



A Message from the Headteacher, Tracey Peters

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2018-19 academic year. This year we are planning to provide you with a newsletter at least once a half term as a way of letting you know all the exciting things that have been going on at John Willmott School. We ended the 2017-18 school year with our Celebrate Success assemblies and it was a pleasure to welcome so many parents to witness the awarding of our new badges to students. Over 200 badges were handed out to students for both progress and attainment across the whole school year. These enamel badges are designed to be worn with pride on student blazers. In addition we awarded the first ever Head of Year Awards. There is only one such award per year and these go to students who have demonstrated resilience, initiative, kindness or similar characteristics during the year.

Finally four students achieved the Headteachers Award which is a specially designed badge given to students for their hard work, perseverance, determination and all round commitment to the school and their studies. It was a joy to hear the cheers of the year group when these names were announced and the students came to collect their badges. It was also particularly special to welcome Mr Tim Claxton the Chair of Governors to hand out the new House Captain and House Ambassador Badges. Following a selection process which culminated in interviews with myself and the Heads of House each House has appointed 2 House Captains and 5 ambassadors in each year group. These students now form the Student Leadership Team and will be working alongside our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team throughout the coming year. They will all be participating in leadership training starting with a team building and challenge day at a local outdoor centre in the next few weeks. We are looking forward to working alongside these students to improve the school even further.



This term has seen the launch of our new LORIC programme which all students participate in every week whether through their form time or dedicated LORIC lessons and assemblies. LORIC is explained in more detail within this newsletter and parents workshops will be taking place very soon so watch out for further information regarding this.

We had a very successful Open Evening with the highest turn out of visitors for several years. We had extremely positive feedback from visitors about the quality of our displays and interactive workshops, our amazing student guides and ambassadors and what an impact the ongoing maintenance programme is having on the school building. We have also had several morning tours of parents and Year 6 students visiting during the day to see the school in action. Again we have received wonderful feedback about the behaviour and attitude to learning of our students and the high expectations that are evident in our classrooms. We see this every day but it is always good to hear someone else say it! We are happy to report that we are full in Year 7 and the sixth form has again increased in size. Despite this the single lunchtime has proved to be a success and will continue to operate. The lunchtime clubs will be operating from this week and will include a range of activities from the formal to informal. These will include GCSE development classes which will be by invitation only as well as the more informal drop in activities such as IT club, library and chess. Please keep an eye out for further details.

We continue with our intention to make John Willmott a good school where we maintain our 'High Standards, High Expectations and Huge Aspirations' and look forward to working with you this year.

With best wishes,
Tracey Peters.



LORIC arrives at John Willmott School

On 6th September LORIC was launched across the school and this initiative reflects the importance of the development of our positive culture and ethos.

Whilst last year was largely devoted to embedding the EEE Teaching and Learning model, this academic year will build on this by developing not just a focus on 'Currency' (examination results and qualifications) but also developing a deliberately planned Character and Culture curriculum.

Once a fortnight, one lesson will be delivered by form tutors to their groups; exploring the LORIC attributes of character: Leadership; Organisation; Resilience; Initiative and Communication.

Whilst we recognise the importance of traditional 'academic currency' it is crucial that as a school we develop these important character traits so that our students can truly fulfil their potential at every stage of their lives. As well as having a lesson devoted to LORIC, these identified characteristics will permeate our entire school culture. The Leadership Team, Heads of House, Heads of Year, Support and Teaching staff have mapped out opportunities for students to embrace opportunities: to lead; to be organised; display resilience; use their initiative and develop their communication skills. These will be celebrated and evidenced and students in Years 7-11 have all been given a 'Record of Achievement' in order to reflect on their achievements.



The Triple E Teaching and Learning Model

The 'Enthuse, Engage, Excel' (EEE) Teaching and Learning model is now ubiquitous with progress at John Willmott School. This learner centered approach focuses around 5 phases of learning:

Explanation- where the key knowledge for the lesson is presented to the students

Modelling- students are shown what mastery looks like

Questioning- the teacher using planned questions to assess what students know and what they don't know

Deliberate Practice- students' opportunity to apply what they have learnt in a focused and uninterrupted manner

Feedback- high quality assessment of progress, which can take various forms such as: live in lesson marking; whole class feedback or summative assessment marking.

This cycle of learning is framed by routines and management which are familiar to students and which seek to reinforce our high expectations of all students. Lessons all start with a 'Do It Now' activity which seeks to encourage regular recall practice; all subject staff have seating plans which are carefully planned to best meet learner needs; Learning Questions are communicated at the start of lessons to embed challenge and drive a sense of enquiry. We have also introduced Knowledge Organisers for Years 7-9 which students use to consolidate their learning and to regularly return to prior knowledge to aid retrieval.

