



INTHEKNOW

25th May 2018

www.smithswood.co.uk



Message from the Head of Academy

It has been my absolute pleasure this week to reward so many of our students for their excellent attendance. Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a visit to the cinema and Year 9 students honed their ice-skating skills. I hope also that Year 10 students enjoy spending their well-deserved gift vouchers over the half term break. Please do continue to support your children in achieving and maintaining good attendance; it really does make all of the difference to their academic achievement and their well-being.

We have a very exciting half-term ahead in terms of recognising all of the incredible things that our students achieve. Key dates for celebratory events include;

- Thursday 28th June: Year 11 Graduation Ceremony
- Friday 29th June: Year 11 Promenade at Drayton Manor
- Thursday 12th July: Academy Colours
- Monday 16th July: Annual Awards Ceremony
- Thursday 19th July: Attendance rewards trip to Drayton Manor (Free of charge)

I would also like to invite all of those children with 100% attendance and no behaviour points to afternoon tea with myself at the Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel. This will take place on Tuesday 10th July. To achieve both of these things is an incredible achievement and I would like to say a personal thank you to these young people.

Staff at the Academy have organised a family day out next half term; we would very much like it if you could join us. We plan to visit Dovedale in the Peak District on Saturday 7th July, leaving school at around 8.30am. We will travel by coach, enjoy the countryside and hopefully some sunshine as we walk along the River Dove. Please do try to join us.



I hope you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend and that the children enjoy their half term holiday. Year 11 – revision has to be your priority and all of you need to stay safe!

I look forward to seeing all of the children on Monday 4th June.

Mrs K Craig
Head of Academy

YEAR 7

- Precious Lives Presentation by Rob Pedley from West Midlands Police – 5th June 2018 at 12.20pm in the Theatre. This is an excellent and very informative presentation relating, in part, to knife and gun crime. It is very sensitively delivered, but some children may be sensitive to the content. If you would prefer your child not to take part then please let Mrs Phillipa Brookes, Designated Safeguarding Lead, know in advance.
- Monday 4th June - pole vault session at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre 5.30pm to 8.00pm (for selected Year 7 & Year 8 pupils)
- Wednesday 6th June - Diamond League Athletics 3 of 3 (Year 7 & 8) at North Solihull Sports Centre
- Thursday 7th June - borough swimming championships (Years 7 to 10) at Tudor Grange Baths during the morning
- Saturday 9th June - county athletics championships (Years 7 to 11) at Alexander Stadium
- Monday 11th June - pole vault session at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre 5.30pm to 8.00pm (for selected Year 7 & Year 8 pupils)

YEAR 8

- Monday 4th June - pole vault session at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre 5.30pm to 8.00pm (for selected Year 7 & Year 8 pupils)
- Wednesday 6th June - Diamond League Athletics 3 of 3 (Year 7 & 8) at North Solihull Sports Centre
- Thursday 7th June - borough swimming championships (Years 7 to 10) at Tudor Grange Baths during the morning
- Saturday 9th June - county athletics championships (Years 7 to 11) at Alexander Stadium
- Monday 11th June - pole vault session at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre 5.30pm to 8.00pm (for selected Year 7 & Year 8 pupils)



Introduction to Careers planning website for Year 9.

www.startprofile.com

Mrs O'Donnell has started to introduce the **Startprofile** career planning website to Year 9 students via PSHE lessons. This is a website for students to **start** thinking about the types of careers open to them after Year 11. Students register, create their own profile and work through the modules answering a series of questions; on completion it will provide job/careers matches based on their answers.

World of Stem

50 Year 9 students will get the chance to attend Birmingham City University in June to participate in the 'World of Stem'. Students will have the opportunity to experience a 45 minute interactive, explosive, live-action show performed by one of the country's leading science performers. After the show they will have the opportunity to explore an exhibition of over 30 STEM based employers.

JLR Work Experience

Well done to Kelly Greathead and Melissa Hasker who recently completed a week of Work Experience at JLR. Both girls represented themselves and the Academy in an exceptional fashion – thank you girls.



- Tuesday 5th June - rounders (Year 9 girls) at CTC
- Thursday 7th June - borough swimming championships (Years 7 to 10) at Tudor Grange Baths during the morning
- Saturday 9th June - county athletics championships (Years 7 to 11) at Alexander Stadium

- The decision was taken this year to remove Year 10 Work Experience from term time. Work experience can be a valuable learning tool for many young people and we understand that students may still wish to undertake a work placement out of term time. If you would like support from the Academy to source a work placement during the school holiday then we would be more than happy to offer support and guidance particularly regarding placements, and ensuring the relevant health and safety checks. Please contact Mrs O'Donnell.
- Thursday 7th June - borough swimming championships (Years 7 to 10) at Tudor Grange Baths during the morning
- Saturday 9th June - county athletics championships (Years 7 to 11) at Alexander Stadium
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- **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.
- 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. Please support if you can.
- Saturday 9th June - county athletics championships (Years 7 to 11) at Alexander Stadium
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End of year exams commence the week beginning Monday 18th June for all students in Years 7 to 10. Year 10 students will be undertaking Trust Wide mock examinations.

The Annual Race for Life event takes place on Friday 13th July, following our Sports Day. It would be great if parents and carers could join us for the Race for Life Event to support a charity that is close to the hearts of many of us.



A plea from staff.....

We all have bad days, and we all have days when we get home and need to offload to our family – children are no different. Please do bear in mind that the version of events you hear at home may not be the same as the reality. For this reason, we would encourage families to wait before judging a situation and seek out the truth before reacting. Our children need to know that the adults at home and school will handle issues with consistency and with a team approach. Please support our staff in reiterating this message at home and trusting that our staff will handle issues in school with fairness and in accordance with our policies.

Safeguarding update

Please see link below to a website regarding County Lines: "Why drug phenomenon has hit Wales so hard".

Young people in Smith's Wood and surrounding areas are at risk of this growing issue that often results in violent confrontation.

Learn to recognise the signs of this issue and report any concerns to the Academy DSL, Mrs Phillipa Brookes, immediately.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-44127068>



What are County Lines?

www.bbc.co.uk

Why Wales is being hit so hard by the drugs phenomenon that became a national issue virtually overnight.

Open-to-all sports activities after school in May/June:

Mondays - fitness, archery, girls' football, athletics

Tuesdays - basketball

Wednesdays - trampolining, swimming, fitness, table tennis, badminton, rounders, Duke of Edinburgh

Thursdays - athletics, cricket, climbing

Fridays - basketball, boys' football (Years 8/9), badminton by invitation, skating/scootering

ADVANCE NOTICES

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.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE ACADEMY WILL ALSO CLOSE EARLY ON THURSDAY 28TH JUNE FOR THE YEAR 11 GRADUATION CEREMONY.

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.

Diana Award Mentoring Programme – feedback

I would like to share the feedback below received from the Sean Whan, Youth Facilitator of the Diana Award Mentoring Programme:

My name is Sean Whan and I am currently based at your school delivering the Diana Award Mentoring Programme. As we are now a third of the way through I just wanted to let you know what a privilege it is to be based at your school and how much I am enjoying the sessions with your students. I would very much like to highlight and thank the input from Joanna Palmer who has been incredibly supportive towards the programme and has helped me to deliver successful sessions. I am particularly impressed by her patience and attention given to the pupils within the session; she is a great reflection of your school.

Thank you Mrs Palmer and those students involved with this very important project.

OTHER NOTICES

Attendance reward trips continue this half term!

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 8 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!

ATTENDANCE