



INTHEKNOW

16th November 2018

www.smithswood.co.uk



Message from the Head of Academy

A real highlight of the last couple of weeks have been the events that our students contributed to as part of our remembrance events. Each child wrote a personal message on a poppy as part of a daily assembly that was delivered by 3 amazing students who had recently visited the battlefields. The poppies were displayed in reception and in other areas of the school. The artwork that was produced was exceptional – very much from the heart!





Just a very quick note to thank you for your support this week in providing your child with a reusable sports bottle to bring their water to school in. We had been considering for some time removing disposable water bottles from the canteen due to the impact they have on the environment. More and more of our students are taking an active interest in their environment and many were keen to launch this as an initiative.

Thank you also to our Anti-bullying Ambassadors who organised an odd socks day on Friday in support of anti-bullying week. It was lovely to see so many children getting behind this very important cause.

Please do remember that we have an INSET day on Friday 23rd November – the school is closed to children. Students must, however, ensure that they attend every other day next week. The invites for the end of term attendance treat will be issued shortly!

Mrs K Craig
Head of Academy

YEAR 7

- 21st November – RSC live streaming of 'Romeo & Juliet' for students with Golden Tickets
- 23rd November – Inset Day, School Closed
- 26th – 30th November – Midyear Assessments
- 6th December – Christmas Music Concert 18.00 – 20.00
- 11th December – Parents' Forum 18.00 – 19.00
- 11th December – PTA Meeting 17.30 – 18.30

YEAR 8

- **20th November 6.00pm – Year 8 Option Information Evening**
- 21st November – RSC live streaming of 'Romeo & Juliet' for students with Golden Tickets
- 23rd November – Inset Day, School Closed
- 26th – 30th November – Midyear Assessments
- 6th December – Christmas Music Concert 18.00 – 20.00
- 11th December – Parents' Forum 18.00 – 19.00
- 11th December – PTA Meeting 17.30 – 18.30

YEAR 9

- 21st November – RSC live streaming of 'Romeo & Juliet' for students with Golden Tickets
- 23rd November – Inset Day, School Closed
- 3rd – 14th December – Mock Exams
- 6th December – Christmas Music Concert 18.00 – 20.00
- 11th December – Parents' Forum 18.00 – 19.00
- 11th December – PTA Meeting 17.30 – 18.30

YEAR 10

- 23rd November – Inset Day, School Closed
- 3rd – 14th December – Mock Exams
- 6th December – Christmas Music Concert 18.00 – 20.00
- 11th December – Parents' Forum 18.00 – 19.00
- 11th December – PTA Meeting 17.30 – 18.30

YEAR 11

- 12th – 22nd November – Mock Exams
- 23rd November – Inset Day, School Closed
- 12th December – Parents Evening
- 6th December – Christmas Music Concert 18.00 – 20.00
- 11th December – Parents' Forum 18.00 – 19.00
- 11th December – PTA Meeting 17.30 – 18.30

Study Clubs

Science Study club takes place in S9 every Wednesday evening (3-4pm). Study Club support students in Years 7-9 with their weekly Study and can help those students in Years 10 and 11 with examination style questions.

Study Club for English is every Monday

Study Club for Maths is every Tuesday

Study Club for MFL runs every single day of the week

In addition, Science Club (Thursdays 3.05pm – 3.45pm) in S16 for Years 7, 8 & 9 where there will be different experiments carried out every week.

After half term:

There will be some guidance sessions (8.40am to 9am) available for invited students to come along and benefit from additional numeracy and/or literacy sessions, social skills sessions and handwriting club - days and venue TBC

There will also be an Inclusion and Access afterschool study club – day and venue TBC

Pupil Parent Reading Group Course

Taking place over 3 Wednesdays in November and December, for specific Year 7 pupils, letters have been sent out via My Ed. Remaining sessions :-

Course Dates	Course timing	Course location
Wednesday 21 st November Wednesday 5 th December	5-6pm	Lower School Learning Centre, Smith's Wood Academy

Year 9

Explore Berlin!

Students in Year 9 had the chance to apply for a once in a life time opportunity to be selected to attend a fully funded trip to 'Explore Berlin'! In partnership with Aim Higher West Midlands. Students submitted their entries alongside many other schools in the West Midlands area and five Smith's Wood Academy students have been successful in securing a place. What an achievement! Congratulations to them all.

