



As confirmed on 1 October, Sandwell Council's proposal to expand The Westminster School to allow an increase in pupil capacity with effect from 1 January 2019 has been approved. Thank you for all your support during the consultation process. More details are on page 2.

We are delighted to have received the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) as it recognises our commitment to working closely with our parents and carers, ensuring they are well-informed and well-supported during their child's learning journey with us. Thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout our LPPA journey.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Careers Fayre on 19 October. We were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers to our very successful event.

Thank you for your very kind donations of food for our annual Harvest Festival. These will be going to a local community foodbank.

We are immensely proud of our students who have been invited to perform at "Lest We Forget", the National Children's World War I Remembrance Concert on 3 November at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. We wish them luck and look forward to hearing all about it when they return to School after the half-term break.

Have a safe and happy break and I look forward to seeing pupils back in School on Monday 5 November.

Mrs C A Hill, Head Teacher



Westminster Expansion



We are delighted that the proposal to increase pupil capacity by up to 60 pupils (to a total of 250) has been approved by Sandwell Council Cabinet. This is subject to the allocation of capital funding to support the reorganisation of The Westminster School and associated move to Whiteheath Education Centre.

Cabinet made this decision because the expansion of The Westminster School responds directly to new SEND legislation and will lead to more young people with disabilities in Sandwell being able to attend a special school for Moderate Learning Difficulties. The expansion will enable the council to implement the Department for Education's strategy "Preparing for Adulthood" by providing places on the Supported Internship and Apprenticeships programme, leading to increased employment opportunities for young people with Learning Disabilities.

Westminster Achieves Parent Partnership Award

The Westminster School has been formally recognised for its work with parents and carers.

The School has been awarded the prestigious Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) for its "commitment and passion" in working with parents to improve outcomes for children.

The LPPA report read "Parents feel well-informed and feel that staff go above and beyond what could be expected of them."

"A wide range of opportunities are available for parents to support their children's learning and to develop their own learning."

The School was praised for its open door approach and its commitment to involving all parents as fully as possible.

We will continue to work closely with all our parents and carers to ensure that we build on our successes and offer more opportunities to parents and carers.



Games Day

Imagination Gaming came in to School in October to run a Games Workshop day for pupils. Pupils were able to play a variety of different educational games and puzzles, looking at literacy, numeracy and problem solving.



Charity Baking

Well done to pupil K in Year 10 who has been doing some fantastic baking and raising money for charity by selling the goodies to the School community.



Post 16 Work Experience

Post 16 students have been enjoying their work experience placements this term. Students have been getting the opportunity to experience the world of work and learn new skills which will help them find employment in the future.



Abberley Get Busy!

As part of their DofE and Art work, Abberley have been looking at our natural environment and thinking about how they can enjoy it. They had a campfire and collected natural materials such as twigs and leaves to make their own art. They made hedgehogs and also created images of objects such as houses, trees and flowers. As part of this work, Abberley are becoming more comfortable outside the classroom and also beginning to think about how objects such as fallen leaves look, feel or sound when they crunch them.

Abberley have also been thinking of ways to raise money to help others. They decided to make chocolate crispies, decorate them and sell them to staff with all the money going to Children in Need. Abberley students had to ask people to buy the crispies and staff were very generous. Staff said our crispies tasted delicious!

Abberley are also learning to take care of themselves and prepare for their future after Westminster. They are working on money skills and using money in real life situations. They are also sharing a morning breakfast routine which includes getting the things they need and washing and tidying up afterwards, followed by cleaning their teeth. In the life skills flat, they have been learning how to safely make a hot drink and make a toasted sandwich and how to tidy and look after the flat, folding clothes, sweeping, washing up and putting food away. They are learning important skills and having fun at the same time!



Careers Fayre

Thank you to everyone who attended our very successful Careers Fayre on 19 October. Year 9, 10, 11 and Post 16 students and their parents/carers were able to chat to a range of further education providers and other agencies about their options after leaving school.



SEND Fast Forward Programme

The Westminster School has helped to develop the Local Authority Fast Forward programme and as a result set up a group of students across Sandwell schools who attended a Work Related Learning residential at Frank Chapman in September 2018. This group of students will continue to meet regularly throughout the academic year.



Supported Internships

Some of our Post 16 students have recently started their supported internships. Ben B told us what he felt about his internship:

'Cooking is in my family. I've wanted to be a chef for a long time - Like my Dad was, and my older brother is now. I've been doing my 'Catering Assistant' Internship with Autograph for a month now. I am learning new skills all the time. My favourite part is the food prep and cooking, I like cooking BBQ chicken best. I'm good at the cleaning part of the job too. I'm really glad that I am on this Internship and I am looking forward to getting an apprenticeship.'



Give a Day of Your Time

Westminster staff and staff from Interserve and Ground Control took part in a Give a Day of Your Time (GADOYT) in August. The team worked together to complete the second stage of the Gruffly Woodland Walk project in the outdoor area of the campus.

Work began on the project last year, aiming to improve the School's outdoor educational facilities and creating a great place to learn and develop outside the classroom.

The team worked to install more steps through the woodland, adding yet more scope to the area.



Parent Partnership

If you wish to share your successes with our students please contact Mrs Taylor, our Family Support Worker at the School.

Half-Term - What's On in Sandwell

Sandwell Council have put together a webpage with details of holiday playschemes, library, museum and other events for children and families over the half term holiday.

If you are a Sandwell resident and your child is under 16, you can also register them for free swimming in Sandwell leisure centres through the page.

The website can be found at:

http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200242/events/1829/school_holidays_-_whats_on_in_sandwell

Free Adult and Family Learning Courses

Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Service (SAFL) offer a range of courses in a variety of subjects such as English, maths, First Aid and ICT. A number of these courses are free of charge.

For more information, visit: www.learnsafl.ac.uk/

Sandwell Family Information Services Hub

The Family Information Services Hub provides information about the services available in Sandwell for all families, children, young people and professionals you can do tailored searches for childcare and other available services to meet your family's needs. The Hub can be found at <https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Autumn Term 2018 -19

- Half Term - Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2018
- School Re-opens to Pupils - Monday 5 November
- Term Ends - 3.05pm, Friday 21 December 2018
- Christmas Holiday - Monday 24 December 2018 to Friday 4 January 2019
- School Re-opens to Pupils - Monday 7 January 2019

INSET DAYS - School Closed to Pupils

Monday 19 November 2018

Monday 3 June 2019

Monday 1 July 20 19

Monday 22 July 2019



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