



Smith's Wood Newsletter - Spring Half Term 3

Message from our Principal – Mr Huntington

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank all the staff students and parents for their continued support as the school. Attendance and behaviour continue to improve, a recent external safeguarding audit was very complimentary of the school and the improvements that have been made. It's clear that safeguarding is now effective across the academy.

Last week we saw another colours ceremony, this time afterschool where a great turnout of staff and parents in recognising some fantastic achievements of students across all year groups.

Next half term will be just as busy and we are looking forward to another visit from Ofsted who will be able to see the continued drive to improve standards in all areas.

Have a restful and safe break.

Mr Huntington

Upcoming Events

- Monday 19th February - Spring half term 4 begins.
- Monday 19th February – Y11 Mock exams begin.
- Wednesday 21st February – Y10 Parents evening.
- Monday 4th March – Careers week.
- Thursday 7th March – Drop down day – Students off timetable.
- Friday 8th March – INSET Day – SWA Not open to students.
- Friday 15th March – Principal/Parent coffee morning.
- Monday 18th March – Y11 Reports.
- Wednesday 20th March – Y7 Parents evening.
- Friday 22nd March – Spring half term 4 ends.
- Monday 8th April – Summer half term 5 begins.

Please see our lunch menu available from our school canteen – [Lunch menu](#) – We will be on the week 3 menu when we return to school on Monday 19th February.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

Day	Lunch – 1.20 – 1.55pm	After school – 3 – 4pm (unless stated)
Monday	Rock Band – Music Art Club – Y7 – CA3	Basketball – All Years – Gym Netball – All Years – Sports Hall Football – Y7 – Astro Art Club – KS3 – 3 – 3.45pm
Tuesday	Board Games Club – Y8 – Careers Zone IT Club – Y8 – W2	Football – Y8 – Sports Hall Fitness – All Years Eco Club – KS3 – H8 Rock Band – Y9-10 – Music Science Club – 3.15 – 4pm – S9
Wednesday	Rock Band – Music Board Games Club – Y7 – Careers Zone	Badminton – All Years – 4 – 5pm – Sports Hall Girls Football – All Years
Thursday	Practice Sessions – Music Chess Club – S5 Board Games Club – Careers Zone	Basketball – All Years – Sports Hall Choir – 3 – 3.50pm Badminton – All Years – 4 – 5 pm – Sports Hall
Friday	Maths Club – KS3 – S2 Languages Club – Y7 – W2	Year 9-10 Football – Sports Hall

We would love to hear what other clubs our students would like us to offer. These suggestions can be put forward to our School Leadership team to discuss our School Council meetings or students can speak to their Form Tutor and Achievement Team.

Attendance Focus

Attendance remains a key focus for us a school. We have explained in previous newsletters the importance of attendance. We know that the more students are in school, the more likely it is they will be successful.

Please see the table below which indicates the impact on learning time due to absence (this is based on the attendance for the whole academic year).

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed (1 hour each)
97%	6	1 week 1 day	30
94%	10	2 weeks	50
90%	19	3 weeks 4 days	95
85%	29	5 weeks 4 days	145
80%	38	7 weeks 3 days	190
75%	48	9 weeks 3 days	240
70%	57	11 weeks 2 days	285