Aimee Mae Jukes
Anthony O'Brien
Cory Parton
Faith Till
Taylah McNally



These lucky young people will have the opportunity to broaden their horizons and see first-hand how accessing Higher Education can open doors to the whole world. They will head off February half term 2019 with students from 4 other West Midlands schools. In total 30 students will embark on this fantastic journey.

Where is Berlin?

Berlin is the capital and the largest city in Germany with a population of 3.7 million (which is coincidentally the exact same population as the wider Birmingham Metropolitan area). It is a modern, multicultural and cosmopolitan city that is home to world-renowned universities, orchestras, museums, and entertainment venues, and is host to many sporting events.

Berlin is filled with fascinating history and a city that reflects its part played in both the cold war, and world war one. Now it is commonly known as one of the most accepting and open minded cities in Europe, and is home to whole range of diverse communities. Berlin has a climate that makes it nice and warm in the summer, and can be icy cold in the winter. In February expected average temperatures are of 1°C. Luckily there are lots of wonderful places to visit or to wander around to keep warm in the cold weather, including the largest zoo in Europe, the famous Berlin TV tower, a range of interactive museums and street art walking tours. Students will be spending a full day at Humboldt University in Berlin and will get the opportunity to meet current UK students studying over there.

Students will keep a log of their journey and share it with the students of Smith's Wood Academy on their return through assemblies or mentor time.

haben Sie eine wunderbare Reise und genießen Sie!

Year 10

Work Experience

Thank you to the students who have handed in paperwork securing their work experience placements. Well done!

Work Experience is week commencing 15th July 2019 for 1 week. We would like all year 10 students to secure a placement. It is important for students to have an experience of the workplace before they leave school and this is an ideal opportunity for them to do this. We hope you can support your child in seeking a placement. Work experience packs have been distributed to all Year 10 Students during mentor time, they can pick up another one from Mrs O'Donnell if they have misplaced the original.

Year 11 - Aiming High

Elevate Education Study Skills Program helps students improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build confidence and lift exam performance.

Elevate Education are working with a number of Year 11 students to enhance study skills and support with exam preparation. The students attended their first work shop last week and will attend a series of workshops to support them in the run up to their exams in the summer term 2019.

Student feedback from the first workshop was very positive: 100% of students stated they would recommend it to other students and the time was well spent.

Kirsty stated 'it was very helpful for learning how to study efficiently'

Katie said 'it was very good 10/10'

Jake noted that 'he believes the program will improve exam results for those who choose to use it'.

Birmingham City University Mentoring Program

A University mentoring program has been launched this week for some Year 11 students. We welcomed 5 university graduate mentors who will be in school once a week to offer support to students as they get ready for their exams. The program includes study skills, revision, time management and future aspirations. The mentoring sessions will be student led to ensure pupils gain a valuable experience that supports their learning.

Extra-Curricular Sport Programme – Autumn 2018

	Extra-Curricular Sport Programme - Autumn 2018					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
After School	Fitness Suite Table tennis Archery Girls' Football Free Family Fitness (4.30pm to 5.30pm)	Meetings Boys' football (Year 7)	Trampolining Fitness Suite Table Tennis Badminton Netball	Boys' football (Year 8) Basketball Swimming BTEC catch up (PE Classroom)	Boys' Football (Years 9 and 10) Basketball Badminton Free Family Fitness (4.30pm to 5.30pm)	



Extra-Curricular Creative Arts Programme – Autumn 2018



Creative Arts Extra-Curricular Programme



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After School	Art: KS3 CA1 3-4pm Music: Choir (Mrs Haywards room) 3.10-4pm Sport: Fitness Suite Table tennis Archery Girls' Football Free Family Fitness (4.30pm to 5.30pm)	Boys' football (Year 7)	Art: KS4 CA3 3-4pm Music: Orchestra (Mrs Haywards room) 3.10-4pm Sport: Trampolining Fitness Suite Table Tennis Badminton Netball	Art: KS4 CA1 3-4pm Drama: KS3 3-4pm (Miss Wilsons room) Music: KS4 intervention/keyboard club (Mrs Haywards room) 3.10-4pm Sport: Boys' football (Year 8) Basketball Swimming	Music: KS4 intervention/keyboard club (Mrs Haywards room) 3.10-4pm Boys' Football (Years 9 and 10) Sport: Basketball Badminton Free Family Fitness (4.30pm to 5.30pm)



Iceland trip

There are 4 places remaining for the Geography trip to Iceland (open to students in Years 7 to 10). Please speak to Mrs Crow if you are interested.