The EEE model prepares students for the increased rigour of the curriculum and terminal assessments, whilst fostering learning habits which will last a lifetime.

Mrs. L Lockley
Assistant Head Teacher KS3
Progress and Outcomes



Calling all Bookworms

John Willmott School is excited to announce the launch of The Reading Challenge. Open to all students in Years 7 to 11, The Reading Challenge will be a fantastic opportunity for students to earn House Points for their House whilst reading their favourite books! Students will be expected to read a range of books from a variety of genres and periods; we will be encouraging students to share and recommend their book choices with staff and pupils.

The Reading Challenge has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. To complete the Bronze level, students must read any three books of their choice. For Silver, students will read any four books from the following genres: poetry, autobiographies, travelogues and History. Finally, to achieve the Gold level, students must read three books from the 19th Century, two from the 20th Century and one book from the 21st Century. On completion of the challenge, students will receive House Points: 30 House Points for completing Bronze; 40 House Points for completing Silver and a huge 60 House Points for completing Gold.

Students will be provided with a Reading Challenge card via their Form Tutor, which will include a suggested reading list for their Key Stage and a set of instructions. Let the challenge begin!!



Parents Evening and School Reports

The autumn term is always busy with regards to reporting to our parents.

There are **four parents' evenings** during this term:

- Year 7 Settling In. Thursday 18th October, 4pm-6pm. This meeting will be for each Y7 student and held by our form tutors. Mr Hunter, Head of Year 7 and members of the leadership team will also be available.
- Y11 Interim Parents' Evening. Thursday 8th November, 4pm-6pm. This evening will give every year 11 student an opportunity to meet with a member of the school leadership team. Discussing targets and readiness for trial exams, we will use information from the first round of tests taken by Y11 students in October. There will be no need for an appointment, parents are encouraged to turn up when convenient.
- Year 12/13 Parents' Evening. Thursday 29th November, 4pm-6.30pm. An opportunity for our sixth form students to see all subject teachers. Mrs Sharp, Mrs Dwyer and Miss Richards from the sixth form team will also be available.
- Year 8 Parents' Evening. Thursday 6th December 4pm-6.30pm. An opportunity to have meetings with all subject teachers. Mr Grice, Head of Year 8, will also be available for an appointment. Year 8 students make choices regarding GCSE subjects in the spring term, making this evening of particular importance.

Each student across every year group will receive an interim report on Wednesday 19th December. This report will tell you how well your son or daughter has done in the first term in every subject and indicate whether he or she is on track to reach their end of year target. Attendance information will also be reported.

Our year 11 students have their Trial Exams from Monday 26th November to Wednesday 12th December. The results for these will be given to students on Thursday 20th December.

If you have any questions about school reports or parents' evenings, please contact me through the enquiry email or leave a message with the reception team.

Mr P Averis
Deputy Headteacher



New Legislation

Due to recent changes in legislation, if your child was previously in care and is now subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement or Special Guardianship Order please do let us know as they may be entitled to additional funding. Please contact your child's HOY to share this information.

Attendance

We would like to welcome Nadine Harper and Becky Silcock who have joined the attendance team at John Willmott School. Nadine and Becky come with a wealth of experience of working with young people and will be working with both students and families to ensure that students have an excellent attendance.

Excellent attendance is crucial to maximising student progress and this year we will be regularly informing you of your child's attendance throughout the year and will be placing them in one of the coloured bands below. We are hoping for as many students as possible to be in the green and purple bands.

Group 1: Excelling

Purple Group

Group 2: Doing well

Green Group

Group 3: Risk of Underachievement

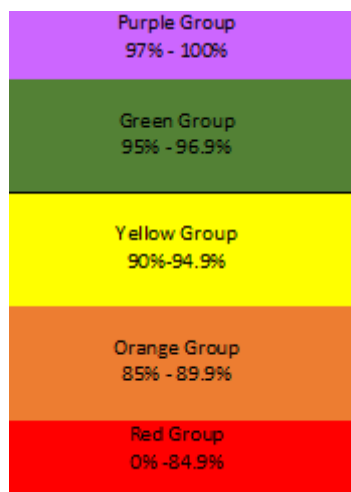
Yellow Group

Group 4: Severe Risk of Underachievement

Orange Group

Group 5: Extreme Risk of Underachievement

Red Group



There is a very strong link that exists between a student's level of attendance and their achievement it is important that all students aim to not take any time off school. Parents/Carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time

From September 2013 the DFE amended the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 removing the Headteachers ability to authorise leave of absence for a family holiday. Therefore, if a parent removes their child from school without the authorisation of the Head Teacher then the matter could be referred to Birmingham LA for consideration of the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices in respect of each Parent for each child.

