



Wednesday 4 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9

It has been an absolute delight to meet your children as they started with us and to have a day supporting them in joining our school community.

A massive thank you to everyone for getting them ready and prepared, this has ensured a really smooth start. A big thank you also to those parents and carers we have spoken to where things like uniform have needed addressing – we really appreciate your support with this, and for working with us to get things sorted.

We have seen lots of really engaged young people today and hope your child has come home having had a purposeful and enjoyable day. We are getting lots of feedback as we go along, and if you have anything you want to add to the mix, please do get in touch – at the end of this letter, Mr Jackson-Bailey, Head of Year, outlines several ways you can communicate with us.

Tomorrow some lessons start and pupils will be taking some baseline assessments in English, maths and science before the end of the week. Pupils do not need to prepare for these assessments, but they should take them seriously as they give us really useful information that helps us organise our teaching, and also help us ensure we know how well they can do over the next three years.

I wanted to share a few bits of information with you:

**Information for booking for the Meet the Tutor event on Monday 16 September** – please see the attached letter to book your appointments. We know that pupils do best at school when parents/carers and schools work closely together. We look forward to seeing you all.

**Information about options choices your child will be making tomorrow.**

During the day we have spoken to the pupils about the curriculum that they will be following this year and the subjects that they will be undertaking.

When we contacted you in the Spring term, we were proposing to give pupils the choice of following French or Spanish during Year 9, since then however, we have found it incredibly difficult to recruit sufficient excellent Spanish speaking staff to enable us to do implement this. As a result, as part of the core curriculum offer, all pupils will follow French for the year. We know some pupils will be disappointed by this but wish to offer pupils the best experience we can in the coming year.

With the staffing that we have available, we are able to offer a limited number of Spanish groups to pupils, but this will be as an option subject. If your child aims to choose Spanish at GCSE, then they must choose Spanish as an option.

As part of the Year 9 curriculum, we offer the pupils the chance to select 2 option subjects in addition to their curriculum in Year 9 (these choices do not commit them to following these subjects as part of Key Stage 4). Option subjects give pupils a chance to extend their learning in these areas.



## Wootton Upper School

Part of Wootton Academy Trust

The subjects that they will be asked to choose from will include:

DT, Food, Graphics, Textile Design, (Performing Arts) Dance, Performing Arts (Drama), Music, Spanish, and Sports Development and they will be asked to rank these subjects on an order of preference during Guidance time on Thursday morning.

A copy of the presentation shown to pupils today that includes more details about each subject is available on the Wootton website on the New Intake page [www.woottonupper.co.uk/new-intake-2024-25](http://www.woottonupper.co.uk/new-intake-2024-25)

### Classcharts parent log in

ClassCharts is our main form of communication with parents and carers. Information to support you login will come to as a dedicated email on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils will also receive this information as a hard copy via their form tutor. If you have not received any information by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, please contact Mr Jackson-Bailey on [pbailey@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:pbailey@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

### Introducing the Pastoral Team

Your key point of contact in school will be your child's tutor. Please do use your child's planner to write notes and pass on information. We ask you to check their planner and Excellence card every weekend.

In addition to a form tutor, we have a dedicated pastoral team. This includes:

Mr Jackson-Bailey - Head of Year 9

Miss Mumba - Pastoral Support Officer

Mrs Rahman - Pastoral Support Officer

The Pastoral Team is committed to ensuring the well-being and academic success of all our pupils. Should you need to get in touch with us, please use the following key email addresses:

General information or concerns: [year9pastoral@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:year9pastoral@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): [SEND@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:SEND@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

Safeguarding issues: [safeguarding@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

We will keep you informed of any additional events and activities through our regular communications. Thank you once again for all your support. We look forward to working closely with you all, and to a successful and rewarding year ahead for all our pupils.

Best wishes,

Mrs C McMorn  
Head of School