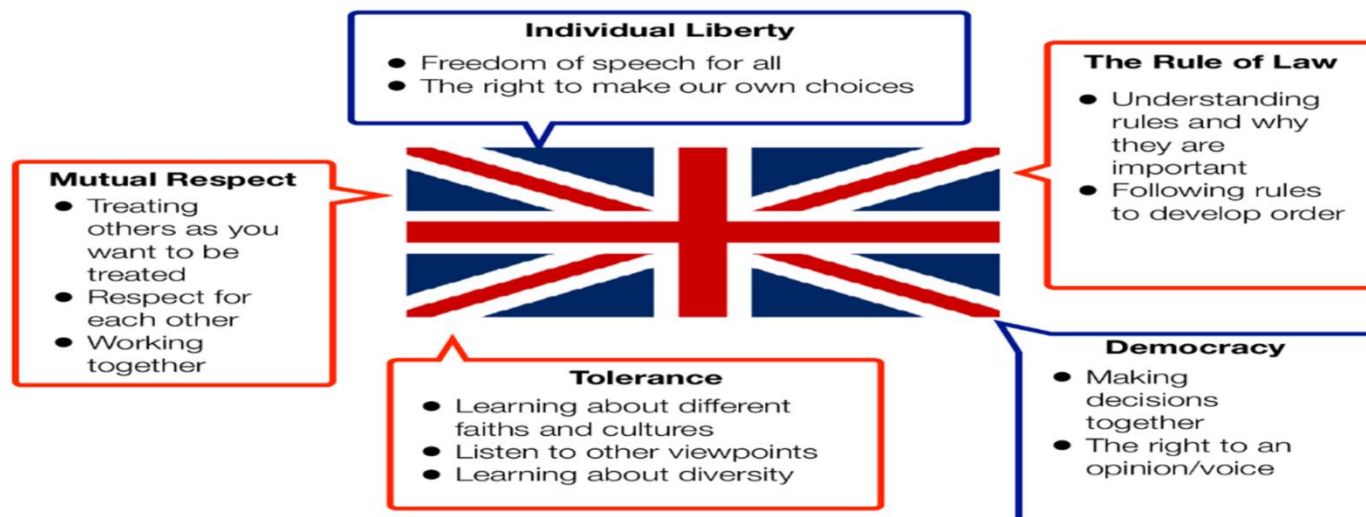
If you have any questions, please contact the Attendance Team – sw-attendance@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

Mr Martin – Assistant Principal

Assembly Focus

Each week students will have an assembly with their year group. We cover a range of topics within our assemblies which aim to develop our students academically, pastorally and holistically. They are a fantastic opportunity for us to communicate our school values and bring the year group together as a community. Assemblies link to our British Values. Teaching British values to children improves their spiritual, moral social, and cultural (SMSC) development. British values underpin what it is to be a British citizen in a modern and diverse Britain and promote moral and cultural understanding that celebrates the diversity of the UK.

British Values



Assemblies during Spring Half Term 3:

15/1/2024	Welcome back – Smith's Wood Expectations	Mr Martin & Mr Stone & Achievement teams
22/1/2024	Homework	Mr Friswell
29/1/2024	Duke of Edinburgh, PSHE & Safeguarding	Miss Weightman & Ms Tucker
5/2/2024	Celebration Assembly	Achievement teams

Library Focus

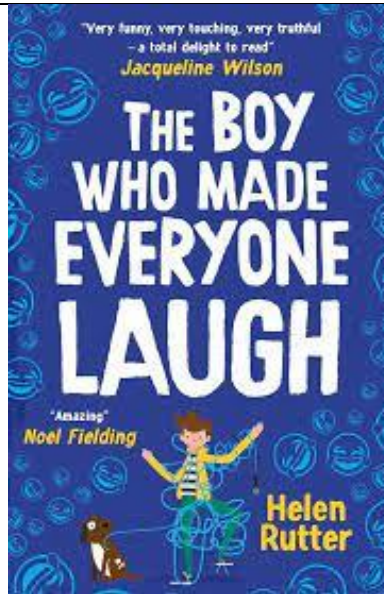
This term we have carried out a phased opening of the library for Years 7, 8 and 9. We have had a positive response from students who visited the library and it's been amazing to see so many students talk enthusiastically about books they love. They have all had the opportunity to borrow a book, on loan for two weeks.

We have also seen the start to the Equality club, which meets every Wednesday lunch time, along with anti-bullying ambassadors meeting on Mondays and Fridays.

Next term the library will be open to the whole school, and preparation is underway to celebrate World Book Day 7th March 2024, and many more events to come.

Mrs East – School Librarian

Book Club



Book Review – Mrs East – School Librarian

Book Title – The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Author – Helen Rutter

Review

Billy Plimpton is 11 years old and dreams of being a stand-up comedian. The only problem is, he has a stammer. When Billy starts secondary school, he tries everything to fit in and go unnoticed. He even tries everything possible to cure his stammer but eventually he can't hide it for long and the school bully singles him out. When Billy plucks up the courage to enter the school talent show, will he be able to perform?

