

Parent Bulletin

February 2024

Message from Mrs Carter, Headteacher

Welcome to our new style Parent/Carer bulletin! Washington Academy is a very busy place with so much we are proud of that we needed to change and improve our parent bulletin! We hope you like it!

It feels like so long ago now but all of our community were invited to contribute to our values. Our values are important to us because they shape and guide all of us to ensure we are achieving our mission of ensuring your child; our student, is equipped with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to allow them to lead happy and successful lives.

We have four values, and we are delighted that they play a part in every day school life. Here are a few examples of how this happens.

Our **“we have high expectations value”** is demonstrated by our students at the beginning of every day when they present for school on time and in the full correct uniform. Recent visitors have commented on how smart students look. It also features in our daily culture where behaviour in lessons and at social times has been described as exemplary. We are very proud of this!

Our Middle Leader team have been working very hard to ensure our marking policy is consistent across all subject areas and our **“SUN”** tasks are now embedded in all year groups and subjects. This is a piece of work students complete and receive written teacher feedback on how students can improve their work. Students have really understood the **“we learn from our mistakes value”** and ensure their work is of even higher quality when responding to their teacher feedback. This is recognised in our Wow Work Wednesdays.

We all work hard to demonstrate our **“we treat each other with respect”** and an example of this is our students who have hosted, served refreshments to and entertained community members from our nearby care homes. This was such a success that it has become a termly event and we look forward to welcoming our community members for our Easter event very soon.

Our final value, and most important one is **“Washington cares about every child”**. Our teams work relentlessly every day to improve the service we provide to your child. We absolutely acknowledge our students have different needs at different times but will support them always. If you ever feel that this is not the case please contact school so we can ensure that it is!

We thank you for your ongoing support in upholding our values, and in turn ensuring your child gets the best possible service here at Washington Academy.



Important Dates



Thursday 1st February - 3.30pm	Year 9 Parent Options Evening
Monday 5th February 2024	Mental Health Week
Monday 12th February 2024	Enrichment Day Announcement
Thursday 15th February 2024 2.45pm - 3.30pm	Valentines Disco
Thursday 29th February 2024	Year 11 Parents Evening

Did you know?

How Class Charts can help you support your child in school?

- You can view your child's information in real time and see their awarded praise points, homework, attendance, timetable, and you will also be immediately notified of any allocated detentions.
- If you have more than one child at the Academy, you can access all of your children's information in one centralised account.
- Class Charts for Parents can be accessed via the website and used on a desktop computer/laptop, or you can download an app to your phone from your app store. Please make sure you download the parents app and not the students app.
- Your child also has access to Class Charts for Students where they can see the same information as parents and also purchase exciting items for the Washington Academy Rewards Shop using their praise points.
- If you don't have Class Charts, and you would like more information and a code so you can use Class Charts for Parents, please
Email us on washingtonenquiries@consilium-at.com or
Call us on 0191 580 4956.





Useful Information



T E R M 2 Afterschool Club Timetable

MONDAY	Board game club – Mr Forster Trampoline – 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 Trampoline – Mr Docherty Football – Mr Seaman



Please speak to member of staff for more details



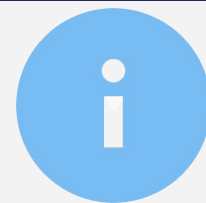
Washington Academy's
**Valentines
Disco**

Thursday 15th February
Tickets available on Class
Charts Reward Store!






Useful Information



Message from Miss Brooke, Assistant Headteacher, about how we approach teaching and learning at Washington Academy

As we continually strive to provide the best possible education for your child, we wanted to introduce you to our teaching approach. The **SOLAR** model is designed to create a structured and effective learning experience. Here's how it works:

Starter: The journey begins with a "starter" activity that focuses on previous learning. This task helps support your child remember more from their previous lessons.

Objective: Clear targets are essential for successful learning. Each lesson has specific learning targets, so you and your child know exactly what they will achieve. This ensures your child takes ownership of their learning.

Learn: The heart of the SOLAR model is the "Learn" phase. Your child will receive instruction, explore new information, and gain a deep understanding of the subject matter. Teachers employ various teaching methods to cater to different learning styles, ensuring that every child understands.