Spain Watersports/MFL Trip 2019 – Years 8, 9 & 10

Activities include dinghy sailing, kayaking, canoeing, snorkelling as well as a day excursion to Barcelona. The trip includes all transport to and from school, full board and accommodation. If interested please contact Mrs Saunders or Mr Cushen as soon as possible.

Disposable Water Bottles



As of Tuesday 13th November, disposable water bottles are no longer allowed into school. Students are allowed to bring in reusable sports-type bottles only. The school is seeing an increase in litter and are keen to address the problem.

No water bottles, other than re-usable bottles, are allowed. If these are seen they will be confiscated.



SMITH'S WOOD
ACADEMY

Lunchtime arrangements

As you know, we introduced a split lunch in September. This has meant that lunchtime is managed much better – there is ample time for students to eat their lunch and relax prior to their next lesson. Unfortunately, break time is still very busy with 1000 students trying to purchase snacks in a space of 20 minutes. I would like to consult with parents about the potential of reducing the time students have at lunchtime by ten minutes and adding this time to break so that lunch is shorter but break is longer. Overall, children will have the same amount of 'free time'.

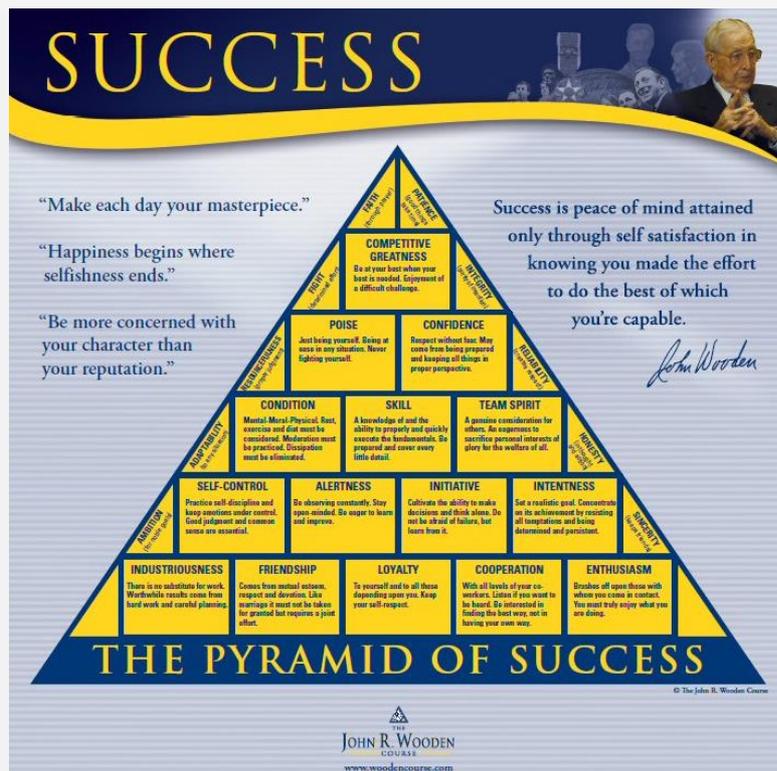
Staff are also being consulted at this time. Following the consultation, I will feedback to you our findings.

If you would like to express a view, please send us a message via the My Ed app.

Congratulations to the following **Year 10/11 badminton players**. The girls' team shared **first place** with Erdington in the FMAT tournament this evening. Our mixed team finished as **runners-up** in their competition.



Congratulations to our **Year 7/8 indoor rowers** for their outstanding effort on Tuesday evening at the girls' North Solihull championships. We did not win this year but we gave it a good leg drive, hip pivot and arm pull. Success, of course, can be measured beyond medals...success is peace of mind attained only through self satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you're capable...



English Department

"I dare do all that may become a man."

On the 25th of October, eighty-two year 11 students were invited by the English Department to attend the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon in order to participate in a workshop based on the play "Macbeth", part of their English GCSE course.

These workshops are delivered by RSC Education Associate Practitioners. They all have first-hand experience of RSC rehearsal room practice working as either actors, directors or theatre education specialists; so we were expecting a rewarding, educational and fun experience. We were not disappointed!

The four hour long (or was it short?) workshop started with a short warm up mirroring the RSC practitioners: claps, jumps and funny sounds, lots of "sss-swords and ss-serpents and "ambit-tions" which encouraged the young people to really get involved and work as a team.

Here the key themes of the play were introduced: the destruction wrought when ambition goes unchecked by moral restraints; complete with temptation, damnation, salvation, guilt and ghosts... exciting stuff!

