



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 16th October 2020

“It’s good to talk!”

This term has been one like no other and one of most challenging elements of re-opening has been the importance of keeping ourselves physically distanced. This has meant we have been unable to run some of the events which we would usually hold and are having to be creative about how we run others. We are a community Academy and we are missing those links, events and celebrations in which we can all get together.

More than ever, the communication between the Academy and yourselves is important and we have been reviewing and tightening up our systems and procedures to make sure this happens. If you have any concerns or questions, you can raise these with your child’s Class Teacher or Tutor through EduLink or via email. We will attempt to respond to all correspondence within 24 hours.

Overall, the feedback and comments I have had from parents, pupils and students about communication is positive. However, there have been occasions this term when the communication lines have become crossed or we haven’t responded as quickly as I would have expected. This will improve.

As we head into our Autumn break, I am conscious that for pupils and students this will have felt like a long term. The nights are getting darker and I am sure you are seeing some very tired faces at home. We have one week left before a break. The attendance of students this term has been above the national average but it could be better. We are an exceptional school with high standards. There are some pupils and students who have had long periods away from school. We need to see everyone in school, so they can be in classes learning. It is more important than ever before. Have a great weekend.

Mr Damian McBeath
Principal

“Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday and all is well.”

Energy Drinks and Lollipops

I am sure that this message goes out every year but I just wanted to remind you that we do not permit energy drinks within the Academy.

We have also seen a number of students eating lollipops at break and lunch times. These are not permitted within school.

Pupil Voice

I like coming to school because I get to see my friends and teachers. *Reagan Williams (2J)*

I enjoy learning about elephants in English. Did you know that elephants use their trunk to help them drink water and eat? *Jake Potter (2J)*

Pupil Voice



My favourite lessons are Art and Science because I enjoyed painting my Rangoli pattern and learning new things about materials. *Lilly Hill (2H)*

I think school is really fun because I get to learn and play with my friends. *James Goonewardene (2H) -*

Message from Leadership

Students across the Academy have worked hard this term to re-engage with their learning and each other. This term, our assemblies have focused on talking about our Mental Health, following Mental Health World Awareness day on Saturday 10th October. It is so important that all of us, adults and children alike, think about how we are feeling after such a very unusual and turbulent year. During Tutor time, Tutors have been talking to their Tutees about ways to support themselves and each other, from simple diaries, calming music (I like the App "Calm") and just talking to those around us. We recommend the website "Kooth" which is a nationwide, free resource for young people to engage with free support and guidance.

These very important meetings will be taking place virtually using the online facility of Microsoft Teams. Parents and students should start to familiarise themselves with this online platform as it will be a big part of some future events.

Ms K Walton, Assistant Principal

Updates

There are no updates to the Risk Assessment this week.



Meet the teacher

After growing up in London and going to the same school as well-known footballer, Harry Kane, who does in fact play for the greatest team in the world (Tottenham for anyone who needs clarification), I went to the University of Hertfordshire. I studied Sport and Exercise Science. While completing my degree, I spent a year on placement at a national tennis academy working with aspiring tennis players, some of whom went on to play at Wimbledon. It was after University that I really began to develop my teaching career. I started to work as a Teaching Assistant at a school in London. Watching other teachers teach PE lessons inspired me to want to teach PE and, therefore, I was soon back at University studying to be a PE teacher. A year on from that, I can honestly say that I am extremely happy and proud to be teaching at The John Wallis Academy and I look forward to getting the students involved in more organised sport both within lessons and during after school clubs.

Mr Ferguson, Teacher of PE and Science



Local update COVID-19

Ashford

38 cases per 100,000 people
in the week 6th to 12th October 2020.

The average area in England had 93

(source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk)