



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 26th March 2021

Countdown... 5 Days to go!

I am delighted to announce that the new John Wallis Church of England Academy website will be launching in 5 days.

At a time when we have been physically distant, keeping connected has been important. Which is the reason I started these weekly updates. We are wanting to make communication even better and have invested in a new website which reflects our commitment to excellence.

The new website has taken over 6 months to build and will offer parents, carers, pupils and students a new way of interacting with the school.

Some of the new features include:

- Direct links to social media updates (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram).

- An interactive calendar which parents can sync with their smart phone – this way you will never miss an event, an appointment or worry about calendar dates again.
- A mobile friendly website – no more issues with website format on your mobiles.
- A website which reflects our whole Academy community.

We hope that the new look and feel to the website will reflect the sense of pride in the Academy that so many of you have shared in recent weeks.

Your feedback is always welcome, so please do share your thoughts about this new site.

I sincerely hope you like it.

Damian McBeath
Principal



Self-Testing

Schools have been asked to provide sufficient Covid self-test kits to allow students and staff to continue testing throughout the Easter holidays. Therefore, a further supply will be issued to students to bring home on Thursday 1st April. Please continue to log the results both with the Academy (via TestRegister) and with Gov.uk.

If you have any questions regarding the self-test kits please contact covid19@thejohnwallisacademy.org.

No Excuses!

We believe in the potential of every child in the Academy. Therefore, as a community we have exceptionally high standards of each other. We expect a lot of our pupils and students and you should expect the same from us. We do not tolerate excuses and we will not make any either.

When we return after Easter, we will be resuming our full uniform expectations including hair (based on the re-opening of hairdressers on 12th April 2021).

- Students are not permitted have mobile phones out in school at any time.
- All students are expected to be wearing the correct uniform.
- Students are expected to walk around the Academy in a calm, well-mannered fashion.

We are tightening our expectations, so that we can apply our full focus on teaching and learning. If you would like to view any of the school policies you can find them on the Academy website.

Throughout the Summer Term we will be engaging all students in a review of our Academy Uniform Policy for Sept. 2021.

A Message from The Chaplain

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. It is the time when Christians remember Jesus entering Jerusalem. Crowds of people followed him waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna". (Just a reminder, a crowd is a large gathering of people; it might be some time since we have been part of one of those!) Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people were not sure what to expect. They thought that Jesus was their king, so to see him on a donkey rather than a big horse riding into battle was a bit strange. But Jesus was a king of peace, his way was different.

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, ending with Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Pupils in the Primary Academy sing a song about Palm Sunday called "We Have A King Who Rides On A Donkey" (to the tune of the Drunken Sailor). As well as the title line it has the following words: "We Have A King Who Cares For People" and "What Shall We Do With Our Lives This Morning". The response to that second one in the song is "Give It Up In Service". Is that really that much of a different way, to bring peace, to care for others? What will we do with our lives? Mr Ian Rich, Academy Chaplain (irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org).

Important Academy Update

The brand-new John Wallis Church of England Academy website will be launching on **31st March 2021**.



Student Cook Book



Local Update COVID-19

Ashford

37 cases per 100,000 people in the week 15th March – 21st March 2021.

The average area in England had 44.

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