From the beginning you are made aware of Billy's passion for telling jokes and you really want him to succeed. How his stammer impacts him in everyday life was both eye opening and thought provoking for me. I began to understand Billy's frustration.

I love how every chapter starts with a joke. This book was funny and touching at times.

Recommend reading list

Students – [KS3 – Recommended reading list](#) [KS4 – Recommended reading list](#)

Parents/Carers – [Must reads: 50 best books of all time – Pan Macmillan](#)

Academy Colours Awards Ceremony – 5th February 2024



Our 22nd biannual awards ceremony took place on Monday 5th February, 4pm to 5pm, with **66 Year 9,10 & 11 awardees** present and over **100 parents and carers**. This was the first time in its history that the ceremony was held after school and the atmosphere in the theatre was electric. The entire core leadership team of the Academy were present: something that was impossible to achieve during a school-time ceremony.

A graphic titled 'Colours - Hall of Fame' for Smith's Wood Academy. The top left features the academy's logo (four vertical red bars and the text 'SMITH'S WOOD ACADEMY'). To the right, the title 'Colours - Hall of Fame' is written in a large, bold, red font. Below the title, a white rectangular box contains a list of award recipients, organized by the number of Colours they have earned. The background is dark with colorful bokeh light effects.

8 Colours - Lucy Male (July 2018), Georgia Hasker (July 2019)

7 Colours - James Bott (July 2016), Gilana Tipper (July 2019)

6 Colours - Liam Wetton (Feb 2015), Chrissy Evans (Feb 2017), Aimee -Mae Jukes, Ben Townsend (July 2021)

5 Colours - Matty Carter, Thomas Newbold (July 2014), Louis Price, Luke Sheldon (July 2016), Kye Adams, Christopher Green, Thomas Harwood, Katie Roney (Feb 2017), Lewis Carlin, Ethan Chu, Chloe Sheldon, Luke -Henry Thomas (Jan 2019), Robyn King (July 2019), Ann -Marie Lewis, Daniel Locke (Jan 2020), Katie Boyce, Tamzin Clarke, Jasmine Field, Sere Kaba (July 2021), Casey Handley, Emily Winton (July 2022), Mason Silver (Mar 2023), Shabenoor Shahbaz (Mar 2023), Hayley Bradley, Ruby Simms (Feb 2024)

4 Colours - Harry Carter, Laura Price (Feb 2014), Chloe Collins, Amy Hackett (July 2014), Tia Bramwell, Tia Buxton, Amy Carlin, Loren Frost, Lacie Millward, Mia Wade, Alice Ward (Feb 2015), Brandon Carlin, Deanna Chalmers, Nicholas Jackman (July 2015), Jayce Whittam (Feb 2016), Kristiana Hall (July 2016), Dylan Garfield, Amelia Northall, Vinnie Stowe, Caitlin Wiffen (Feb 2017) Charley Bramwell (Jan 2018), Sam Harris, Oliver Hatch, Joshua James, Ben McAvoy, Mason Rogers (July 2018), Alex Rose (Jan 2019), Liam Caldicott, Leigh Davis, Joyante Dunrod, Holly Evans, Emily Hart, Demi Russell, Jacob -Daniel Smith (July 2019), Jack Rolph, Ella Thomas, Shaun Wiffen (Jan 2020), Alisson Charlot, Daniella Vale (Jan 2021), Kacey McHugh (Feb 2022), Chloe Harris, Toni Harris, Jack Hendry, Sarah Mustafa, Grace Summers, Tanveer Vohra (July 2022), Nathan Rose (July 2023), Kacey Brayson, Millie Johnson, Kenny Le, Rebekah Milner, Taegan Thomas, Nathan Ware (Feb 2024)

Academy Colours Awards Ceremony – 5th February 2024

What makes 'Academy Colours' different to other awards at Smith's Wood is the **commitment over time** that the recipient needs to have demonstrated. Typically, students will have shown real **dedication** to the work within a particular faculty for staff to consider nominating them for the **faculty award**. This makes Colours extremely **prestigious** to win. This is reflected in the Colours display on the central corridor of the Academy.

