



INTHEKNOW

16th March 2018

www.smithswood.co.uk



Message from the Head of Academy

The message that I have consistently been giving students this half term is that good attendance is everything. As adults we know that children need to attend school every day if they are to succeed academically. We should also not underestimate the impact that good attendance has on friendship groups and emotional well-being. Please encourage your children to attend every day.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Parents' Forum takes place on Monday 26th March from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. On this evening we would very much welcome your support in re-shaping our behaviour policy in readiness for the next academic year. Your views are very important to us; you have shared some excellent suggestions at previous meetings which we would like to explore further.

Mrs K Craig

Head of Academy

YEAR 7

- **Cambridge University**

- Year 7 students will be working with Cambridge University to provide an introduction to University life. A presentation will take place in School during March for our Year 7 students.
- Year 7 Spring Disco takes place on Tuesday 24th April. We look forward to seeing all of the children there!
- Year 7 rewards trip to Solihull ice-rink, for all of those students in Year 7 who have achieved 100% attendance this half term – Wednesday 28th March. Information will be sent home over the next couple of days.
- Milestone examinations take place for Key Stage 3 students after the Easter Holiday in core subjects – the examination timetable will be issued shortly.
- The deadline for Love My Pet creative writing competition is 29.03.18. Hand in your entry to your English teacher or Mrs Morris.

YEAR 8

- Year 8 rewards trip to Solihull ice-rink, for all of those students in Year 8 who have achieved 100% attendance this half term – Thursday 29th March. Information will be sent home over the next couple of days.
- Milestone examinations take place for Key Stage 3 students after the Easter Holiday in core subjects – the examination timetable will be issued shortly.
- Year 8 and 9 - deadline for Stranger Sagas competition is 29.03.18. Hand in your entry to your English teacher or Mrs Morris.

YEAR 9

- Year 9 Options Evening takes place on Tuesday 27th March from 3.30pm-7.00pm. Please ensure that you have signed up to MyEd App in advance as option choices will need to be submitted via the app.
- Year 9 attendance rewards will be issued during the last week of term for all those students who have achieved 100% attendance this half term.
- Milestone examinations take place for Key Stage 3 students after the Easter Holiday in core subjects – the examination timetable will be issued shortly.
- Year 8 and 9 - deadline for Stranger Sagas competition is 29.03.18. Hand in your entry to your English teacher or Mrs Morris.
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YEAR 10

No specific notices for Year 10 students this week

- Year 11 Mock Results collection – Monday 26th March – students will be advised timings
- Year 11 GCSE Drama Deadlines and Exam dates
Thursday 19th April - Component 3 evening performance 6pm
Wednesday 25th April - Component 3 GCSE examination all day.
Thursday 26th April- Component 3 GCSE examination all day.
- English - Live screening of Macbeth from the Royal Shakespeare Company will take place on 26th April for all Year 11 students. This will take place in school time but students must attend – again this is essential viewing in readiness for the examinations.
- **Post 16 Pathways** - Most Year 11 students have now applied for Sixth Form or College. If students are interested in apprenticeships they must see Mrs O'Donnell to ensure they have been provided with information as to how to apply. Do not hesitate to contact Mrs O'Donnell odonnell.a@smiths-wood.com if you require support.
- **AVFC and Aston University** - A few lucky students will attend a 'behind the scenes day' in April at Aston Villa Football Club. This collaborative event by Aston Villa Football Club and Aston University will give learners the opportunity to learn more about the various roles and professions within the exciting world of football. The day will consist of various talks from experts in the industry about their chosen profession, guidance on developing employability skills and developing student's personal brand, as well as a behind the scenes tour of the stadium.

- The Academy breaks up for the Easter Holiday at 3.00pm on Thursday 29th March. We welcome the children back to school on Monday 16th April.
- Science Club – every Wednesday – except 13th June 2018 - from 3.10pm-4.00pm in S7
- KS 3 Creative Writing Drop-in Club is held every Friday in CA2 with Mrs Morris
- KS3 and year 10 [The Poetry Games](#) COMPETITION Is NOW CLOSED. The winner will be announced in assembly.
- GCSE English as a Second Language drop in sessions are held on Monday in CA2.
- Watch this space: Poetry on Prescription is coming to the Lower School library soon.
- Open-to-all sports activities after school February/March:
 - Mondays - fitness, archery, girls' football
 - Wednesdays - trampolining, swimming, fitness, table tennis, badminton, netball, Duke of Edinburgh
 - Thursdays - boys' football (Years 10/11), indoor cricket
 - Fridays - basketball, boys' football (Years 7/8/9), badminton by invitation
- Monday 19th March - FMAT badminton tournament at Smith's Wood Academy - Years 7 to 11
- Tuesday 20th March - Cross-country league race at St Peter's (Years 7 to 9)
- Wednesday 21st March - 9c v. 9f boys' basketball
- Friday 23rd March - Sport Relief walking challenge before school and during PE lessons
- Sport Relief Week takes place the week beginning 19th March. The following activities will be happening in the Academy:
 - Monday 19th March – lunchtime short tennis – sports hall
 - Tuesday 20th March – lunchtime basketball – sports hall
 - Wednesday 21st March – lunchtime badminton – sports hall
 - Thursday 22nd March – lunchtime table tennis – sports hall
 - Friday 23rd March - cricket
- **Friday 23rd March arrangements – the big walk!**
 - The 6 milers (14 pupils) meet at 7.00am
 - Mr Cushen will take pupils, for 7.30am, to Acocks Green
 - Mr McIlwraith will arrive at Acocks Green by 7.30am, having set out from Bromsgrove at 3.00am
 - Mrs Smith and Mrs Barkass-Williamson will meet Mr McIlwraith at Acocks Green at 7.30am
 - The 6 milers will reach school for approximately 9.30am
 - Various year groups will walk their mile on the field (details will be given to students by PE staff)*
 - Lunchtime cricket – sports hall
 - Mr McIlwraith will start back for home, leaving school at 2.30pm. Various members of staff will join him en-route
- Monday 26th March - FMAT basketball tournament at Smith's Wood Academy - Years 9, 10, 11
- Tuesday 27th March - Year 7 netball tournament at CTC
- Wednesday 28th March - Year 9 sports leaders at North Solihull Sports Centre during the day; Year 9, 10 & 11 girls' basketball tournament at Smith's Wood Academy after school

