

Parent Bulletin

March 2024

Message from Mrs Carter, Headteacher

Another month has passed already and we continue to be extremely proud of our students at Washington, this has been a busy month and will only get even busier as we prepare our Year 11 students for their upcoming GCSE exams – by the time you read this we will likely have less than 7 teaching weeks before the first exam!

We have had several visits this month and I am delighted to inform you that they have all been very positive with some excellent feedback about our students and staff.

The quality of teaching our curriculum is going from strength to strength and the evidence of this is seen in lessons where students are actively engaged in their learning and through their books, which they are taking great pride in.

Our behaviour has been described by visitors as “exemplary” for both in lesson and at social times including break and lunch. Our pastoral team continue to work with our students who need further support and it is excellent to see our families really engaging and working along side the pastoral team as we support our young students together.

The opportunities offered to our students is growing by the day as we now have several abroad trips in the planning and many weekend trips coming up, our after school clubs continue to be very popular with Pokeman club being an example of this. You will have hopefully seen the positive articles making the press – for example the Sunderland football one!

As always, if you wish to discuss anything or have any concerns please contact reception who will direct you to the right people in school to deal with any queries you may have!

Mrs Carter
Headteacher



Dates for March 2024



4th March 2024	National Careers Week	Mrs Oakland has planned a number of fun events to help students understand the opportunities available to them after school. You can download a booklet called the Parents Guide to National Careers Week, and other guidance, by clicking the following link to the National Careers website; https://ncw2020.co.uk/booklets-guides/
7th March 2024	World Book Day	Miss Bunker and our English Department will be making sure that the whole school are learning new ways to love reading for pleasure with a Scavenger Hunt Bingo Card, decorating classrooms and a free book token! https://www.worldbookday.com/families/
14th March 2024	Year 8 Parents Evening	Please click the following link to book your appointments. The link will be open from Monday 4th March 2024. https://washington.schoolcloud.co.uk/
15th March 2024	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)	We are holding a STEM day for a number of students to encourage a love of STEM subjects and highlight future career choices. You can find free resources and further information for parents by clicking the following link; https://www.stem.org.uk/secondary/careers Here you can take a virtual tour of STEM careers after school and further information about apprenticeships in STEM.
18th March 2024	Shakespeare Week	Miss Wighton will be holding assemblies where she will be bringing William Shakespeare to life!



Useful Information



T E R M M 2			Afterschool Club Timetable	
MONDAY	Board game club – Mr Forster Trampolining – Miss Naunton	Enterprise Challenge – Mrs Archer		
WEDNESDAY	Cheerleading – Mrs Curry Quiet Study – Miss Atkinson Climate Club – Mrs Watson KS3 Spanish Club – Miss Wilkinson KS3 Rock Band – Mr Hornsby Gym – Miss Hills Board game club – Mr Forster	Computer club – Mr Wilson-Wardle Pokemon Club – Mr Hind Drama/production Club – Miss Wighton Careers in art Club – Miss Dorian Classics Club – Mr Pennington Textiles Club – Miss Ford Fitness Class – Miss Twinn		
THURSDAY	Computer club – Mr Wilson-Wardle KS4 Spanish Club – Miss Wilkinson Further Maths – Mr Clarke Table Tennis – Mr Docherty	Drama/production Club – Miss Wighton KS4 Rock Band – Mr Hornsby Geography Ambassadors – Mr Forster Trampolining – Mr Docherty Football – Mr Seaman		 Washington Academy <small>Enriching lives, inspiring students</small>
Please speak to member of staff for more details				

Did you know?

We have a Breakfast Club every morning?

FREE FOR EVERY STUDENT

Rise and Shine!! Our Breakfast Club can help prepare your child for the school day ahead and keep them energised throughout the morning, and is also handy for working parents who need to drop their child off at school earlier.

It is also a brilliant time for our students to complete homework, or fit in some extra revision

Bagels, cereal and juice are on the menu!

Starting at 8.00am every school day - in the Pit Stop

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us on washingtonenquiries@consilium-at.com or call us on 0191 5804956



FREE





Washington Academy students soak up the culture in York



A group of our Year 8 students went on a cultural trip to York this term for a jam packed day of activities!

[Click to
Read More](#)



Washington Academy welcomes representatives from Humanotopia!



Some of our students took part in a motivational, life changing course and committed to three changes to improve their future!

[Click to
Read More](#)





Year 11 Students receive their **FREE** Revision Books



Revision guides are the most important resource our Year 11 students can have, so we have invested over £7,000 to ensure every one of our Year 11 students have the resources they need. Mrs Carter recently wrote to all Year 11 parents and carers explaining the many other ways we are supporting Year 11 students leading up to their exams. Click below to read more.....

Click to
Read More



School Theatre Trip



Last week we enjoyed a trip to Sunderland Empire to watch Shrek the Musical.

More theatre trips announced in this bulletin!



