

Winterstoke Hundred Newsletter – February 2023

Mr Garforth – Opening Title

Dear Parents and Carers,

The spring term is always busy, and much has happened in the Academy over the last few weeks, some of which you can find out about in this newsletter. Our Key Stage 3 students have had many new opportunities, including trips and visits, Duke of Edinburgh experiences, and plenty of sporting success.

Similarly, our sixth form students have not only been engaged in the many clubs and enrichment opportunities, supporting in the Food Bank, and representing the academy in sporting fixtures, but also preparing themselves for the challenges of their upcoming exams. We all, of course, wish them well with this.

As many of you will know, the new site, in Locking Parklands, is taking shape, and our plans and excitement grow day by day. This will be a state-of-the-art school, and the facilities and opportunities will be second to none. Increasingly, some staff and students have been able to visit the site to start to get a sense of what it will be like.

Thank you, as ever, for your support of the academy.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Garforth

Attendance

Thank you to all parents and carers for ensuring that children's attendance at WHA is among the top in the Southwest of England. This will play dividends in the long term with minimal learning time lost in preparation for GCSE and A level exams. In the short term we enter a crucial period over the next 3 weeks with Year 7,8 and 9 sitting their unit 3 multiple choice tests and Year 12 and 13 sitting mock exams.

In a slight change to our attendance processes the time to call in for absence will move from 07:30-08:30 to 07:45-0830 from next term.

Please remember that calling in at this time is the only method to report absence.

Mobile devices

As previously communicated WHA is a mobile phone free site from students at all times of day. This improves your child's mental health, reduces cyber bullying and statistically leads to your child gaining better grades. For these reasons we recommend that mobiles are left at home. In the event that a mobile is needed after school then it must be switched off in your child's locker or bag.

Smart watches need to be on airplane mode. We occasionally conduct random bag and blazer searches to ensure that our cultural expectations are being upheld.

Dates for the Diary

Inset Day:

20th February 2023.

Year 12/13 Mock Exams:

21st February 2023 – 3rd March 2023

23rd February 2023:

Year 8 Progress Evening

6th March 2023:

Year 9 Progress Evening

29th March 2023:

Sixth Form Progress Evening

Year 8 Options

The options process will begin shortly and there will be an opportunity for Parents and Carers to speak to subject teachers about options choices on 6th March 2023 at the Year 9 Progress Evening as well as a talk about the options process.

Students will receive more information after half term, choose options in May and get confirmation in July.

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KS3 Assessment explained

Age Related Expectations builds on the assessments that you will be familiar with in Primary school.

This is a holistic judgement about where your child is in terms of meeting age related expectations at the end of this academic year. This is a prediction by teachers that takes into account MCQ results, Assessments, learning in lessons and homework.

D	Deepening	Your child has reached the year group expectation for the end of this academic year and is now deepening their knowledge and skills further.
O1	On track secure (secure)	Your child is on track to meet the year group expectation for the end of this academic year.
O2	On track (insecure)	Your child is producing some work that is on track for the year group expectations at the end of this academic year, but this is not yet secure.
Y	Yet to be on track	Your child shows some potential to meet year group expectations at the end of this academic year, but is not yet on track to meet them.
A	At an earlier stage	Your child is at an earlier stage in their learning journey and is short of the year group expectation for the end of this academic year.

MCQ

This score is a percentage score from a multiple-choice test that your child sat in the IT room under exam conditions.

These are designed to test the students' knowledge in each subject and aid the teacher with re teaching misconceptions. The next MCQs fortnight is core subjects (and MFL in Year 9) and is from 27th February 2023 – 10th March 2023.

The MCQ timetable and KOs will be shared next week with students to help them prepare.

Well Done to Post 16 for GCSE Resit Results

We are really proud that 80% of our Year 12 students who retook maths in November have now secured a GCSE pass in maths. This gives them so many more options for university and jobs in the future!

Well done to Post 16 who have worked hard on their recent vocation exams. We look forward to their results in March.

Book Buzz

All students in Years 7 & 8 have received a free book.

ParentPay is Live!!!

If you have not already done so, please can you activate your ParentPay account. ASAP. Not only will ParentPay be a way to pay for school items, it will also serve as a communication forum and you may well miss out on vital information if not registered.

Pay360 will not be in use after half term, so without your activated ParentPay account, students may not be able to use the canteen.

Please do get in touch if you have any problems activating your ParentPay account.

Please also ensure any money owing on Pay360 is cleared as soon as possible. Thank you.

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Work Experience Success

Great work to Keira who has been working at Tatty Heads Salon, and secured January Learner of the Month.



A very thought provoking and memorable experience.



Duke of Edinburgh Trip

Forty of our year 9 students visited Worlebury Woods for some orienteering and map reading activities.

It was fantastic to see them develop their resilience and leadership skills. Three groups found all 10 navigation points! Impressive work!



Dance Show

Well done to everyone involved in our dance show. The standard of KS3 and KS5 was amazing. Looking forward to watching you at the playhouse next month.

History Trip 8th February 2023

Part of the lessons from Auschwitz Project, two of our Post 16 students were taken to Auschwitz for the day to see what life was like at a Nazi concentration Camp.

The students along with Mrs Sexton set off at 2:45am on Wednesday for their trip.