Apply: Learning is best when it's applied to the real-world. Your child will put their new knowledge to use by understanding activities and problem-solving tasks. This helps them understand better and builds important skills.

Review: Regularly reviewing is key to remembering what they have studied. We make sure that the knowledge is remembered for future use through discussions, quizzes, and interactive assessments.

The **SOLAR** cycle really helps with critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and a love for learning. We believe that this approach will not only help your child excel at school, but also prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in the future. I would like to encourage you to talk to your child about this and discuss their daily experiences by asking questions about what they've learned.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy.



Useful Information



Enrichment Day 2024

Back bigger and better than before!

ANNOUNCING SOON!
Watch this space!

The week commencing **12th February** we will be announcing the full line up of activities available for Enrichment Day!

In the past these have included trips to Theme Parks, Museum's and the Beach. We are VERY excited to share the amazing line up for this year!





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.





Useful Information



Washington Academy's Lake District Geography Trip!

A fieldwork trip to the Lakes!

This trip takes you to the Lake District to explore the glaciated landscape before exploring **Easedale Tarn** and finally **Grasmere Village**! You might even want to buy some of their world-famous gingerbread!



This trip is open to all students in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10. There are only 45 spaces, so it is on a first come first served basis! Get your letter from Mr Fargent ASAP!

This trip takes place on **Thursday 18th April.**



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.

	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

Washington Academy
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

**Year 11
Period Six Timetable**

Consilium Academies
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Useful Information



HEALTHY HEADS NEWSLETTER



South Tyneside and Sunderland
NHS Foundation Trust

Who Are We?

The Healthy Heads Team is a Mental Health Support Team based in some of our Sunderland Schools. We offer early intervention to help children, young people and their families who are struggling with mild to moderate anxiety and/or low mood.



HEALTHY HEADS UPDATE

WE HOPE YOU ALL HAD A LOVELY CHRISTMAS BREAK! AS A SERVICE, WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS. WE HAVE JUST WELCOMED FOUR TRAINEE EDUCATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS AND EXPANDED INTO MORE SCHOOLS.

**LAST TERM WE DELIVERED:
TRAINING TO 93 TEACHERS**

**WHOLE CLASS OR SCHOOL SESSIONS
TO 3805 STUDENTS**



DATES FOR DIARY

27th January - Parent Mental Health Day

2nd February - Time to talk day

5th-11th February- Children's Mental Health week

17th February- Random act of kindness day

20th March - World Sleep Day

MENTAL HEALTH CHARTER MARK

THE CHARTER MARK WAS DEVELOPED IN 2017 WITH THE AIM TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ACROSS SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS AND IN OTHER SETTINGS FOR THE CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE ADULTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THEM. THE CHARTER MARK CAN BE GAINED AT BRONZE, SILVER OR GOLD LEVELS, DEPENDENT ON A PROVIDER'S SUPPORT. WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST MODERATION VISITS:

**PLAINS FARM ACADEMY- GOLD
BROADWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL- SILVER**

THERE IS A HALF TERMLY CLUSTER MEETING WHICH WE ENCOURAGE ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN THIS PROCESS TO ATTEND





