



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Friday, 08 April 2011

Dear Parents,

As another busy term hurtles to a close, we can begin to reflect on what has been a tremendous spring season for WGS.

Music and Drama

As I mentioned in my February letter, the school production of *The Taming of the Shrew* took centre stage before half-term but since then our musicians have been the stars. The Orchestra and Band concert was a smashing evening of lively, popular music while the Battle of the Bands and the Help for Heroes concerts showed once again the depth of talent that exists in modern music at WGS. Finally, in the last week of the term, the 70-strong Choral Society's production of Handel's *Messiah*, with solos by Ed Holden, Ellie Griffiths, Felicity Maidment and George Rowe was simply outstanding. Many congratulations to all involved and special thanks to our Director of Music, Andy Proverbs. – the *Messiah* was a real triumph.

Sport

Our girls did superbly in the recent City Netball finals. The Seniors', Years 10, 9 and 8 A teams, as well as the Year 7B team, won their respective Championships while the Year 7A team and Years 8, 9 and 10B teams also all finished runners' up with the 7A only losing 21-20 after three periods of extra time! The Senior teams finished off a tremendous season by winning matches against Stafford, Ellesmere, Oswestry and King's, Worcester.

In the City Gymnastics Championships, Serena Samra, Abbi Lavill and Sammie Simpson won Bronze medals, Laura Simms and the O13 Beginners won Silver medals and Alice Baldwin won a Silver in the Vault and a Gold in the Floor Exercises and the U13 won the Team Gold.

The Senior Girls Hockey team showed the steady progress they've been making with a convincing 6-1 victory over King Edward's, Stourbridge and in the City Cross Country Championships, Poppy Nabbs won the Year 7 race, Amelia Lewis finished third and the team won the Gold. Zoë Stirling and Freya Husselbee finished second and third respectively in the Senior Girls' race, thereby ensuring the team Gold medals. We still await the outcome of the League competition and the girls are now looking forward to a busy summer of rounders, tennis and athletics.

The boys also competed well in the Cross Country Championships with victory in the Senior race for Dan Genner and the Intermediate race for Alex Buckham. The Year 7, joint Years 8 & 9 team and joint Years 10 & 11 team all won Gold.

Our footballers have also registered some notable successes since half term. The Senior XIs had excellent wins against RGS Newcastle and RGS Worcester. The U12 A & B teams registered some convincing victories, the U15s played well throughout the season and the U13 and U14 teams are in the semi-finals of the City Cup.

In Rugby, the U13s finished off an excellent season with impressive wins against King Edward's, Birmingham B Team, and Wolverhampton Rugby Club. The 1st XV did well to reach the semi-final of the County Cup and won the Plate Competition at the County 7 a-side competition.

It has certainly been a case of bringing on the young players for the 1st XI boys Hockey team this season and the U14 and U15 won the few games they played.

In Badminton we finished runners-up in all three leagues, Will Nield and Sam Amos are in the semi-final of the City Championship, James Tatton and Silas Lawrence won the Junior Boys' double and Ben Hart won the Intermediate Singles competition.

In Fives, our U13, U15 and U16 teams represented the school well in the National finals at Eton and Harrow schools. Our Years 9/10 Basketball team remain unbeaten and there was a Gold medal for Josh Evans and a Silver medal for Tim Evans in the recent City Swimming Championships.

Enrichment

'WGS Travel Limited' continues to offer a vast array of trips and activities for our students. Trips to Worcester for Year 8, a variety of conferences for Sixth Form students, the Geography Field Trip to Cornwall and an exciting Maths Challenge were among the many highlights of the second half of the term. Indeed, over the Easter holiday, there will be three groups of WGS youngsters in Europe – the German Language exchange, the French exchange and Venice Art trip will all be taking place whilst the older students prepare for our three main summer expeditions to Borneo, Morocco and Uganda in July.

Charity

Once again our students have been both creative and energetic in their efforts to raise money for deserving causes. Our focus in the Spring Term usually centres on our link school in Uganda – Lords Meade and the lower school forms in particular did great work this year raising over £6,000 for Lords Meade and a refuge for homeless children in Uganda. 7Q won the prize for raising the most money with a day long sponsored silence – a real sacrifice!

Inspection

Last week the long overdue interim inspection of the school finally took place. Two senior Inspectors from ISI poured through our paperwork, talked to students, reviewed their books, observed lessons and examined the parental and student surveys. Their final report will not be published for some weeks but I can say that their initial feedback to us was hugely positive in all areas but particularly in the key areas of student achievement and personal development. So, we're hoping for an excellent report which will be sent out to parents and published on the website after Easter.

