



6th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Coronavirus Update

A reminder that the government are continuing to publish daily updates at 2:00pm on the following link <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>. This also details advice to returning travellers from other parts of the world.

In terms of advice to schools and educational settings, the advice is twofold:

- 1. The importance of washing hands;**
- 2. Following guidance on "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" when coughing or sneezing.**

A link to the poster can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf.

As a means of supporting this, we are working to ensure that we have a good supply of hand soap as a school, and ensuring that every toilet facility has hand soap dispensers regularly checked to ensure effective working operation. It is disappointing to report that some hand soap dispensers in some toilets have been vandalised - meaning that these have had to be temporarily closed to enable repairs. We will of course be discussing with our students, the importance of behaving as positive members of the school community, particularly in such worrying times. However, we will undertake the necessary repairs as early as possible to ensure we remain at full capacity for both toilets and handwashing facilities.

We are also employing additional cleaning staff to work over the weekends to ensure that the school environment is as clean and hygienic as possible.

We have been asked if the school is able to provide hand sanitisation for all students and staff. The logistical and financial issues do not make it possible for Wollaston School to provide personal or shared hand sanitisers for nearly 1500 students and 200 members of staff. We encourage students and staff to follow the advice on handwashing and of course, if students and staff wish to bring in their own hand sanitisers, they are welcome to do so.

We continue to monitor FCO advice regarding travel abroad, with specific reference to our planned Ski Trip to Italy in the Easter holidays. Mr Bodicoat will provide regular updates, although there has been no new advice in the last few days.

A final note – the Government has published a long-term plan in response to the potential of a growing impact of Coronavirus. This can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

As has been widely reported in the media, at some stage this could potentially involve school closures. However, to be clear, the Government have instructed that school should only close under direct

instruction from Public Health England. The message from the DfE, Ofqual and all responsible for education is to continue with all educational activities and planning for the rest of this academic year. If anything changes, we will of course let parents know at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any particular concerns not covered in government information, the DfE have also published a helpline to answer questions from staff, parents and young people on 0800 046 8687 /DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Thank you for all of your support and good sense in discussing these issues with your children at what can be a potentially worrying time for all.

Sporting Updates

Rugby - Congratulations to the Year 7 Rugby Team who progress to the next round of the Cup competition. The team played a tough fixture against Wrenn School on Tuesday evening and put in a very strong performance, establishing themselves quickly and applying pressure in both defence and attack.

Thank you to Mr Bennett and Mr Roberts and congratulations to all involved.

Netball - On Tuesday, the Year 7 and 8 netball teams travelled to Sir Christopher Hatton School playing against both themselves and Wrenn in their first district fixture.

Miss Cattell commented, *"The Year 8 team played a 40-minute match, which was fast paced, and physically demanding against Hatton and fought hard until the end of the fourth quarter. The girls were exceedingly versatile, playing in a variety of positions in order to increase their attacking and defensive opportunities, which I commend each individual for."*

The Year 7 team played two separate matches. In their first match against Wrenn School, the Year 7's won 2-0, showing promising potential as a squad. In their second match against Hatton, the girls continued to gel as a team which was evident in the flow of their game, winning 2-1".

Congratulations to all involved for demonstrating fantastic resilience and an abundance of potential! The students represented the school exceedingly well and should be proud of themselves. Special mention to Sophee Parker, a Year 10 GCSE Physical Education student, who also attended in order to strengthen her umpiring knowledge.

Kick Boxing – Congratulations to Ashton Farman in Year 9 who attended the Irish Open World Championship for Kick Boxing. I am pleased to report that Ashton won gold in one of his categories, beating boys from various counties including Denmark, Italy and in the final, he beat a boy from South America! This huge achievement is highly recognised within the sport.

Well done Ashton! A picture of Ashton with his trophy is on the school website.

Primary School Quick Sticks Hockey

Mr Roberts and our Sports Leaders organised and ran the Primary School Quick Sticks Hockey tournament here at Wollaston on Wednesday. There was a fantastic turnout, with over 70 Year 4 students from local primary school playing, with many teachers and parents involved.

Mr Roberts commented *"The standard of hockey was very good with some very close games. Four Wollaston student Sports Leaders, all of whom play hockey for local clubs, Libby Garlick, Fraya Garlick, Emma Garrett and Rowan Edgcombe, refereed the games. It was a shame the weather was not very nice, but it did not dampen the students' enthusiasm."*



Thank you to Mr Roberts and our Sports Leaders for organising and being such fantastic ambassadors.

