



The Woodrush Branch

COVID Updates – Wearing of Face Masks

- **The Department for Education (DfE) has announced that pupils will no longer need to wear face masks in school from next week.**
- **From Monday 17th May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. We have decided however, if a student still wishes to use a face mask they can still do so throughout the school.**
- The rule that staff and other adults wear face coverings in situations where social distancing is not possible, including corridors and communal areas, will remain in place.
- The New Guidance from the DfE can be found here - [Face coverings in education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94422/face-coverings-in-education-guidance)
- The DfE also state that the reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.
- **Please also be aware that students will still be expected to use face masks on public transport, indoor public areas and in local shops.** Students will therefore still need to carry a mask to school if using the Green Bus, Worcestershire Provided Transport or if they are visiting shops on the way to or from school.
- With infection rates decreasing in schools across the country it is still vital that students and staff continue with **the twice weekly lateral flow tests** – this will ensure we are best placed to prevent infection in school and thus isolation of pupils.
- At Woodrush we will **continue to use track and trace procedures within school** and thus the need to ensure no infection comes into school remains our priority. As stated, isolation of students and staff will remain in place if a child or member of staff comes to school with symptoms that results in a positive COVID test.
- Although it starts to bring some normality to schools, we will ensure all other health and safety advice from the government is still adhered to on school site in relation to COVID protocols, but still allow students along with their families and staff to make personal choices where allowed. We again thank you for your ongoing support and thank the students for their perseverance during this time.

Mental Health Awareness Week – May 10th – 16th 2021

- This week we have celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week in school through our Aspire Program.
- All students have had the opportunity to watch a national drama group with their performance of **'How Are you?'** which looked at the themes of:
 - **Changes in Friendships**
 - **Pressure around School work and Exams**
 - **Family Tensions**
 - **Anxiety.**
- These are all areas we know affect the wellbeing of our students and hope it encourages our young people to communicate to others how they are feeling, as a first point of trying to support their own wellbeing.
- It is important that if any of our school community feel their wellbeing is suffering that they talk to a parent/carer, friend or adult at school. We can then give that child the support they need in school or make a referral to external agencies to ensure they are on a path to feeling better about themselves and the situation they find themselves in.
- If your child is in crisis, please arrange an appointment with their GP.
- If you want to contact us at school if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, please contact us here - [Woodrush High School - Contact Mrs Peters](#). Mrs Peters is our Lead Mental Health Advisor who can support your child and advise parents and carers of their next steps. Mrs Peters can also direct your child to receiving external support.

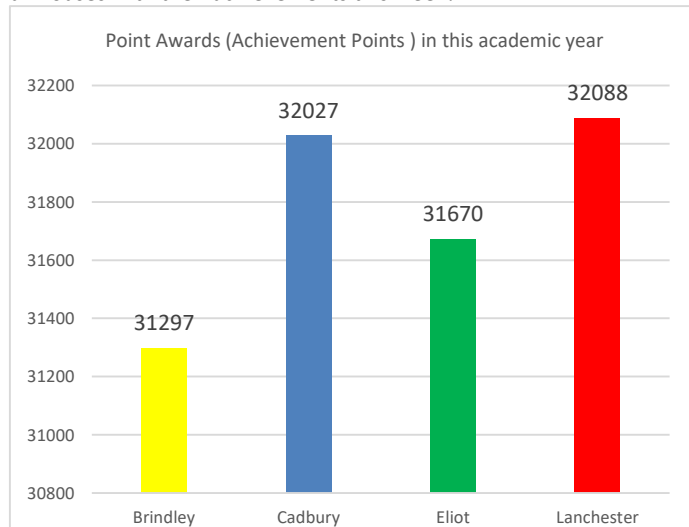
Achievement Board

We are back to the top achievers for the week this week. Well done to all! Special congratulations to both **Eva L and Sophie S** in year 7 who both attained over 20 achievement points this week! Overall every child in the school averaged 3.4 points this week!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Eva L	Charley B	Gracie E	Tyra Z	Julian S
Sophie S	Samy H	Elise D	Jayden H	Lewis B
Marley B	Sky-L M	Phoebe L	Daanish A	Jamie B
Nathan R	Aiden T	Charlotte V	Ella B	Andonia S
Scarlett KH	Conor H	Kaylee J	Esther H	Tyler KC
Holly L	Grace B	Eryn W	Erin W	Ellie M
Lydia F	Mason B	Zak A	Miriam R	Julianne A
Grace J	Ryan C	Jacob M	Alfie R	Lola B
Nirujah S	Lucy J	Freddie W	Scarlett S	Billy H
Bhavneet V	Katie W	Daisy HS	Kai A	Lily L
Emmie F	Katie E	Tilly M	Joseph B	Raquel L
Alex H	Kiera M	Marcus R	Kallie C	Eleanor R
Frances S	William T	Jack S	Eddie C	Liam C
Jack S			Sophie DLT	
Maya T			Jessie G	
Aimee W			Lucy T	

House Achievement Competition

It's pretty clear this is going to go to the wire this year. Well done to all houses with their achievements this week!



