



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

## **WGS End of Term Newsletter (60) 21/07/2021**

I would like to start this final newsletter of the year by thanking you all for your support of Wood Green School this year. This week even more than usual has shown the true community and spirit of our school. On this final day, we are holding a non-uniform day to raise funds to support the family of our lovely year 8 student who died in a tragic accident this weekend. The family are so touched that this is happening. At the time of writing we have raised over £1000; we will pass this money to the fund that the family have set up to pay for a memorial.

In a separate letter we are sending out today details of how students and families can access support when school has finished. I am particularly grateful to St Mary's Church Cogges, who are opening specially on Thursday this week, 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 1-6pm for Wood Green students and friends who would like to light a candle or spend some quiet time in the church. Thank you to Rev Simon Kirby and his team for their support. This 'Staying Safe' newsletter covers a wide range of other topics, including arrangements regarding Covid over the summer, water safety and where to access support during the summer. Please do read it through carefully as there is something there for everyone.

It is acts of kindness such as offers of support and donations that keep everyone going during tough times. I have been so proud all year that our students have continued to think of others through the pandemic, shown through small acts of kindness in the community, or larger fundraising events. A group of 6<sup>th</sup> Form students completed a walking marathon to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital, raising over £1000, and our Christmas Jumper Day raised £1170 for the same cause. Staff have been getting in on the act too, including Mr Atkins who completed an Ironman Challenge, raising £1250 in the process which he is giving to the PTA to go towards resources for our students. Giving service to our community is something built into our school and something I am very proud of.

You as parents and carers contribute too. I would like to thank the Governors and the PTA of Wood Green School. The Governors have been crucial in steering us through this year and in ensuring that we focus on the future. The PTA has been incredibly supportive; although fund raising has been challenging, they have stepped up in person, coming into school on weekends to improve the library, to make the gardens look wonderful and, even this weekend, they were in painting the new IT Hub in the heatwave! Maria Grindley, Chair, deserves huge appreciation, but thank you to everyone involved and to the extra volunteers who have stepped in.

Despite the challenges of the year, we have managed to ensure some opportunities have continued: it has been great to see students out in mini-Sports Day events last week; we continued our external speaker events with Mr Steven Frank, Holocaust survivor, making a virtual return to Wood Green, and Charlie Walker, adventurer, giving a talk to our year 10 students.

There have been notable moments of success too, including our Y8 Girls who won the West Oxon District Council Climate Change Competition, Lorna McBain, who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in a National Human Rights Competition in May and Harvey King, who was awarded the Inspirational Entrepreneur Award by Oxfordshire Youth in November. Just last week, our year 7 students took part in the Acer Trust Public Speaking competition, competing with teams from Icknield Community College and Matthew Arnold School, and I am delighted that both first and second places went to Wood Green, with individual students also being recognised for their performances.

We have presented an impressive number of awards. These show that our students have kept going with their learning, their community service, and their own wellbeing despite the challenges. This year we have awarded:

- Year 11 WGS Bacculaureate Awards – 11
- KS4 Bacculaureate Awards - 57
- Drama Colours - 13
- Music Colours - 14
- Sport Colours - 46
- Year 7 Year Awards – 113
- Year 8 Year Awards - 120
- Year 9 awards are made in September when they have finished key stage 3.

## Staff Changes

I would like to thank a number of staff who are leaving this term. In particular, there are several long-serving members of staff who are retiring after many years of service to Wood Green.

**Mrs Cork** (32 years) has taught in our PE department for many years, and most recently also was the Sports Coordinator for the Primary Schools. Any partnership sporting event that your child has attended in primary school was probably organised by Mrs Cork, and we are hugely grateful to her for all she has done.

**Mrs Belmont** (24 years) has given years of service to the school in so many ways and roles. Most recently she has been an important member of our leadership team, leading staff development and wellbeing, and the induction of new staff and trainees. She has also led the Geography Department successfully and inspired many students to continue on to study Geography beyond school. Everything she does is done with huge positivity and she will be greatly missed.

**Mrs Mitchell** retires after 19 years as Finance and HR Manager. Behind the scenes Mrs Mitchell has ensured that the school operates smoothly, enabling all our resources to be in place and events and trips to run efficiently. Running the finance of a large school is no mean feat and Mrs Mitchell's professionalism and support have been invaluable.

**Mr Duester** retires after 15 years as caretaker. We will miss his cheerfulness around the site but will have many reminders of his work to enjoy for some time to come. When you next visit our site, I hope you will see all the hard work that Mr Duester and all our site team have put into the school. We thank Mr Duester for all his commitment and wish him a happy retirement.

I would also like to thank the following staff who leave us this year and we wish them every success in the future. We will miss you all:

**Miss Bizos** – after 2 years teaching in Science

**Miss Chapman** – after 2 years working as a Teaching Assistant

**Miss Coppinger** – after 1 year teaching in History

**Mr King** - after 3 years working as a Teaching Assistant

**Mr Miller** – after 2 years teaching in Geography

**Miss Saratova** – after 1 year teaching in Art & Design

**Mr Laughlin** – providing cover in various subjects

We are welcoming new staff to the school for September and I will inform parents of these teachers in my September newsletter.

## Information for September 2021

Attached to this newsletter is information about tutors and rooms for September. This is also available on our website.

Our Heads of Year team for September are:

Year 7 – Mr Gosnell

Year 8 – Miss Francis

Year 9 – Mr Atkins

Year 10 – Miss Billington

Year 11 – Miss Dobson

Mr Roberts will be in charge of Transition from primary to Secondary school.

Students will return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, under current plans. They should make their way to their tutor room as shown on the attachment, except for new Year 7s who will come to the hall.

We are still awaiting final details about returning to school and any Covid requirements. No doubt, the national situation will develop over the summer and we will send out messages to all families and post details on our website.

### **LFD Testing for the Start of Term:**

Thank you for continuing with testing over the past months. Over the holiday there is not a request to continue with twice weekly testing. Before your child returns to school, we have been asked that they complete two LFD tests which can be done at home. We will be sending a box of tests home this week with students and ask that these are carried out on the days shown on the box, 2nd September and 5th September. The results should be logged with NHS track and trace and for years 8-11 through [this link](#). Years 12 and 13 students should record their own results through [this link](#). These tests must **ONLY** be used for this purpose.

As we head to the summer holiday, we wish our Year 11 and 13s well for their results and I wish everyone a very happy summer. I would like to give my thanks to staff for all the extra effort they make for students at school, without which we would not be able to offer the experiences that are so important at Wood Green. I look forward to seeing everyone, including our 211 new year 7 students in September, looking smart and ready to learn. I will write in the new school year with information about new staff, results and information about the year ahead. Thank you for your support of Wood Green.

With best wishes



Mr R Shadbolt  
Headteacher

Attachment: WGS Start of Term 2021-22