



INTHEKNOW

27th April 2018

www.smithswood.co.uk



Message from the Head of Academy

On behalf of the staff at the Academy I would like to thank our children for the very positive start we have had to the term. Students in Years 7 to 9 have embraced their mid-year examinations; as I said to them this week students can no longer wait until they are in Year 10 and 11 to start to work hard for their exams, the hard work has to start from day 1 in Year 7! The result of our knowledge led curriculum is that every single lesson counts!

I would also like to congratulate our Year 11 students who are really focused on their examinations that are now only a matter of weeks away. Year 11 – we have every confidence in you. Work like you have never worked before, give more than you ever thought possible and you will have set yourself up for success.

I am impressed also, by how hard students are working to improve their attendance. Keep working on this – it is being carefully monitored!

Mrs K Craig
Head of Academy

YEAR 7

- Tuesday 8th May - pole vault competition at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
- Wednesday 9th May - athletics trials at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
- Week commencing 14th May - national cup athletics at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (*date to be confirmed*)
- Wednesday 16th May - Diamond League Athletics at North Solihull Sports Centre
- Wednesday 23rd May - Diamond League Athletics at North Solihull Sports Centre

For all sporting events please see the PE Department

- Year 7 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 10th May

YEAR 8

- Tuesday 8th May - pole vault competition at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
- Wednesday 9th May - athletics trials at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
- Week commencing 14th May - national cup athletics at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (*date to be confirmed*)
- Wednesday 16th May - Diamond League Athletics at North Solihull Sports Centre
- Wednesday 23rd May - Diamond League Athletics at North Solihull Sports Centre
- Friday evening - basketball, boys' football, badminton by invitation, skating/scooter club

For all sporting events please see the PE Department

- Year 8 HPV immunisations will be administered on 24th May 2018. Letters will be sent to parents regarding this.

YEAR 9

- Wednesday 9th May - athletics trials at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
- Week commencing 14th May - national cup athletics at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (*date to be confirmed*)
- Tuesday 22nd May - softball competition at John Henry Newman
- Fridays - basketball, boys' football, badminton by invitation, skating/scooter club

For all sporting events please see the PE Department

YEAR 10

- Wednesday 9th May - athletics trials at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
- Week commencing 14th May - national cup athletics at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (*date to be confirmed*)

YEAR 11

- Saturday Maths revision classes continue every Saturday morning.
- **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.
- Year 11 Graduation and Prom will soon be upon us; Thursday 28th July and Friday 29th July respectively. Invites have been issued. Where students did not meet the eligibility criteria an appeal process has been put in place. The deadline for appeals are **Wednesday 2nd May**.
- I would like to ask Year 11 students to donate their Academy school bag and tie after their last examination, these will then be used to support families who may struggle with uniform costs.

Amazing opportunity!

The Geography Department have organised an adventure to Iceland, open to all current Year 7,8 and 9 students. The cost of the trip is £800 which can be paid in either 5 payments, monthly or weekly depending on parental wishes. The length of the trip is 4 days and 3 nights and will provide children with the amazing opportunity of seeing the Northern Lights. They will visit the National Park and witness for themselves geysers, hot springs and the truly magical landscapes. The students will swim in a naturally heated lagoon and experience the capital city, Reykjavik. If you would like more information please contact **Mrs Crow**, Teacher of Geography.

And another.....

Smith's Wood Academy has recently been given the opportunity to send two pupils from the Academy on a newly launched English Literature themed First World War Battlefield Tour in October this year. Pupils taking part will have the chance to explore themes raised by writers including RC Sherriff, Michael Morpurgo and JRR Tolkien - as well as the best known, iconic First World War poets such as Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon. During the trip they will visit locations that inspired these works, including the Somme and the Menin Gate memorial. This will be an invaluable experience for our successful pupils. If interested please speak to **Mrs Meachin**, Teacher of English, in the first instance

- 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
- 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.
- Thursday 24th May - Castle Bromwich Juniors indoor athletics during the day at Smith's Wood Academy
- Open-to-all sports activities after school in April/May:
 - Mondays - fitness, archery, girls' football, athletics
 - Tuesdays – basketball
 - Wednesdays - trampolining, swimming, fitness, table tennis, badminton, rounders, Duke of Edinburgh
 - Thursdays - athletics, cricket, climbing

ADVANCE NOTICES

OUR ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16TH JULY AT 7.00PM – PLEASE ADD THE DATE TO YOUR DIARY.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DUE TO LEADERSHIP TRAINING REQUIREMENTS THE ACADEMIES IN FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST WILL CLOSE TO STUDENTS AT 1.15PM ON FRIDAY 22ND JUNE.

