

JWS Update



1 March 2024

News

Just before half term our assemblies focused on mental health. We highlighted the importance of looking after your mental health and being comfortable to talk about any issues you may have. Last week in assembly we reminded ourselves of the benefits we feel from undertaking random acts of kindness. This term is short, but will be actioned packed, so it has been great to take some time to stop and remind ourselves of the importance of well-being, our own and that of others.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

It was wonderful to be joined by parents who will form our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). We are excited about how our work will strengthen our school community and family engagement for the benefit of our children. If you are interested in joining us and being part of our plans to support the school and raise money for needed resources, please email pta@jws.bham.sch.uk. Our first event is the **'Year 6 Welcome Evening', on Wednesday 13 March from 5:00pm**. If you can join us and help serve drinks and snacks, please join us from 4:30pm.



This week six of our year 7 students took part in the Active travel ambassador programme. The aim of the programme is to provide young people with the confidence and skills to address transport issues affecting our school and community. We have been working collaboratively with students from Fairfax school on this project. The students presented at the Campaign Junction event at Birmingham City Town Hall on Wednesday. We shared our objective to reduce car use popularity and increase sustainable active travel by promoting walking and park and stride. A huge 'Well Done' to all those involved and 'thank you' to Miss Wootton who supported the students and made this possible.

Punctuality - Late to School

We know that the vast majority of our students arrive to school on time and in perfect uniform every day and we are extremely grateful for this. However, students that arrive late to school missing key messages in line-up and tutor time and are also missing learning time. We will be looking to add punctuality to school into our detention system and will update you on this in due course. We appreciate your support in reminding your child of the importance of attending school on time.

International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day 2024, join this exclusive free webinar in partnership with the British Army to help inspire the next generation of females about the amazing career opportunities available to them through the Army. Join on, 5 March from 4:00-5:00pm, to hear from a panel of inspiring female ambassadors from the Army, representing professions across 7 different career streams, including: Medical, HR & Finance, Combat, Intelligence & Communications, Music, Engineering, Logistics & Support.

JWS Iftar Invitation – Wednesday 20 March 2024

As we approach the blessed month of Ramadan, we are thrilled to invite you to our very first Iftar Night. This event aims to bring together our staff, families, and surrounding communities in a spirit of unity and celebration. To ensure that we can organise the best possible event, we kindly request your assistance in gauging interest and attendance please complete this [form](#).

Year 9 Options

We hosted our Year 9 Options evening last night. We were delighted to see families and thrilled to see students who attended on their own because it was important to them to get the process right and talk to staff about their interests. We spoke about the importance of gaining knowledge and skills over the coming years to allow our students to compete with students anywhere. We are really excited about the future and the successes that these young people will work hard for.

Reminder of Options Key Dates: Deadline for returning forms 12:00pm on 11 March
Options allocations – Summer Term

Year 11 Prom

We have had an amazing response from the students wishing to attend the Year 11 Prom on Friday 12 July 2024, with over half of students already securing their place at what will undoubtedly be the 'event of the year'. Please secure your place on ParentPay via this link [here](#).

'Potential into Reality'

Year 10 Parents Evening: Thursday 21 March 2024 - 3:30-6:00pm

The support and challenge you provide is hugely appreciated. You are interested in the education we are providing and the opportunities to grow our community. So far, we have held three Parents' Support Evenings and Parents Evenings for Year 7 and Year 11. The average attendance at those evenings has been high. We are looking forward to seeing the parents of our students, please click [here](#) to make appointments for your child. Thank you.

Key Dates

13 March	Year 9:	Residential Parental meeting 3:45pm
14 March	Year 11	Macbeth Theatre Production in School
	Year 7	Residential Parental Meeting 3:45pm
19 March	Years 8-11	Careers Fayre in School
	Years 8 & 9	Globe Theatre trip
20 March	Year 11	Geography Fieldtrip
		Iftar (time tbc)
22 March	Years 7-10	Reward Trip
18 April	Year 8	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm

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.

PE Lessons

Can we kindly remind parents that students must bring their PE kit for all PE lessons. PE is a compulsory subject and brings many social and health benefits. Students are permitted to wear the following items to keep them warm during PE lessons:

Compulsory items: Sport shirt (Black school sport t-shirt) and long-sleeved school zip top (Black)

Non-Compulsory items: Tracksuit bottoms or plain-black sport leggings

Additional optional items: Black gloves and black base layer

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 the 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.

Free School Meals and child benefit

[Apply online](#) 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, and 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. For more information [click here](#).

Child Benefit

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

Careers

All students in Years 8 to 11 will have the opportunity to visit our Careers Fayre. This will be an insightful opportunity for students to explore future choices. We have asked students to complete a task when talking to providers and are encouraging them to speak to a range of providers as well as some targeted providers they are



interested in. The providers attending are listed below, please explore the providers with your child so that they can maximise their time in the careers fayre.

Bevan Brittan	Employer
ISG Ltd Construction - North	Employer
Royal Air Force	Employer
Royal Navy	Employer
Royal Navy Reserves HMS Forward	Employer
Flair Windows	Employer
Birmingham Electrical Training	Training Provider
Crackerjack Training	Training Provider
Romulus Football Academy	Training Provider
Aston University Engineering Academy	Further Education Provider
Birmingham City University	Higher Education Provider
BMET	Further Education Provider
Education for Dental	Further Education Provider
Solihull Sixth Form College	Further Education Provider
Solihull College	Further Education Provider
South and City College Birmingham	Further Education Provider
University of Wolverhampton	Higher Education Provider
Walsall College	Further Education Provider

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.

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	Year 11 Champion
Gratitude 	Mila O	Nasri M	Nathan F	Tosan O	Ire A
Kindness 	Melody S	Katie A	Tayla B	Mea B	Atlanta L

iPad Devices

We have begun giving the iPad devices to students who were absent for the first roll-out. All students have been asked to join their Year groups on Showbie using the following class codes:

Year 7: 6JACP Year 9: CDFRF Year 11: 3BUAA
 Year 8: 9HKNM Year 10: 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.

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.

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.

Attendance

Winter illness: We know that the cold, winter months can increase the chances of minor illnesses, coughs and colds, but it is important that students make every effort to attend each day. NHS guidance tells us that “It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.”

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](#)

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

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**

**Every day spent in school makes a difference. We attend to achieve!
On average, every 19 days of school missed = one grade less progress**

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**.

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](#).

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>

Mental Health Information

Please see this [link](#) where you can find other information about managing anxiety and free webinars to watch.

Early Help Partnership Sutton Coldfield Their latest newsletter is available [here](#)



Reading Recommendation

We will be celebrating and recognising International Women's Day in assemblies; this book 'Women: Our History' is a great read to explore the numerous important roles women have played in culture and society.