Use of Mobile Phones

- **Today you will have received a letter regarding the acceptable use of mobile phones in school.** We have provided some further information here to summarise the letter and give parents some support mechanisms to aid with their child's mobile phone use.
- Ofcom have recently published the findings of their annual survey into 'Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes' report
- The survey highlights the **increasing dependence students have with their mobile phone devices.**
- We have noticed **since the last lockdown an increased desire for student to be on their phones during the school day.** This has led to an increased number of phones being confiscated from them and thus an **increased number of parents/carers inconvenienced with having to collect them.**
- The school's policy on mobile phones is a **no use from first bell to last bell, if seen they will be confiscated,** unless they are being used in classroom for educational purposes, directed by the teacher.
- Our policy **recognises the value of having devices in school,** but not at the expense of face-to-face social interaction and learning in the classroom.
- Some of the statistics below show the real need for parents to play an active role in the content and daily use of their child on their devices.
- **Please support us in school in reminding your child of the expectations around their use of mobile phones.**

Ofcom Summary Report – Media Use and Attitudes

Parent Support – Mobile Phones

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about The Ofcom Children and Parents: MEDIA USE AND ATTITUDES Report 2020/21

Content Consumption

97% of children aged 5-15 watch content on video-sharing platforms (VSPs)

Most popular apps used by 12-15 year olds

- TikTok: 65%
- Instagram: 66%
- Facebook: 50%
- Snapchat: 53%

Online Gaming: Who Plays Games Online?

55% of 5-7s, 80% of 8-11s, 86% of 12-15s

Posting/sharing content

39% of 5-7s shared content online → 75% of 12-15s shared content online

Social Pressures

83% of 8-11s & 89% of 12-15s felt the pressure to be popular online

Screen Time

4 out of 10 parents found it hard to control their child's screen time

Online Safety

Only 32% of parents use parental controls built into devices

Only 30% use controls to restrict access to inappropriate content

Only 50% use settings to stop app downloads or in-app purchases

2 out of 3 sought online safety advice from schools

Parental Concerns

50% concerned about pressure to make in-game purchases

45% concerned about bullying

38% concerned about content

Vulnerable Children

Children aged 12-15 are more likely to ...

- Have a negative experience
- Be contacted online by a stranger
- Feel pressure to send photos/personal information
- Rely on video-calling platforms to socialise

84% of children who have an impacting/limiting condition used video software such as Zoom, HouseParty and Skype

Live Streaming

8-11s: 40% watch other people's live streams, 8% have shared live streams. Most popular platforms: YouTube (30%), Instagram (10%), Facebook (10%).

12-15s: 50% watch other people's live streams, 17% have shared live streams. Most popular platforms: Instagram (38%), YouTube (32%), Facebook (25%).

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | [@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) | [NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) | [@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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The survey results have identified one key area parents are concerned with and that is content, and time spent on social media Apps. Below are two ways you can restrict/control and monitor your child's App usage.

iPhone - [Use parental controls on your child's iPhone, iPad and iPod touch – Apple Support](#)

With Content & Privacy Restrictions in Screen Time, you can block or limit specific apps and features on your child's device. You can also restrict the settings on your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch for explicit content, purchases and downloads, and privacy. Setting screen time restrictions allows you to limit the accessibility of certain apps for set periods during the day/night whilst still leaving your child the ability to make calls or send texts. iPhone features include the ability to:

- Set content and privacy restrictions.
- Prevent iTunes & App store purchases.
- Allow built in apps and features.
- Prevent explicit content and restrict content ratings.
- Prevent web content.
- Restrict Siri web search.
- Restrict game centre.

OurPact - [OurPact - Parental Control & Family Locator](#)

OurPact Parental Control App & Family Locator

This app can be used with both iPhone and Android phones. The basic app is free but additional features can be purchased.

OurPact features include:

- App Blocker - Block internet and block apps at-a-touch
- Geofencing with Places - Parents can create GPS geofences around specific locations and receive real-time alerts when their kids leave and arrive at home, school or any set zone.
- Schedules - Schedule screen time throughout the day or week
- App Rules - Block specific apps
- Family Locator - Easily track your family's location.
- Screen Time Allowance - Set daily screen time limits for your kids to budget.
- App List - Discover what apps are on your child's device.
- Explicit content Blocker - Block all adult content on your child's iOS device.
- New App Alerts – Receive real-time alerts when your kids install a new app on their devices.

Dates for Your Diary

Student Vaccination Dates

- **Monday, 17th May** - Year 8 (2nd HPV)
- **Friday, 21st May** - Year 9 (2nd HPV)

Year 8 Pathways Information

- **Thursday 27th May** - Year 8 Pathways ASPIRE Day, Video presentation and Pathway's booklet available for parents.
- **Thursday 10th June** - Year 8 Parent's Consultation Evening

Other Key Dates

- **Monday 7th June** – **TEACHER TRAINING DAY – STUDENTS NOT IN SCHOOL.**
- **Tuesday 8th June** – Students Return to School

COVID Support Information

Taking Tests and Reporting Results (Information)

- **Instruction booklets** for how to administer the test and to record the test results can be found here - [Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Instructional Video** - [How to do a COVID-19 Self-Test \(rapid antigen test\) - YouTube](#)
- **Reporting Your Result 'Wonde'** – You will have received an email with an individual link for your child - Click the link in your invitation email. In the window that opens, click 'Submit test Result'. Complete the form and submit your result. You will then be directed to submit your result at NHS track and Trace - [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Household members and childcare bubble - access to free twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)** - With the return to school for pupils, adult household members of children and young people in nursery, school, or college and those who have formed a childcare bubble, can now access free Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for twice weekly testing at home.
- Adult householders or your childcare bubble can obtain test kits (or be tested) in the following ways:
 - through your employer if they offer testing to employees.
 - by collecting a home test kit from a local test site - You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Local test sites are now dual sites PCR testing in morning and LFT testing or collection in afternoon - open from 1.30pm to 7pm [Find a test centre \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](#)
 - by ordering a home test kit online: [Schools, nurseries and colleges testing: order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
 - To book an LFT at a local test site, visit this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) I do not have symptoms | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) I do not have symptoms | Worcestershire County Council](#)