Year 10 Parents Evening

Thank you to all staff, students and parents for a successful Year 10 Parent Subject consultation evening. We greatly value the benefits of working as a partnership to ensure the very best outcomes for all of our students. We have enjoyed very positive feedback from the event and look forward to the continuing success of our Year 10 cohort.

For any follow up questions, please contact the relevant member of teaching staff. For more general follow up, please contact the Year 10 team, Ms A Walker, Head of Year, walkera@wollaston-school.net or Mrs M Weir-Smith, Student Manager, weir-smithm@wollaston-school.net.

A-Level Drama Practical Exams

Congratulations to our A Level Drama students who produced such high quality performances in front of the visiting examiner this week. Obviously, the results are embargoed until August, but staff and students were dazzled by the incredible quality of the work in terms of both direction of the pieces and their execution in performance. Well done to all and we look forward to the results in the Summer!

Careers News

Ex-Student Presentation - We were delighted to welcome back to school ex-student, Erin Saunders, who gave an excellent presentation to current Year 12 students on her current role as a Unilever Research and Development Scientist. All of Year 12 were enthralled by the details of this Degree Level Apprenticeship, which involves a salary, no tuition fees, a degree and on the job training. Thank you to Erin for taking the time to come back and inspire our students.

Careers Visit - Following the Year 9 Options Evening, two Year 9 students, James Barratt and Beth Malcomber, visited Matchbox Architects, where there were able to gain useful insight into the work of architects and hopefully be inspired in a possible future career path.

Thank you to Mr Myers for his continued work with Careers. If you have any questions, or would like any guidance, please contact Mr Myers on myersb@wollaston-school.net.

Disabled Parking

Another important message regarding parking at the start and end of the school day. Following last week's message regarding parking and waiting for students, it has come to light that the issue with the disabled bays is not around parents parking in the bays, but parking in front of them. This means that parents collecting disabled students are not able to access the bays themselves.

I would be grateful if parents and families could ensure that the disabled parking bays are accessible at all times. We work incredibly well as a school community to support children with a range of disabilities, and we need to ensure this includes safe drop off and collection from school.

I am aware that ours is a busy site at the end of the school day and please do bear in mind that the car park is far less congested from 3.15pm. Students are able to wait indoors at the end of the school – working in the library, socialising in the canteen or simply waiting in the foyer area outside the Main Hall.

Your help and support in this matter is much appreciated.

SAF Teacher Training Event

Interested in becoming a teacher? SAF Initial Teacher Training (ITT) has been providing classroom-based School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) in the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes areas for over a decade. They offer four comprehensive training routes where young and mature students can learn how to become inspirational teachers and future school leaders.

You may be straight out of school or university, or you may have several years of work experience behind you, but all that matters really is your desire and commitment to teach and shape the minds of the next generation.

SAF are holding an information evening here at Wollaston School for those who are keen to learn more about Teacher Training, on **Wednesday 11th March 2020, 6.00pm – 8.00pm**. To register your interest in this event please visit their website <https://www.saf.org.uk/saf-itt/book-for-an-event/>.

Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
Monday 9th March 2020	Year 12 Apprenticeship Fair
Tuesday 10th March 2020	Year 11 & Year 13 Apprenticeship Fair
Wednesday 11th March 2020	Pupil Premium Parents' Evening
Thursday 12th March 2020	Wellingborough Rotary Musical Festival – Main Hall
Tuesday 17th March 2020	Personal Development Day
Wednesday 18th March 2020	DNA Theatre Trip – Bedford – 5.00pm
Wednesday 25th March 2020	Leicester Theatre Visit – 5.30pm
Thursday 26th March 2020	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Monday 30th March 2020	RAG WEEK
Tuesday 31st March 2020	Year 10 / 11 Wembley Trip – England v Denmark
Thursday 2nd April 2020	Year 11 Photograph
Friday 3rd April 2020	Year 9 Geography Trip
Saturday 4th April – Saturday 11th April 2020	Italy Ski Trip
Monday 6th – Friday 17th April 2020	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 20th April 2020	School re-opens for Term 5

Thank you, as always for your support and cooperation in these matters and of Wollaston School. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email on.

Yours sincerely,



Mr James Birkett
Headteacher