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO WEAR NON-UNIFORM ON SPORTS RELIEF DAY – FRIDAY 23RD MARCH 2018 – A DONATION OF 50p PER FAMILY WILL BE REQUIRED.

- Year 8 students have participated in a Cambridge University post card competition 'I Aspire to go to University because.....'.

Shortlisted entries will appear on the Cambridge University website and winning entrants will win a Cambridge University hoodie!

We have had some fantastic entries from our students, here is a small selection:

- I want to follow my dream job. I want to go to University to try new subjects and get to meet new people. I want to get a degree. Charlie
- I want to make my family proud. I want to be successful in life to show my own children and grandchildren they can do whatever they want. Itailia Y
- I want to study for my dream job. I want to graduate and earn money. I want to meet the experts to teach me the subjects that I want to study. Reharna
- I would like to learn at a different level and have a better education. Jake

Year 9 - Your Green Future

15 students will be attending 'Your Green Future' at Solihull College Conference centre in March. This is an opportunity for our students to look at:

Career Pathways : Students explore the range of organisations and jobs involved in sustainability.

Innovative Future: leading businesses pitch innovations, based on real industry developments, to teams of student 'Dragons'.

Future City: Students will look at the sustainability potential of the Arden Cross redevelopment. Businesses including **Jaguar Land Rover**, **NetworkRail** and the **Environment Agency** will be in attendance.

Jaguar Landrover Take Over Challenge

Six Year 9 students have applied for a week long work experience placement at JLR. We are waiting to hear if any have been successful. Watch this space!

Picture This!

Fifteen Year 9 girls have participated in a 4 week project called Picture This!

'Picture This' is a combined arts project integrating photography and creative writing to empower young people to consider how they might achieve their ambitions in the future.

Using photographs and writing to tell a story, you will participate in a 4 week series of creative, well-being workshops based around the themes of aspiration, inspiration and motivation. Students photographs and stories will then be framed and presented in a summer exhibition at a local university campus. The project is led by local artist Sharon Corbett of Pingo Art.

Aim Higher Mentoring Year 9

Selected Year 9 students get to think through their future with a Mentor from Birmingham City University. This is a six week program that supports students with study techniques, time management and future pathways.

Year 10

Oxford University

Ten students visited Oxford University. What a fantastic opportunity for the students. A tour of student halls, lunch and three mini lectures gave the students a real insight into student life at Oxford University. A trip in the summer term is planned for selected students in Years 7,8 & 9.

Be STRONG ONLINE

The internet is a great place for education, creativity and entertainment, but we know our young people need the right skills to navigate the web and stay safe online. Statistics show that teenagers are spending increased hours in front of a screen every day and research shows that more than one in three British 15-year-olds are "extreme internet users" who spend at least six hours a day online. By the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat.

British children also start going online for the first time at a young age, nearly a third (27.6%) of young people in the UK were six years old or younger when they first used the internet.

Children and young people actively engage with social media and we need to support them to understand the risks of how they behave online, and be empowered to make sense of and know how to respond to harmful content which they may come across.

At Smith's Wood Academy, we have been working with the Diana Award and our Anti Bullying Ambassador team to look at our students online habits. Following a regional 'Be Strong Online' Training Day the team conducted a survey to attempt to identify areas where we could provide more information, advice and guidance to help our young people become more digitally resilient.

The results are in and our research highlighted a number of areas the team would like to address. The team, headed up by our Be Strong Online Ambassador Zara Benfarhat, are busy creating workshops which will be delivered to all students across the Academy in the Summer Term including activities on selfies and self esteem, digital detox, digital footprint, cyber bullying and peer pressure online.

For more advice and support on how to keep your family safe online please click on the following link or call the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>



Online safety | NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

We've teamed up with O2 to help you keep children safe when they're using the internet, social networks, apps, games and beyond.

Year 11

Careers Fayre 2018

The Careers Fayre took place in January 2018. It was well attended by outside providers. This is an annual event for Year 10 & Year 11 students. Students get the chance to talk to a range of Colleges, Universities and Apprenticeship providers.

- A reward trip will again take place at the end of term for all students in Years 7 and 8 with 100% attendance for this half term.
- We would much rather encourage and reward students for good attendance. However, please do be aware that when these incentives fail to improve attendance then we will begin to take legal action. This is not a step we wish to take but will do so if necessary; unfortunately, the outcomes can be quite severe. For example, a recent Birmingham court outcome (9.2.18) was as follows: Parent failed to attend court and a fine was issued – Band B £293.00. Court costs £600.00 plus victim surcharge £30.00 totalling £923.00 with 28 days (collection order) to pay. **Children need to be in school to succeed. Please support us in supporting your child to achieve well and be happy at school.**