In addition to a certificate, students receive a specially designed cloth badge to be worn on the blazer lapel, recognising which faculty (or faculties) have made the award. Over time, some students who have made **exemplary progress** in a variety of areas of the Academy will receive a 'rainbow' of colours on their lapels.



Many thanks to staff who assisted at the ceremony: **Miss Beaumont, Mrs Hamill-Moss, Mrs Hayward, Ms Kkama, Miss Smith, Mr Trafford, and Miss Weightman.**

Mr McIlwraith – Teacher of PE & Maths

Extra-curricular clubs

Best attenders at sports clubs so far this year

Badminton

- 22 – Amaya T, Taegan T
- 14 – Charlee-Jay S, Joey V
- 11 – Darnell A, Logan B, Zach W

Twenty-two other students have attended 1+ badminton sessions.

Basketball

- 23 – Mason S
- 21 – Raf L
- 20 – Ayo A

Thirty-seven other students have attended 1+ basketball sessions.

Fitness

- 11 – Kristian P, Ava E
- 10 – Henry J
- 9 – Alfie D

One hundred and four other students have attended 1+ fitness sessions.

Mr McIlwraith – Teacher of PE & Maths

Extra-curricular upcoming fixtures

After school except where indicated

- Year 7/8 indoor athletics competition on Monday 19th February at North Solihull Sports Centre, departing school at 12.30pm.
- Ready, Steady, Swim! (Inter-house swimming gala) on Tuesday 27th February.
- Cross-country relays at St Peter's on Thursday 29th February.
- Indoor rowing for Year 7-10 girls, held at Fordbridge Primary, Tuesday 5th March.
- Year 7-9 basketball tournament for girls, hosted here at Smith's Wood Academy, Monday 11th March.
- Indoor rowing for Year 7-10 boys, held at Fordbridge Primary, Tuesday 12th March.
- Cross-country final league race at Light Hall on Thursday 21st March.
- One further under 15 basketball league match to be completed by Easter, versus Tudor Grange Solihull.

Extra-curricular clubs

Fitness championships review ("Fit's a Knockout!")



16th January - what a result! **Medals all round!**

Girls – runners-up in North Solihull (6 schools) – Riley H, Esther I, Marta K, Luna N, Ellie T, Lola W

Boys – third place in North Solihull (6 schools) – Darnell A, Jack B, Kian E, Jamie M, Kristiyan P, Lleyton W

Basketball review

Our senior basketball team made great progress this half term, scoring their highest ever total in a borough match against Arden (34).

Team members: Ayo A, Kylie G, Raf L, Arinze N, Sabih R, Mason S, Mohammed S, Parminder S, Alfie-Jay V, Toby-Jai W.



Extra-curricular clubs

Sports leadership review

Our wonderful Year 7 sports leaders guided, steered, demonstrated, encouraged, inspired at the infant agility event on 12th January at North Solihull Sports Centre.

“Just wanted to drop a note to once again thank you for helping out Friday. I thought the Year 7 sports leaders were fab and really represented the school well.” Chris Shipway, organiser.

Joelyn A, Darnell A, Joseph B, Cavaughn B, Logan B, Jessica B, Sienna C, Dalton C, Saskai H, Macey-Mai L, Lilly L, Valery O, Kyron P, Ethan V, Zach W, Ibrahim Z.



The team of Year 7 sports leaders were joined by Nothando N and our excellent basketball referees (Ayo A, Kylie G, Raf L, Mason S, Alfie-Jay V) to officiate the Year 5 basketball tournaments held at Smith's Wood Academy on 25th and 29th January. These wonderful students are a credit to our school and to our community – brilliant leadership!



Mr McIlwraith – Teacher of PE & Maths

Science Club

Fireworks



Chromatography



Dissection



Year Group Focus – Year 10

This term has seen year 10 completing their first ever formal exams. They should be commended for their impeccable behaviour throughout the mock exam series and should be proud of themselves. The next mock series will start on June 17, 2024. This will be all subjects in the hall and other rooms which are used for access arrangements.