Staffing update

This term we have welcomed four new colleagues to the team; Mr Giles, Associate Assistant Head of Academy (Humanities), Mr Mistry, Deputy Head of Mathematics, Hayley Downing, Medical Advisor and Amelia Poyner an additional Education Support Officer to support families with attendance matters.

We have worked hard this year to recruit and retain Teachers of Mathematics. I am pleased to let you know that following a final appointment last week of a highly skilled Lead Practitioner for Mathematics we are fully staffed in Mathematics for September. We have in place a permanent team of 10 Maths teachers. A first for Smith's Wood!

I was also pleased to appoint recently a Deputy Head of English in readiness for September. Miss Niblett is a skilled practitioner who will provide important strategic leadership in collaboration with Mrs Corrigan.

In addition to these appointments a range of other appointments have been made and will continue to be made over the summer term. I will keep you updated.

2018-2019 TERM DATES

Monday 3 rd September 2018	INSET DAY 1
Tuesday 4 th September 2018	INSET DAY 2
Wednesday 5 th September 2018	Autumn term 1 begins
Friday 26 th October 2018	End of Autumn term 1
Monday 5 th November 2018	Autumn term 2 begins
Friday 23 rd November 2018	INSET DAY 3
Friday 21 st December 2018	End of Autumn term 2
Monday 7 th January 2019	Spring term 1 begins
Friday 15 th February 2019	End of Spring term 1
Monday 25 th February 2019	Spring term 2 begins
Friday 12 th April 2019	End of Spring term 2
Monday 29 th April 2019	Summer term 1 begins
Friday 3 rd May 2019	INSET DAY 4
Monday 6 th May 2019	May Bank Holiday
Friday 24 th May 2019	End of Summer term 1
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Summer term 2 begins
Friday 19 th July 2019	End of Summer term 2
Monday 22 nd July 2019	INSET DAY 5

Well done to Year 8 student, Joshua Smith. Joshua is hoping to represent Great Britain at Archery, in the Olympics. Joshua had his first outdoor shoot on the 8th of April at Wolverhampton Archers National Tournament and came home with the Gold Medal for his age Group. Joshua is a true inspiration; with his dedication and hard work that he gives in order to achieve his ultimate goal.



