



Washington
Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Washington Academy Parental Bulletin

Week Commencing Monday 2nd October 2023

Head Teacher's Message

Thank you to all of our students and staff for their valued contributions in steering what we want our core values to be. Our values have been collectively decided and agreed as:

- High expectations
- We treat everyone with respect
- We learn from our mistakes
- Every child is important

Thank you to all of our parents who have supported our drive in uniform standards. External visitors have commented on how smart our students look and that they look professional and ready to learn, setting the tone for a successful day of learning ahead.

Bus Strikes

We are aware that a series of strikes at Go North East may go ahead which are likely to bring bus services to a halt on the following dates:

- Saturday 30th September - Friday 6th October inclusive
- Saturday 14th October - Friday 20th October inclusive

We do not want our students' education affected by this. Students who travel to the academy by bus should allow extra time for travel, we would like to remind you that our site is open from 8am for students who wish to attend breakfast club, which is free should parents need to drop children off earlier in response to the strikes. If anyone will struggle to get their child in on these days, can you please contact school so we can plan to prevent our students missing out should the strikes go ahead.

Solar

As we continually strive to provide the best possible education for your children, we wanted to introduce you to our innovative teaching approach - the "Starter, Objective, Learn, Apply, Review" (SOLAR) model.

The SOLAR model is designed to create a structured and effective learning experience for your child. Here's a brief overview of how it works:

- Starter: The journey begins with a thoughtfully crafted "starter" activity that focuses on retrieval practice. This practice helps support your child remember more from their previous lessons.
- Objective: Clear objectives are essential for successful learning. We ensure that each lesson has specific learning objectives, so you and your child know exactly what they will accomplish. This clarity empowers your child to take ownership of their learning.
- Learn: The heart of the SOLAR model is the "Learn" phase. During this stage, your child will receive instruction, explore new concepts, and gain a deep understanding of the subject matter. Our educators employ various teaching methods to cater to different learning styles, ensuring that every child can grasp the material.
- Apply: Learning is most effective when it's applied to real-world scenarios. In the "Apply" phase, your child will put their newfound knowledge to use through different deeper understanding activities, projects, and problem-solving tasks. This practical application helps solidify their understanding and builds important skills.

· Review: Regular reinforcement is key to retention. In the "Review" phase, your child will revisit and consolidate what they've learned. Through discussions, quizzes, and interactive assessments, we ensure that the knowledge is not only acquired but also retained for future use.

The SOLAR model is more than just a teaching method; it's a holistic approach to education that nurtures critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and a love for learning. We believe that this approach will not only help your child excel academically but also prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in the future.

We encourage you to engage with your child's learning journey by discussing their daily experiences, asking questions about what they've learned, and providing a supportive environment for them to thrive.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are excited about the positive impact the SOLAR model can have on their learning experience. If you have any questions or would like more information about this approach, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can empower your child to shine brightly in their educational journey.

Personal Development Updates

Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to let you know that we now have our student leadership team in place. Students applied for specific roles to oversee within the team from across the school. They will work together with our senior leadership team to help drive the school forward. We have leaders in safeguarding, mental health, wellbeing, student voice, literacy, anti-bullying and sport/extra-curricular.



School Council Meeting

Our next school council meeting is Tuesday 3rd October. All form tutor reps invited along with any students who would like to become part of the council from all year groups. Please come to the main hall after school on Tuesday. We aim to finish at around 3.30pm.

Apprenticeship and University Careers Fair

We still have some spaces for the FREE careers fair at Newcastle on Friday 6th. Please email Mrs Oakland if you would like your child to attend - kelly.oakland@consilium-at.com

MFL Updates

Word of the week: La fuente (fountain)



School Duolingo League: www.duolingo.com/classroom/cbxpju

News story of the week: Read about Girona's shock rise to the top of La Liga [El líder Girona lo celebra por todo lo alto! \(mundodeportivo.com\)](https://www.mundodeportivo.com)

Washington Cares About You

Washington Academy is a place where staff genuinely care about our students, and this is commented upon by all external visitors. It is important to us that we hear the voice of our students, some of whom may not want to express their views or problems verbally. We have just launched our 'Washington Cares About You' online form to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be heard.



Is something really bothering you but you just don't know how to start that conversation with a member of staff?

Tell us about it online and we can start the conversation with you!

Use the QR code to get you started or click on 'Washington Cares About You' on our school website.

Remember, you are not allowed to use your mobile phone in school so please ask a member of staff to use your phone for this.

Weekly 100% Attendance Challenge

Every week students will be given a ticket if they have been in school every day. The students can then choose which box to place their ticket in for the chance to win the following £30 gift vouchers at the end of the half term. The choices this half term are for: Asda, Amazon and JD Sports. Got to be in to win!

Crunchie Friday

Every Friday students could win a Crunchie if they are in school. During Lesson 5, students will find out if they are one of 5 randomly selected students in their year group and will meet with Mrs Bryden to collect their chocolate.

Tutor Group Challenge

Each tutor group competes against the rest to hold their place in the Premiership! The tutor group, in each year, with the highest number of points will be invited to a 'Pizza Party' on the last Friday of term.

Open Evening

Washington will be opening its doors for students in Years 5 and 6 on Thursday 5th October. Please come along and support this event. Many of our current students will be supporting the event by helping in the various departments. The event is from 6-8pm.