Working as actors, students explored the plays in a practical way; unlocking language and characters just like the RSC do in their rehearsal rooms. Positioning on the stage, eye contacts, freeze frames; these and other techniques were explained to the students, who then tried them out.

With lots of giggles and mini-performances, it made Shakespeare's play approachable in a fun way, and the students were really getting involved.

Sometimes the unfamiliarity of Shakespearian language can make plays like "Macbeth" seem daunting and alien to students. It's not always easy to see how amazingly accessible and relevant these works remain today.

At Stratford, it was soon obvious from the engagement of the students that the work of our English department, to make these historic plays speak to a young and modern audience, was being brilliantly reinforced.

As the workshop continued, work focussed in more detail on the text; the language and key moments of the play.

The emphasis was firmly on using active, exploratory and problem-solving methods to bring the play to life for the students, and by now they were really getting their teeth into it.

Building on what had gone before; once again, they addressed Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's soliloquies, unpicking the language and the subtle inferences of the writing.

All too soon, it seemed, four hours had gone by and the workshop session was completed. Overall, this was a very valuable experience for the students.

The workshop session was designed to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the play, help them develop close reading skills, and support them in their exam preparation.

It succeeded in doing that; and not only that, everyone enjoyed themselves.

On a final note, congratulations must go to the 82 students involved for their excellent behaviour and the way they really engaged with the whole experience; they were a credit to themselves, SWA, and Mrs Watt for organising and running the trip.

English Department

A Christmas Carol

How often do you hear utterances and wishes of Merry Christmas in November, and how often do you bump into people in Victorian costumes?

Funnily enough, it happened at SWA twice this week!

Firstly, we were visited by a travelling theatre who offered their version of "A Christmas Carol", and then to finish off the week, a group of students went to Solihull to see a musical based on Dickens' famous story.

Jorja: *"I was so excited to have a theatre experience, I even cancelled my ice-skating!"*

"A Christmas Carol" is a very well-known and much loved story. With each new production of this tale often comes new interpretations; some unexpected, some arguable, some even downright outrageous - and in these two versions such differences could be seen.

The challenge our students faced was to sieve through the quotations used by actors and singers and identify (from memory!) which were correct, and which were adapted to suit the director's vision of the story.

This they did with enthusiasm and considerable success, much to their credit.

Gilana: *"I was so pleased to hear the lines we studied in school and in my mind I had almost a check list: will they mention 'prisons', 'working houses' or 'surplus population'? However, I couldn't find a reason for why in the musical, they used a different name (Emily) for Belle. You have to stay true to the writer."*

Unsurprisingly, both versions portrayed Scrooge as every bit the bitter and twisted man we expect, gleeful at the suffering of his employees; and in their feedback students said Scrooge was the most memorable character.

The musical version indulged in a couple of party tricks to enhance the supernatural elements of the plot; these were unashamedly gimmicky, like Marley flying or the appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Past. Its depiction of Fezziwig's Christmas party was definitely a highlight, full of colours, joy and high spirits.

Not to be outdone, the school performance was delivered with gusto, notably injecting some humour into the depiction of fire, and featuring the school's home-grown talents to great effect. Matthew (who took on the iconic role of Tiny Tim) and Jordan had both been "volunteered" to be a part of the play. Both boys rose to the challenge, and it certainly made the whole performance even more enjoyable.

Cory: *"It was funny and engaging."*

Michael: *"I enjoyed audience interaction."*

Laiton: *"It was a really good performance."*

Aymen: *"I really enjoyed the musical and the message that Dickens and the actors wanted to pass on to the viewers."*

The value of the visual art cannot be underestimated; at its heart it is bringing to life the characters from the pages, and these performances brought the story to life for the students in a way that really helped them enjoy, understand and interpret it.

Perhaps there is no better way to remind us all of the important message that Dickens sends to us from over a hundred years ago, and to ultimately deliver a feel-good factor with the up-beat ending.

Kieran *"Everyone can change their life."*

For our students, there was another feel-good factor: realising how much better they now understood their text and feeling well prepared for their next assessment.

All in all, an early dose of Christmas and Victorian costumes that proved very worthwhile!

Our thanks to all those involved in the organisation and the productions, and not least to our students for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm.

OPTIONAL KS3 Extended Study Project. To be completed in Practice Books or on separate paper. Please collect a Project booklet from tutors.

Overview:

To build on and develop independent study students in year 7, 8 and 9 are given the opportunity to complete an extended study project. The project will include a range of activities from English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities, which will develop skills in oracy, numeracy, investigation, research and written communication.