Following on from this, we are looking forward to meeting all parents and carers in our parents evening on February 21, 2024. This will be face-to-face in our theatre and will provide parents/carers with the best opportunity of having a sit-down conversation about progress, behaviour and attitude to learning for each student.

In the previous newsletter, Mr Huntington shared the uniform policy and we would like to highlight that we will continue to follow this. We ask that students arrive to school in full uniform (including blazer) along with a school bag, equipped with their Ready to Learn packs.

We will continue to push attendance forward with our calls first thing each day for absences along with meetings once a student's attendance falls below the national average. Attendance, coupled with behaviour in year 10 will count towards an invite to the Prom at the end of year 11.

Year 10 has a lot of students who are constantly making positive decisions each day and we hope that this can be reflected in their successes for the remainder of the year and leading into year 11.

Mr Rose & Mrs Craddock - Achievement Leader & Assistant Achievement Leader – Year 10

Solihull EHCP DROP-IN

21st February,
9.30am -12.30pm.
The Loft,
Chelmsley Wood.



This is an opportunity for parent carers or young people to come and talk to professionals and ask for advice. This can be about SEND support, EHCP's, health, social care.

Attending will be members of the EHCP team, Educational Psychology, Childrens Disability Team and Health.

Solihull Parent Carer Voice will also be attending if you would like to talk to us.

Subject Focus – Science

Science at KS4

Within Key Stage 4 Science, Year 10 students have recently concluded their inaugural formal science exams, with many surpassing their anticipated grades. Concurrently, Year 11 is gearing up for the February mocks, concentrating on physics paper 1 and chemistry paper 2.

Presently, Year 10 students are delving into the intricacies of electricity. Beyond theoretical understanding, they actively participate in constructing electric circuits. This exploration encompasses the application of electrical power in modern life, covering artificial light, sound, information, entertainment, and the National Grid, thereby infusing a practical dimension into their studies.

Witness the exceptional work of our KS4 students, showcasing their hands-on exploration of energy and the application of theoretical concepts in real-life scenarios.

Tuesday 5th December 2023
What is law of conservation of energy?

DNA

1. Energy stored by a moving object is kinetic energy. ✓
2. The main energy transfer for an apple falling from a tree is gpe to kinetic. ✓
3. The main energy transfer for a long-distance runner is chemical → kinetic energy. ✓
4. The components are connected in one loop. ✓
5. Speed is how fast something moves. ✓

MS

1. The law of conservation can't be destroyed or created, only transferred from one store to the other. ✓
2. Energy is measured joules
3. $3.6 \times \frac{1,000,000}{1000} = 3600,000$
4. $5750 \div 100 = 57.5 \text{ kJ}$

$20 - 18 = x$
 $10 + 8 + x = 20$

1. The law of conservation means energy can't be destroyed or created. ✓
2. dissipated is the term that means energy is wasted ✓
3. 2403 ✓

$5 \div 1000$

Deliberate Practice

1. thermal ✓
2. 6.8 MJ ✓
3. thermal ✓
4. $5 \times 1000 = 5000$

The energy stored in the washing machine is electrical energy. The energy

Wednesday 6th December 2023
What is Work Done?

Work Done = Resultant force applied \times Distance moved in the same direction as force

(J) (N) (m)

Making Sense

1. The work done is the amount of energy transferred to an object. ✓
2. Force \times Distance ✓
3. aka Joules ✓
4. mass and distance ✓ distance and force

1. $5 \text{ N} \times 10 \text{ m} = 50 \text{ J}$
2. $50 \text{ N} \times 30 \text{ m} = 1500 \text{ J}$

Science at KS3

Within Key Stage 3 Science, Year 9 students are engrossed in the detailed study of the periodic table, a vital instrument for understanding the physical and chemical properties of elements. The historical expedition through the development of the periodic table and models of atomic structure offers a captivating insight into the evolution of scientific ideas over time.