Useful Information

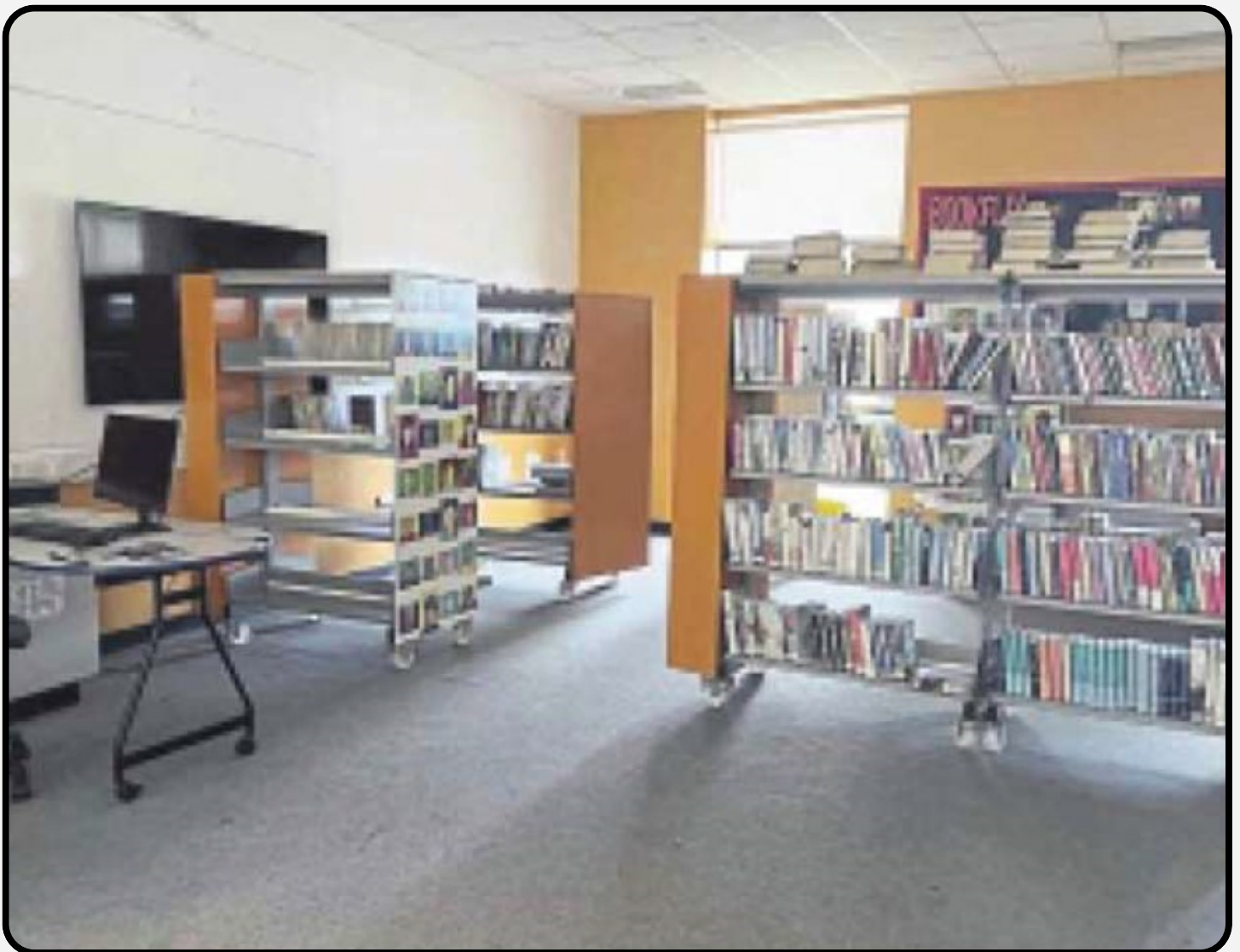


Come along and access our pop up library!

We were delighted to be asked to help our local community with access to library services whilst Washington Library is under-going refurbishment.

We are hosting a pop up community library and it will be **open to members of the public on Mondays and Wednesdays between 4.00pm and 5.00pm.**

Washington Library staff will also be spending some time with our school Literacy Leaders to provide them with some librarian training and visiting classes to teach our students the best way to use the pop up service!





Useful Information

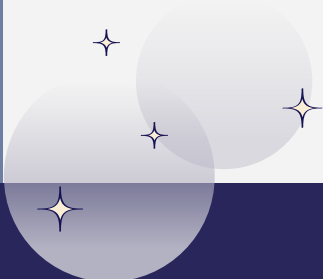


My Best Life is a brand new website offering events and advice for families in Sunderland, offering an easy way to explore and discover exciting family-friendly activities and support services happening in Sunderland's Family Hubs and online.

Whether you're wanting playdates for your little ones, looking for expert advice, or you're hoping to meet people just like you, My Best Life helps you get connected to local resources, events and services in Sunderland that will help you and your family thrive.

You'll find everything from parenting workshops and playgroups to interactive classes and support networks and it is available in over 100 languages.

Find out more at www.mybestlife.org.uk.





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

