership between school and home has never been more important. As we move forward, we hope the changes we are making will be welcomed, but are conscious there will always be areas to improve. We will continue to welcome your thoughtful and kind-hearted comments and suggestions.

Kind regards,

Rachael Fraser
Headteacher