Students who complete the project will hand it in to their tutor by the given date (below).

Projects will be assessed by tutors against a pre written criteria (below) for 'effort in extended study' and student will receive a certificate and prize for their achievements in assembly.

The project:

All tasks are based around and feed into a main theme. The theme will not necessarily be linked to the topics of study for this term in each subject, they will however, be linked to the skills being developed throughout the term and will link to future or past learning to embed knowledge and skill development. Students are required to self-select the tasks they wish to complete with a guideline of one task to be completed biweekly. The tasks will range from investigations and writing a report of outcomes, creative writing and research.

Assessment:

Extended projects will be assessed for 'Effort in Extended study' using the criteria below.

Effort level	Descriptor
Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All tasks are presented to a high standard.• All tasks are completed to include new knowledge and show clear evidence of wider study around the topic• All tasks(at least one per 2 weeks) are complete and meet all requirements for each subject
Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most tasks are presented to a high standard.• most tasks are completed with many including new knowledge and some clear evidence of wider study around the topic• Most tasks(at least one per 2 weeks) are complete and meet most of requirements for each subject
Bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some tasks are presented to an acceptable standard.• some tasks are completed to include some new knowledge and show some evidence of wider study around the topic• some tasks are complete and meet the basic requirements for each subject

Deadlines:

English project: January 11th 2019

Science project: March 8th 2019

Maths project: May 2nd 2019

Humanities project: June 28th 2019



The following rewards will be running this half term;

1. **Star of the Week**, which is where, each week, each department, nominates one student that has shone in lessons. They are rewarded with 250 Vivos credited to their account to spend in the Vivo shop
2. **The Golden Table** - 8 pupils nominated from each year to receive a cooked or continental breakfast during the final week of half term. Pupils are nominated by their mentors or Excellence Leads for their conduct in and around school and for generally being a lovely pupil who doesn't get the recognition they deserve.
3. **Reward Assemblies** at the end of half term - At the end of the half term each year group shall have a reward/celebration assembly. In each year, each department, one pupil's for effort and another for progress, rewards pupils. Each reward winner gets a signed certificate by the Head of Academy and is entered into a draw where one winner will win a Kindle.
4. **100% Attendance Postcards** - At the end of each month pupils who have 100% attendance are sent postcards signed by their Excellence Leads
5. **Rewards Postcards** - to be sent home when pupils have completed the rewards section of their standards and ethos cards.

Golden Table write up;

In the previous half term, eight pupils from each year were invited to our new rewards initiative called the Golden Table. Pupils were nominated by their Excellence Leads and Mentors for their excellence in and around the Academy, for showing resilience, community work and for generally being a really pleasant student who doesn't get the recognition they deserve. The Golden Table last half term was a full English breakfast. Pupils were off timetable for Period one, and were able to sit down relax and enjoy their rewards breakfast along with some members of

our SLT. All enjoyed their morning and it was a very pleasant atmosphere to start the day for those 40 deserved winners. We look forward to rewarding another 40 this half term!

Ice Skating rewards trip write up:

The final two days of last half term there were two rewards trips, which were, ran to Planet Ice in Solihull. On the Thursday years 8 and 10 and on the Friday years 7 and 9 who had 100% attendance for the half term had the option to go ice-skating for the afternoon. On both days over 120 pupils took up the offer and had a very enjoyable time and an excellent way to round off what was a very long half term. The pupils had the ice to themselves for the two hour booked slot and all pupils commented that they had a great time. We look forwards to rewarding those pupils with 100% attendance this half term with a Christmas film and popcorn in the Academy theatre during the final week of half term.

Star of the Week

**Week beginning
22nd October 2018**



English – Aimee – Mae Jukes
Maths – Lewis Inchley
Science – Taylor Woolley
Humanities – Harvey Devlin
Media – Ellesse – Verona Loveridge
Business – Jaya Brown
Travel – Mohammed Ballish
Sport – Harvey Devlin
ICT – Jodie – Lee Higgins
Health and Social – Millie Knowles
PE – Liam Caldicott
Music – Olivia Benson
Art – Cameron Moran



Star of the Week

**Week beginning
5th November 2018**

English – Kaci Hoey
Maths – Holly King
Science – Bryce Bull
History – Alfie Reeves
Geography Toni Harris
Media – Billy McClaren
Business – Callum Neal
Travel – Leigh Davis

Sport – Callum Neal
ICT – Kimberley Young
Health and Social – Erin Davies
PE – Emma Bubb
R.E – Lewis Liggins