Explore the brilliant minds of our KS3 students as they unravel the mysteries of the periodic table and delve into models of atomic structure, showcasing their enthusiasm for scientific exploration

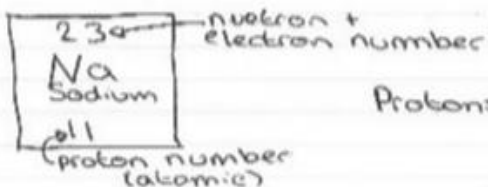
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What is electronic structure?

L.O:

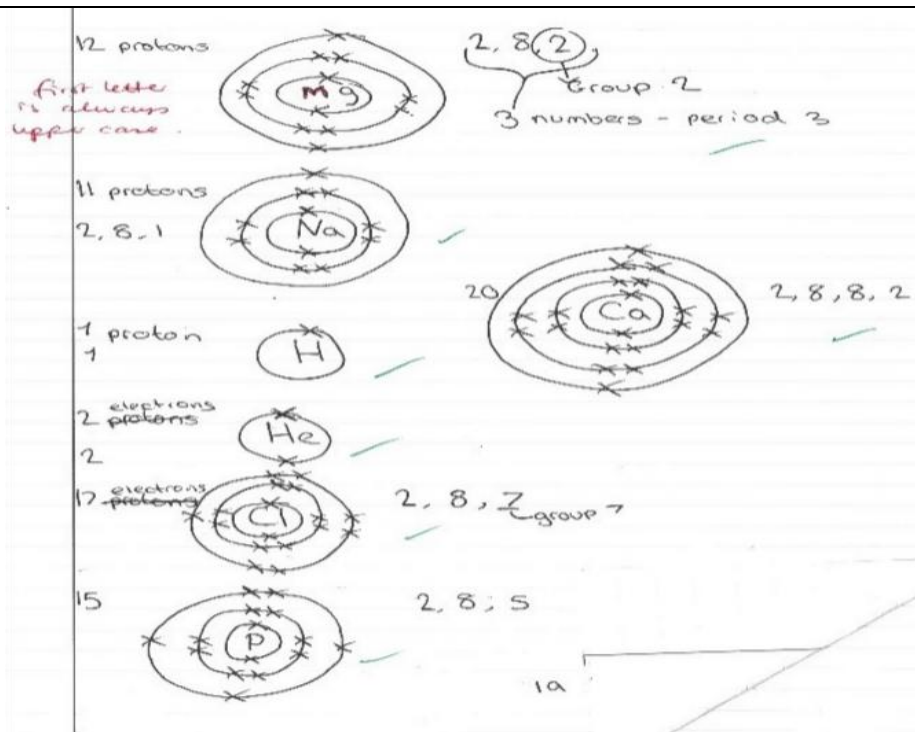
dna

- 1 sodium hydroxide + hydrochloric acid \rightarrow sodium chloride + water
reactants \rightarrow sodium hydroxide + hydrochloric acid \checkmark
- 2 $\text{Na} + \text{Cl}_2 \rightarrow \text{NaCl}$
 $2\text{Na} + \text{Cl}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NaCl}$ \checkmark
- 3 $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
 $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8 + 5\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 3\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ \checkmark
- 4 A pure substance is made of one type of atom or one compound



1st shell - 2
2nd shell - 8
3rd shell - 8
Fluorine - 9 protons
2, 7





This scientific intrigue extends to Year 7, where the focus is on renewable and finite energy resources. Subsequently, they will delve into disparities between metals and non-metals, along with exploring reactions between metals and acids. Simultaneously, Year 8 students are concluding their current physics unit and preparing for an exploration of the captivating world of plants. This includes topics such as pollination, fertilisation, and broader ecological concepts like interdependence, germination, habitats, food chains, and food webs.

Science Homework

A commendation to Year 11 students for recognising the correlation between homework completion and improved grades, particularly those consistently completing their GCSE Pod homework. A gentle reminder to all students to ensure the timely completion of their science homework. Home learning is not just a task; it's a pivotal step towards a more profound understanding, laying the groundwork for success in the world of science.

Mr Ashraf - Faculty Leader – Science

You can find out more details about what we study in Science and all other subjects at Smith's Wood [Curriculum Plans – Smith's Wood Academy \(smithswood.co.uk\)](http://smithswood.co.uk)