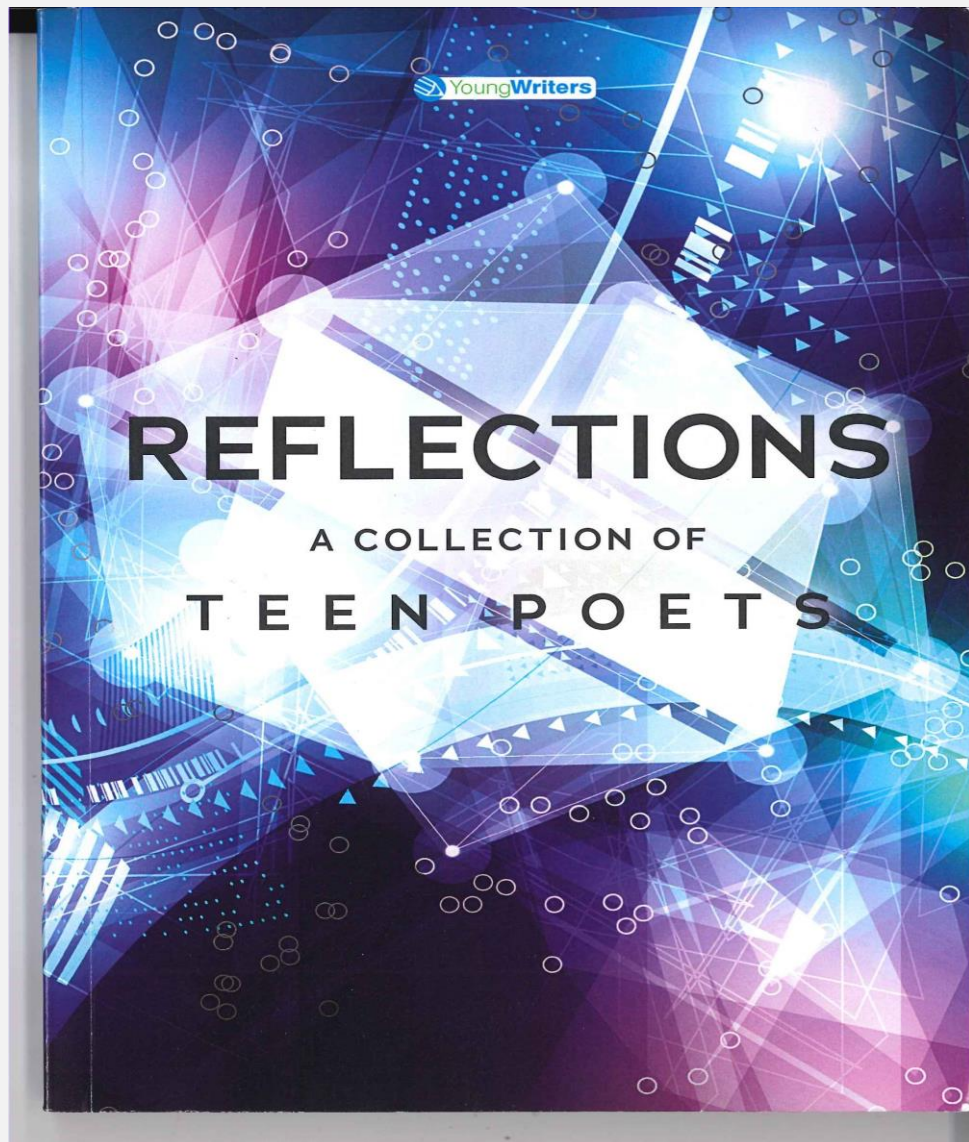
Warmer weather

As the warmer weather approaches (we hope!) I would like to remind parents and students that our uniform policy still applies. Students must bring their blazer to school every day; senior staff will then make the decision as to whether blazers can be removed depending on the temperature during the day. Thank you for your support with this.

Poetry competitions

"Can I have your autograph please?"

The journey from childhood to adulthood is a path of changes, with both hopes and dreams and difficult obstacles in the way. Our talented KS4 students, Nianda Robotham-Thomas and Holly Evans, explored their own identities through verse for the National Competition 'Teen Poetry'. Here, at Smith's Wood Academy, we are absolutely delighted that their poems have been chosen for publishing in the anthology 'Reflections- A Collection of Teen Poets'. The poetry of our girls show that "they are not simply potential poets of tomorrow but talented poets of today". Very well done girls!



Poetry Games

This competition was designed to inspire SWA students to write for what they believe in, voice their opinion or write about what ignites a passion within them.

Below are the results of spring term creative writing competition:

1st place: Leah- Mai Hughes (year 7) created her poem, 'hold on to your dreams' in her English lesson earlier this year.

2nd place: Chloe Weston (year 7) with her fun and entertaining poem "I woke up one morning feeling green".

3rd place Louis Burke (year 7) shared his love and enthusiasm for his dog "My pet".

Please enjoy this simple yet powerful poem from Leah-Mai:

*Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a clock
Which does not chime.*

*Hold fast to dreams
For if the dreams die
Life is a star
That does not shine.*

*Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams go
Life is a river
Which does not flow.*

*Hold fast to dreams
For if they go
Life is like a winter
Without any snow.*

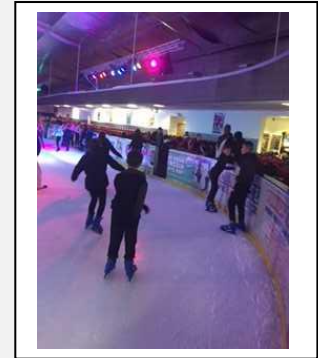
If you would like to participate in a poetry or writing competition, please see Mrs Morris or Mrs Watt in the English Department.

