

# JWS Update



26 April 2024

## News

It's been a really strong start to term. Our new ClassCharts system has supported our return to school. The importance of culture is never far from my mind and this system has reminded me that there is nothing more important than crafting the culture in any organisation. ClassCharts enables students to check their timetable, rewards and behaviour points. The system provides students with the information they need to set themselves targets and own their learning. Students can use their reward points to purchase items in our 'Reward Shop'. The shop is open at breaktime on Wednesdays for Years 7 & 8 and Fridays for Year 9, 10 & 11. Thank you to Mrs Woodall, Mr Smikle and Miss Smart for coordinating this for our students. A huge thank you also goes to you, the majority of parents have logged onto ClassCharts. If you haven't yet, please register so that you too can see the progress your child is making.



I sometimes feel I don't talk enough about the importance of progress in learning and the journey towards the ultimate assessments that are GCSE exams. At the end of last year, we decided to give students the experience of sitting three mock exams series in our gyms. Our students have embraced this and throughout this year have presented as ambitious and mature young people. That is so great because it is about having pride in yourself and your determination to be the best you can no matter what that might look like. So, as this year's exam season begins, we wish them every success.

Our dance team have been grabbing the headlines this week with their performance in The Big Dance Competition. They came 5<sup>th</sup> overall and we could not be prouder of them. Congratulations to the team and Miss Mirza for coaching them and encouraging their participation in this event.

Last night we hosted the Sutton Schools Debating Competition. For the second year in succession, **John Willmott School won first place!** This has never happened in the 24-year history of the competition. Many congratulations to Toby and Bilal in year 11 for representing our school, we were so proud to see them talking so eloquently. **They were incredible! They are worthy winners.**

The feedback from the judges described their performance as powerful and knowledgeable. Thank you to Mr Foster, Mrs Hines and the admin team for their support of this event.



On Wednesday 24 April our Year 8's went to the Birmingham Police Museum to compete against Eden Girls and KESH academy by presenting their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects to STEM industry professionals from CGI Consulting IT company. JWS Engineers Kaya A, Ellie-May H, Layla H-H, Tillie F, Scarlett W) blew the competition away, winning not only the Engineering competition but also best overall display stand. As winners they will receive a £25 Amazon voucher each. Head Judge Michael Herron was quoted as saying, 'I would pick and approve your project for delivery right now if I could' and that 'this was the most convincing presentation he had seen all day' indicating a likely winner which was announced at the end. Its with great pride and jubilation that they won 2 awards for demonstrating the Character Virtues of courage, commitment, integrity and service. Thank you to Mr Bailey and Mrs Haymes for supporting the students in preparing for this trip.

## Year 11 Prom – Friday 21 June

Prom tickets must be paid on full my Tuesday 30 April, no additional tickets can be purchased after this point this is an extension on the original deadline, which was 29 March. Please secure your place on ParentPay via the link [here](#).

## Parent Teacher Association (PTA) - 22 May 5:30pm – 6:30pm

We are now running a school affiliated PTA WhatsApp group. In this group we will post pictures and key date reminders. If you would like to join this group please email [pta@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:pta@jws.bham.sch.uk). Please title the email PTA WhatsApp and include your name, child's name and number. Once your number is checked on our records we will send you the code to join the community group.

## Key Dates

29 April	Photography Exams commence for Year 11
9 May	GCSE written exams commence
10 May	Extra Curricular Fayre Periods 1 to 4 hosted by Character First
15-17 May	Year 7 Residential at Whitemoor Lakes
20 May	Year 10 Work Experience
22 -24 May	Year 9 Residential

## 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 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.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

**Monday sessions**

- YOUTH CLUB SESSION
- BOXING

**Wednesday sessions**

- YOUTH CLUB SESSION
- FOOTBALL

**WHO? TO ALL JWS STUDENTS**

**TIME? 3.15 - 4.15**

John Willmott School

## Careers

Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 had a visit from the BBC to talk about careers in the BBC and apprenticeships. Our Year 10 Media group had the opportunity to have a personalised question and answer session after the assembly. It was really fascinating to learn the different roles within the company and the opportunities available. 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](mailto:Yvonne.green@jws.bham.sch.uk).

## Free School Meals and Child Benefit

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. 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. [Apply online](#). For more information [click here](#). Families could be missing out on a minimum of £24 per week! If a parent/carers 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](http://www.gov.uk/child-benefit).

### 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
<b>Commitment</b> 	Abdelrahman M	Arlie E	Thomas C	Bethany B	Yasmin M
<b>Courage</b> 	Reilly Mc	Iyla D	Kaycee H	Tallulah P	Skylah C

### Attendance

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



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

## Attendance: the top facts to know & share

**The link between attendance and attainment is clear:**

- In 2018/19, **just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.
- **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and Maths GCSEs**, compared to 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

**And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:**

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.<sup>2</sup>

**But attendance is important for more than just attainment:**

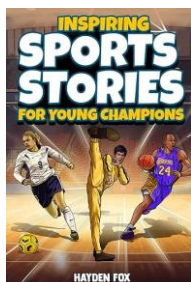
- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.<sup>3</sup>

**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](mailto: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. Our Attendance Team are here to support with any barriers to regular attendance.**



### Reading Recommendation

In our Year group assemblies, we have encouraged our students to take part in Active April, by trying out a new sport or activity, or walking more than usual each day. This book is a celebration of sporting heroes to inspire the next generation.

## iPad Devices

All students should have joined their Year groups on Showbie using the following class codes:

Y7: 6JACP Y8: 9HKNM Y9: CDFRF Y10: J3CPH Y11: 3BUA

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](mailto:enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk).

## 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**.

## Early Help Partnership Sutton Coldfield

Their latest newsletter is available [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>

## 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.

## 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.

**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](#).

## Mental Health Information

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

The poster is divided into two main sections. The top section has a green background and contains the following text: 'Residents are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting. Your opportunity to have your say and shape the future of the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield. Wednesday 15th May 2024. Trinity Centre, Trinity Hill, B72 1TF. 6pm'. The bottom section has a grey background and contains: 'For more information: enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk' and the phone number '0121 663 1765'. On the left side, there is a logo for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council featuring a stag head inside a circular frame with the text 'ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'. Below the logo, it says 'Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council' and 'Date For Your Diary' with a calendar icon. At the bottom left, the website 'www.suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk' is listed.

'Potential into Reality'