



HIGH WELL
SCHOOL

High Well School

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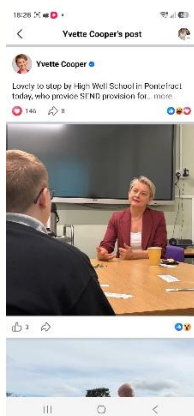
19th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of a very productive first half term at High Well School, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you by way of enrichment, celebration and updates.

MP Visit – Yvette Cooper

On 18th September we welcomed MP Yvette Cooper to High Well School as part of our PPF theme of “International Week of Democracy”. Our student Council, met with Yvette and asked about her job, as well as questions related to her role as Minister for Health & Social Care. The student council held their elections as part of that week and are meeting regularly to discuss issues of school improvement.



High Well FC

Pupils were involved in trials for the newly formed High Well FC and are proudly sporting their new, pupil-designed school football kit, which was won as part of a competition with Octopus Energy

Outdoor Ed & Forest School

The launch of our new curriculum in September has proved popular with pupils. Of particular note is our experiential offer, we have started our Outdoor Ed. And Forest School provisions. Pupils have taken part

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in orienteering, tent building, fishing and horse riding, alongside Forest School activities, such as; fire building, whittling, wood chopping and tree climbing. The engagement and resilience shown by pupils has been excellent.

Macmillan Coffee morning

Thank you for your support for this event – the school raised over £100

Careers Events

The Careers fair is on Friday 6th November 9:15-11:00 and all parents are welcome to attend, there will be a variety of visitors from local post-16 provisions and colleges, as well as external support agencies such as HST. Y10 pupils have attended WX SEND Careers fair and the other Y10 group will be attending the Creative Industries event at WX in November.

The following are some important reminders and updates to the school calendar for the remainder of the Autumn Term. The following dates are when the **school is closed to pupils**:

- **Friday 23rd October** is an INSET day – pupils will not attend school on this day
- **Friday 4th December** is designated as a Pupil Progress Day (more information will be shared regarding this regarding appointments) – pupils will not attend school on this day
- **Thursday 22nd Oct – Wear Red for Racism** – pupils can wear non-uniform (red theme)

Other Key dates

- **Assessment week w.c 2nd November**
- **Y11 Mock exams w.c 23rd November**

Assessment Week – 2nd November – 6th November

We will be carrying out an Assessment Week for all students in Y7 – Y10. During this time, pupils will complete a number of WRAT (Wide Range Achievement Test) assessments in reading, spelling and mathematics.

We understand that the word "assessment" can sometimes feel daunting, particularly for young people who may have experienced challenges in education previously. We would like to reassure you that these assessments are designed to be low-pressure and supportive. There is no pass or fail, and students are not expected to revise or prepare beforehand. The aim is simply to help us understand where they are currently in their learning journey.

What is the WRAT?

The WRAT is a well-established assessment tool that provides information about students':

- Reading skills
- Spelling skills
- Mathematical understanding

The assessments help us identify both strengths and areas where additional support may be beneficial. They are widely used in education because they provide a clear picture of a learner's current attainment levels.

How Will This Help My Child?

The information gathered will enable us to:

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- Further build an accurate academic profile for each student.
- Identify strengths that can be celebrated and developed further.
- Identify any gaps in learning that may need targeted support.
- Plan interventions and personalised learning programmes.
- Measure progress more effectively over time.
- Ensure teaching is pitched at the right level for each individual.

As an SEMH provision, understanding the whole child is central to everything we do. Alongside the relationships we build with students and our knowledge of their social, emotional and mental health needs, these assessments provide valuable information that helps us remove barriers to learning and maximise opportunities for success.

How Will the Assessments Be Carried Out?

To ensure students feel comfortable and supported, all assessments will be completed 1:1 with a Teaching Assistant. Students will be able to work at their own pace in a calm environment, allowing them to demonstrate what they know and can do without the pressures often associated with formal testing.

For our Year 10 students, these assessments are particularly valuable as they move closer to important qualifications and post-16 pathways.

The information will help us to:

- Identify any further gaps in literacy or numeracy that may impact next steps
- Put additional support in place before students enter Year 11.
- Ensure appropriate intervention programmes are targeted where they are needed most.
- Support planning for careers, college applications, apprenticeships and future employment opportunities.
- Ensure students leave us with the strongest possible foundation for their next steps.

By identifying areas of need early, we can provide the right support at the right time, helping students to feel more confident and better prepared for the future.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions regarding Assessment Week or the WRAT assessments, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Carmody, Assistant Head Teacher who will be able to answer any further questions.

I appreciate your continued support regarding the above.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Should you wish to speak with a member of the school team in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Richardson

Headteacher

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