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Drama Show

How 5 students can remember lines for a 2.5-hour play was impressive. The audience were falling out of their seats with laughter it was so funny at times. Well done to Jamie, Lillie, Oliver, Marshall and Josh. You have set the bar high for future drama cohorts!



busy rehearsing for the upcoming Creative Arts Showcase (see poster below) and we have a newly formed band who have been learning and developing their ensemble skills. It is fantastic to be finding new musical talent all the time and supporting and watching students grow, well done all!

Upcoming Performing Arts Show



Music



It has been a busy term in the music department as our students have engaged fantastically with their projects. Years 7 and 8 are exploring Great Composers and developing their piano and keyboard skills, reading music notation and building performance skills by sharing their work. Year 9 are exploring music for the screen and will be composing their own film music. Our choir, solo singers and instrumentalists have been

E-Sports

Our Year 12 students have been representing the school in the British Esports Champs tournament and have been performing very well. We have two teams in the Overwatch 2 league, who are currently placed 2nd and 10th in the Southern division of 14 teams. Similarly, our Rocket League team is near the top of their division, and we are very proud of the fact that in the second year of running this innovative level 3 course, our students are competing with much larger and more established institutions from around the region.

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Staff v Post 16 Sport

After months of pleading with us, our staff finally took on our Post 16 students in a Futsal match this term.

After an even opening, the experience of the staff team took over and came out 17-9 winners.

A special mention to the international duo of Mr Elster and Dr Liuzzo who ran riot in the second half to secure the win! Maybe a rematch is needed next term!!



KS3 Girls football

The following report was written by Nala, one of our Year 7 girls who took part in the North Somerset football tournament:

‘In our tournament recently, our first game was against Priory, in which we went into quite negative that we weren’t going to win, but we were actually really good and we used good teamwork and communication.

Our first goal came from a pass from our defenders out to the midfielders and then a through ball to me, I cut in and had a shot and scored.

We went onto win other games in what was a great tournament, I can’t wait for our next game!’

KS3 football

Our KS3 football teams have kicked off their campaigns this term, with all year groups participating in fixtures and tournaments against local schools.

Firstly, our year 7s took on Worle this term in a mini tournament, with some brilliant play on show, there were definitely some stars on show and ones to watch for in the months and years to come!

Our Year 8s took two teams to take part in the North Somerset tournament. Both teams did the school proud, with one team managing to reach the final. Jack, Charlie and Cassidy all played really well – Jack scoring a long-distanced winner in the semi-final was the highlight of the day.

Finally, our Year 9 football team, who too participated in the North Somerset tournament.

Mr Swash guided our boys to victory, with 4 wins and a draw from their 5 games. Special shout out to Charlie who played up a year and Oscar who was awarded player of the tournament.



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Year 9 Varsity Rugby

This term we saw our Year 9 Watson House take on a Barbarians side, made up of students from Parks, Pankhurst and Angelou.

The students have long wanted this game, as the Barbarians aimed to end Watson's 3-year rugby dominance.

In what was a fiercely contested game, Watson just edged it 31-27. Watson's tries coming from Keagan (x2); Faithful (x2) and Alex X1).

Barbarians' tries coming from Morgan (x3) and Tristan T (x1).

Thank you to Mr Elster for refereeing and to Mr Milkins for organising.

Post 16 Football success

Our Post 16 football team played numerous games this term. They first took on Millfield, in what can only be described as the worse conditions anyone has ever seen.

Despite the score line, the boys can be proud of themselves for the efforts they put in. With the aggregate score now locked at 1-1, the boys will travel down to Millfield next term for the decider.

Our second game this term was against Bristol City Robins Foundation. After narrowly losing the first match 6-4 before Christmas, the team were keen to get revenge this time

around...they did not disappoint, coming out 6-2 winners.

A special mention to hat-trick hero Cody for a brilliant all-round display.

Year 9 and Staff Touch Rugby

Our Year 9 and staff touch rugby side took part in the third instalment of the touch rugby series against Bristol Jets, Nailsea Touch, Exeter Touch and Bristol Gecko.

The team showed great development and were close in every single game.

Special mention to Ollie who grabbed a hat-trick! Brilliant commitment from the team who are still training at 7.15am every Friday morning!

With one tournament left on 10th February 2023, hopefully that first win is near! Especially with some new additions to add to the squad!

Year 9 England Touch Rugby

Two of our Year 9s were selected to represent the South West at England U15s Touch Rugby training this term. Alfie and Keagan travelled to London for an England training camp, where they experienced elite-level coaching! They really enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school!



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Sirona Drop in Flu Clinics

Drop-in Flu clinics are available for children in Reception to Year 9, offering both the nasal flu and the injectable (gelatine free) vaccine;

Tuesday 7th February 2pm – 5pm

Charlotte Keel Health Centre, Seymour Road, Easton, BS5 0UA

Tuesday 7th February 2pm – 5pm

Pill Health Clinic, 3 Station Road, Bristol, BS20 0AB

Monday 13th February 10am – 4pm

For All Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 3SJ



Transend Pop Up Skate Park 13th – 18th February 2023

Please find attached information about an event that you and your family may be interested in during the February half term holiday.

Transend Skatepark will be running a pop-up skatepark 13th-18th February 9am-9pm at Weston Youth Centre (BS23 3UP). All ages and abilities welcome.

For more information and bookings, please visit the website

(<https://www.transendskatepark.co.uk/>)

or contact Andy Skyrme on

admin@transendskatepark.co.uk or 07572 455199.