Attendance reward trips continue this half term!

Last term SWA students went ice-skating as a reward for their 100% attendance. This day proved to be an exciting and enjoyable experience described here by Danny Lee, Becky Chrimes and Kelsey Reid, Year 11, who practised their article writing skills for their forthcoming GCSE exams.

The Winner Takes it ALL!

Imagine you are on the ice-rink trying to perform the perfect pirouette in front of all your friends: your blades glide across the ice, each move is elegant and precise... imagine your friends tumbling and falling in their first feeble attempts to skate, having a fascinating, fantastic and fabulous time... Well, next time this could be you!



When the ice-skating trip day finally comes, you come into school with a blazing ball of joy and delight awkwardly hidden inside of you. On the 28th March 2018, at the start of the day the grey skies did not look particularly welcoming, yet the festive mood of our participants was determined to make everything and everyone amicable and friendly: teachers, pupils and even the coach drivers. The sun was like a child trying to play hide-and-seek with the clouds: one minute you see it, the next – you don't, but the pupils' spirits were high. Playful, joyous, jubilant!

Fact. The reward is there to encourage SWA students to be at school every day. Scientists from a local university state that pupils will work harder and get into school on time if there is a reward given.

Fact. Rewarding the students for maintaining their excellent attendance has shown to give them motivation to come to school, as well as being an incentive for those who do not yet have a good attendance.

Fact. The research into this subject shows that rewards make the child feel praised and appreciated. Value and respect are important to everyone.

The Head of SWA, Mrs Craig, is confident that rewarding students for their 100% attendance can motivate other students (who don't have a good attendance record) and will aim to improve the school attendance overall.

In an interview, Harvey (Year 7) said, "Our trip was great fun, because we were able to skate holding on to a polar bear or a penguin. Without them we would fall!" Libby B (Year 7) in her review wrote, "Lots of people fell over, I was on the floor 5 or 6 times, however the attendants were really helpful". Both interviewees were keen to return to 'dancing on ice' again.

And the rewards continue.....

Just a reminder that we are planning an end of year reward trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park at the end of the summer term (only 11 school weeks away!). To be eligible to attend students will need to have at least 97% attendance since the start of the academic year **or** 100% for the summer term. **Every** student has a chance of attending – their place is theirs to lose!

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or are finding it difficult to get your child in to school please contact us – we can help and really do want to help!

Attendance Rewards Trip

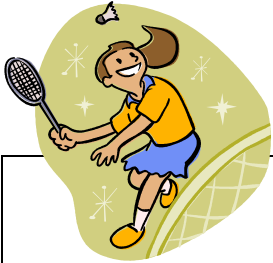
Pupils in Years 7 to 10 with **excellent attendance** will be awarded with a trip to Drayton Manor on

Thursday 19th July



Tickets and transport will be paid for

Places awarded if you have
at least **97%** attendance for the academic year
or **100%** attendance for the summer term (16th April - 19th July)





Extra-Curricular Programme Summer 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1:25 – 1:50 p.m.	Football – ATP JBU	Football – ATP RMC	Football – ATP LEL	Football – ATP RMC	Sports Council (RMC) Football – ATP CBA
After School 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Fitness Suite Archery Girls Football – All years (LEL) Athletics – All Years	Department Meetings  Basketball – External coach	‘Sport for All Wednesdays’ Trampoline Fitness Suite Swimming Table Tennis Badminton Rounders – All years D of E Training - GCU	Athletics – All Years Cricket – All years (CBA) Climbing Club (Creations) (GCU) 3:00 – 6:15pm BTEC catch up (PE Classroom)	Boys Football – Years 8 and 9 Skating/Scooter (Creations) (GCU) 3:00 - 6:15pm Basketball – All Years (RMC) – weeks 2, 4 & 6 

Inter House Competitions will be held on Tuesdays when there are no meetings