Washington Academy students visit Hartlepool Power Station



On Thursday 8th February a group of geographers attended a behind the scenes tour of Hartlepool's EDF power station, an often-restricted part of the world!

As part of this tour students were given a detailed discussion surrounding nuclear fusion and how electricity is made and informed of key job opportunities within the nuclear sector, from scientist jobs through to the powerplant cleaners. Then they were kitted up in safety equipment, including helmets, ear defenders, Hi-Vis Jackets and protective eye wear and embarked on an hour tour of the power station.

All the students who attended this trip were a fantastic representation of Washington Academy and were engaged with the tour guides at every point! We are looking forward to additional trips in the future to the Power Station with trips planned for November 2024!

Our Geography Department have additional trips to the Lake District and a Waste for Recycling Plant coming up soon. Students can see Mr Fargent for details.



Enrichment Day 2024

Back bigger and better than before!

Enrichment Day is a key part of our Festival Weeks which run through the last two weeks of the summer term. This week students have started to select their chosen activity for Enrichment Day on **Friday 12th July 2024**. Students are selecting a first, second and reserve choice activity. Then through a random allocation, students will be allocated one of their choices.

Students are choosing from fantastic opportunities such as Flamingoland, Edinburgh Zoo, Super Tramp Sunderland, The Beacon of Light Sports, Beamish Museum, A Taylor Swift Event (Swiftageddon), Parkour, Catering and much more! All students will be allocated one activity of their choice for this day.

Students will be informed of their option on the 13th March 2024. The costs and number of students is dependent upon engagement from students and some trips may be cancelled to increase capacity elsewhere. We will announce additional activities for Festival Weeks in the coming months!



Would you like a chance to win a break somewhere in the UK?

As we announced at Christmas, our History Department are running a competition and are giving away a break somewhere in the UK.
Completely free!

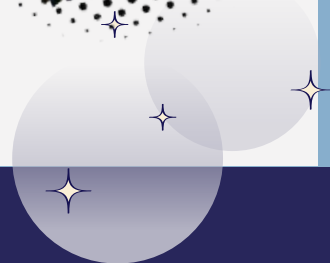
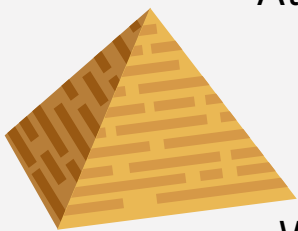
Researching, writing and presenting ideas about a historical theme or period, is one of the best parts about studying history!

To encourage this, all students are invited to enter the competition and create a piece of work which showcases their passion for history in anyway they like - it could be a painting, piece of writing, the more imaginative the better!

All entries to Miss Atkinson - Head of History

Deadline - 28th March 2024

Winner announced - after the Easter Break





Useful Information



Work experience week

Monday 10th June to Friday 14th June 2024

We are very excited to launch work experience week with our year 10 students.

What is work experience week?

Work Experience is a period of time where students work for/shadow a company or organisation to gain experience of a particular type of work.

Work experience can:

- ⇒ Provide your child with an insight into the world of work.
- ⇒ Give your child practical experience with an employer and allow them to develop their workplace skills.
- ⇒ Help your child to get a better sense of their future career path.
- ⇒ Enable your child to build a relationship with a local employer and make a lasting impression.

Sourcing a placement

Students will be responsible for sourcing their own placement for this period. Please get in contact with friends and family to see if they can support your child for work experience week. Contact local businesses via phone or through their social media. If your child doesn't source a placement, they will be in school as normal for that week.

Your child will need to add all of the details of this placement to the Morrisby platform. They have been sent an email link to their consilium email account to activate this process. Students will all need to complete the aspirations survey first when the log on.

If you require any help/support at any time—please get in touch with Kelly Oakland—Kelly.oakland@consilium-at.com



Useful Information



Hot Water Bottles

It has come to our attention that a number of students are using hot water bottles to help ease cramps and pains. Unfortunately, the use of hot water bottles presents a significant health and safety risk in terms of risk of burns, heat related injuries and the potential for spillages of water.

Due to these risks we cannot allow hot water bottles to be used within the school building.

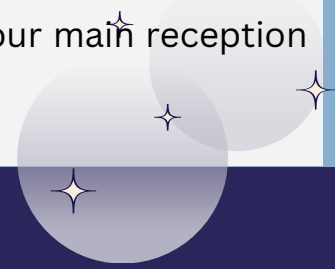
If your child wishes to use a microwaveable heat pack or adhesive heat pads these may be used but would need to be given to the main reception to be held until needed. Students will not be able to microwave heat pads themselves.

Medication

Students who require medication, prescribed or otherwise, must have a medication care plan in place. This can only be done by having a meeting with the Academy representative in terms of Administering Medication to a Child.

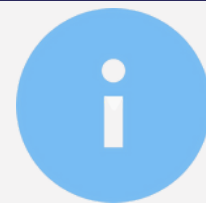
This meeting should be conducted in person by a parent or carer who will bring the medication in with them to the meeting. Unless specifically authorised on their medication care plan, students are not to bring or carry any medication in school.