All requests for leave of absence/holiday in term time must be made in writing using the appropriate school form and should be returned to the school no later than ten days prior to the leave being taken.

Mrs. R Shell-Macleod

Assistant Head Teacher KS4

Progress and Outcomes



The House System

Following a very competitive end of term where Lancaster were announced the overall winners of the John Willmott sports day the new term has started equally competitive. The Macmillan Coffee Morning was held very successfully with a range of prizes up for grabs. There were prizes of 50 house points awarded for the best decorated cakes for both staff and students as well as prizes for the most money raised by each house. Individual students who made their own cakes also gained extra house points. An amazing £211.30 was raised with Lancaster coming out as the overall winners thanks to winning 50 house points in both the student and staff competitions. Mr Hussain again demonstrated his cake decorating expertise as you will see from the photograph he is hard to beat!

We are keen to continue to develop our contributions within our local communities and students need to watch out for the next inter house competitions which will include our collections for the local food bank as well as Operation Christmas Child. Student leaders will be in touch with further details so keep your eyes peeled for posters around school and information on the screens.

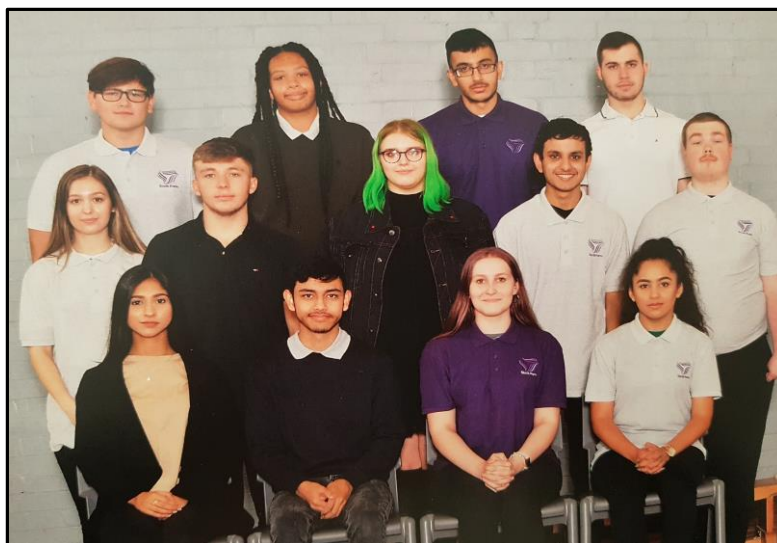


Congratulations to our School Captains



After a rigorous selection process we are delighted to announce that this year the School Captains are Eleanor Monkman and Eden Barrett. Both students will be required to represent the students at a wide range of events throughout the year and we are looking forward to working with them as we develop student leadership at all levels.

They are supported by the sixth form student leadership team:-



Ms T Richards Assistant Head Teacher
Ms A Sharpe Head of Year 12/13
Ms D Dwyer Sixth Form Mentor



Sixth Form Taster Day to Whitmoor Lakes

We are looking forward to our trip to Whitmoor Lakes with all of our Year 11 students on 5th November. We will begin our day with breakfast together in the Sixth Form centre and then make our way to Whitmoor Lakes in Lichfield.

Alongside zip wiring, abseiling and games, students will have a wonderful opportunity to learn all about the courses that are available to them after Year 11. They will choose to participate in activities linked to the subject areas they are most interested in.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is 21st November 6pm-8pm. We look forward to meeting all of our students and their parents where they will have the opportunity to ask staff about the broad range of courses we offer and access help and support regarding further education.

Autumn Term – Important Dates

Wednesday 3rd October – Friday 5th October – Year 7 Residential Trip

Monday 8th October – Student Leadership Teambuilding Activity Day

Wednesday 24th October – LORIC Parent Workshop. Please refer to our website for details

Friday 26th October – INSET day

Thursday 18th October – Year 7 Settling in evening

Thursday 8th November – Year 11 Parents evening

Wednesday 21st November – 6th Form open evening

Thursday 29th November – Year 8 Day trip

Thursday 6th December – Year 8 Parents evening

Monday 10th – Friday 14th December – Year 12/13

Wednesday 19th December – Annual Awards Evening

Friday 21st December – INSET day