All medication to be administered is to be held securely in the first aid room and administered by a suitably trained member of staff. Please contact our main reception to arrange a medication care plan.





Useful Information



Theatre Trips

Last minute places available!!

Wizard of Oz on 18th April 2024

Tickets cost £20.00 and includes transport

See Miss Wighton!!

We will also have some exciting new events at the theatre for students - which will go live on Parent Pay prior to Easter:

25th September 2024

Wicked (musical) at Sunderland Empire

Open to Years 7, 8, 9, 10



14th November 2024

Hairspray (musical) at Newcastle Theatre Royal

Open to Years 7, 8, 9, 10

17th December 2024

Jack and the Beanstalk (Panto) at Sunderland Empire

Open to Years 7, 8, 9, 10

8th January 2025

The Little Mermaid (RELAXED Panto) at Newcastle Theatre Royal

Open to Inspire students only



Students can see Miss Wighton for further details!





Useful Information



Importance of Attendance at Washington Academy

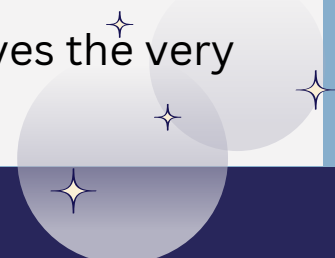
Your child should be in school every day. There is a clear connection between exam grades and attendance, and we want to work with you to ensure our pupils reach their full potential. Every day really does count.

How you can help:

- Contact school daily to report an absence.
- If your child has a medical appointment, please ensure they don't have the whole day off and come into school before and after where possible.
- Communicate with the school if there are any issues at home we can support you with or that may be affecting attendance.
- Bring in medical evidence e.g. a prescription, appointment card, hospital letter. Whether the absence is authorised is dependent on their attendance record and the discretion of the Attendance Team.
- Only take your child on holiday during the allocated school breaks (which is 13 weeks per year) Fines may be issued if holidays are taken during school time.

We have an Attendance Team available to support you at all times, please do not hesitate to contact them by email on washingtonenquiries@consilium-at.com or call them on 0191 5804956

We hope we can work together to ensure your child receives the very best opportunities available to them.





HAPPY EASTER

Easter Holidays

Last Day of term - Thursday 28th March 2024

Students return - Monday 15th April 2024

Click the following link to our website for all of our term dates for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

[Washington Academy Term Dates](#)




Useful Information



Year 11 Exams

As our Year 11 students are fast approaching their exams, and to help them have every chance at achieving the best possible grades, we are providing extra revision sessions for them.

Please see below a copy of the timetable and we would like to ask that you encourage your Year 11 child to attend so they can take advantage of this extra support.

 Washington Academy <i>Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions</i>		Year 11 Period Six Timetable				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Week 1 3:00pm – 3:45pm	Mathematics	Science	Technology Art	History	Creative Media	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Week 2 3:00pm – 3:45pm	English	Spanish Religious Studies	Drama Music Photography	Geography	Computing	



Useful Information



Foster *with*
NORTH EAST

**Share your home.
Shape their future.**

Could you offer the right home, at the right time
for a child or young person through fostering?
Find out more at fosterwithnortheast.org.uk



Foster with North East is England's first regional support hub for foster carers, combining 12 Local Authorities from all over the North East of England.

We are looking for people with different experiences and backgrounds to care for babies, children and young people who are just as individual as our carers.

Whether it's fostering for a night, a week, a month a year or more, by sharing your heart and your home, you can shape a child's life and future for the better.



We're here to support you as you apply to be a foster carer and we look forward to working together to build better futures for children and young people in the region.

If you think you could share your home to shape the future of children and young people in the North East, we'd love to hear from you.

Phone: 0800 917 7771

Email: contact@fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Website: fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Foster *with*
NORTH EAST



Useful Information



NSPCC

Online gaming and keeping children safe

Do you know your whispers from your skins? Your Fortnite from your EA Sports FC 24?

As part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival, we're encouraging parents, carers and those working with children and families to have conversations about online gaming.

GamCare will be sharing expert advice, and you'll hear directly from young people.

Our webinar will help you:

- understand how young people game online.
- learn about tools and resources that support safe play.
- gain the knowledge you need to keep children safe.



GAME SAFE FESTIVAL

7 February 2024, 7pm-8pm, via Zoom. Book your place via this link: nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

©NSPCC 2023. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Registered charity England and Wales 2156401, Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 204. Children and adults pictured are models. Photography by Tom Hull. J20230141.



Useful Information



Online relationship support for parents



one
plus
one

Parents in this area can now access **THREE ONLINE COURSES** from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.



FOR
ALL
PARENTS

Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.



FOR
NEW
PARENTS

Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.



FOR
SEPARATI
PARENTS

Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all **FREE** to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.onepluse.org.uk/parents





We are proud of our Washington Academy values

We have high expectations

We learn from our mistakes

**We treat each other with
respect**

We care about every child