Reports

We intend to revisit our grading system used on school reports. In the meantime, staff have been asked to adhere more closely to the criteria as stated on the back cover of the report. So, C3 really does mean C=Good Effort, 3=Sound Work and is therefore perfectly acceptable.

And there we have it, a smashing term of activities and achievement for the school. Interest in our new Junior school is very strong with well over seventy youngsters already signed up as WGJS's first students in September. Between now and then, a busy summer term awaits (see some key dates highlighted below). I wish Year 11 and the Sixth Form good luck as they begin to revise over Easter for the exam season which starts in mid May. For the remainder of our students and to all of our parents, I wish you a very happy and relaxing Easter holiday. School reopens at 8.45am on Tuesday 26th April

Best wishes,

Vincent Darby
Head

Summer Term 2011

April

Sun	24 th	Week 1:
Mon	25 th	Easter Monday – school closed
Tues	26 th	Term Begins Parents' Information Evening for Coast to Coast, Seminar Room, 6pm
Fri	29 th	St George's Day Royal Wedding – school closed
Sat	30 th	

May

Sun	1 st	Week 2: May Day
Mon	2 nd	Bank Holiday – school closed
Thurs	5 th	Lower Sixth French Intensive Oral practice, John Roper, 4.15pm – 5.45pm
Fri	6 th	Non Uniform Day Junior Maths Challenge, Year 6/7/8, New Block
Sat	7 th	Year 9/10 Towers Trip? Morocco Group Training day 2, Team 1, 10am – 3.30pm

Sun	8 th	Week 3: Lower Sixth Theatre Studies Technical Rehearsal, Hutton Theatre, 10am–6pm
Mon	9 th	Uganda Trip Meeting, Seminar Room, 6.30pm – 8pm Lower Sixth Theatre Studies exam, Hutton Theatre, 7.30pm
Thurs	12 th	Youth Coaching Programme, 6pm
Fri	13 th	Lower Sixth and Year 11 Study Leave begins, 4pm Year 9/10 Disco, Sixth Form Common Room, 7pm
Sat	14 th	

Sun	15 th	Week 4:
Tues	17 th	Year 10 Controlled Assessment, Geography
Weds	18 th	Upper Sixth Study Leave begins following lunch Big School, 12.30pm Moroccan Evening Walk, 4pm – 8pm Parents Evening, Safeguarding Our Children, 7.00pm Year 7 Warwick Castle visit
Thurs	19 th	Year 10 Controlled Assessment, Geography
Fri	20 th	Year 8/9 Towers Trip to Snowdon, leaving 4.30pm returns 22 nd
Sat	21 st	

Sun	22 nd	Week 5: Technical Rehearsal, <i>Grimm's Tales</i> , Hutton Theatre, 10am – 6pm
Mon	23 rd	Year 10 Moroccan practice walk up the Wrekin 1pm – 4pm Dress Rehearsal, <i>Grimm's Tales</i> , Hutton Theatre, 4pm - 10pm
Tues	24 th	Year 9 Moroccan practice walk up the Wrekin 1pm – 4pm

Weds	25 th	Moroccan Evening Walk, 4pm – 8pm 'Grimm's Tales' Performance, Hutton Theatre, 7.30pm
Thurs	26 th	'Grimm's Tales' Performance, Hutton Theatre, 7.30pm
Fri	27 th	Coast to Coast Departs 11am returns Sunday 29 th 'Grimm's Tales' Performance, Hutton Theatre, 7.30pm
Sat	28 th	
Mon	30 th	Half Term to Friday 3rd June
June		
Weds	1 st	
Thurs	2 nd	Ascension Day
Fri	3 rd	
Sat	4 th	
Sun	5 th	Week 6: Moroccan full day hike in the Peak District, 7am – 6.30pm
Thurs	9 th	Lower Sixth Physics Trip to Cheltenham, all day Youth Coaching Programme, 6pm
Sat	11 th	
Sun	12 th	Week 7: Whit Sunday – Pentecost
Mon	13 th	School Exam Week Lower Sixth Lecture, Hutton Theatre, all day
Tues	14 th	Lower Sixth at Wolverhampton University, UCAS and EPQ Session 1
Weds	15 th	Staff Training Day, School closed except for external exams
Sat	18 th	
Sun	19 th	Week 8: Trinity Sunday
Mon	20 th	Work Experience Week 1 HPV Year 8 Girls catch up, Big School and John Roper Room, 9.20am Year 10 Art Trip to Ironbridge
Tues	21 st	Year 7 Camp to Ross-on-Wye to 24 th , leaving 9.30am
Thurs	23 rd	Corpus Christi
Fri	24 th	Year 10 Art Trip to Ironbridge Upper Sixth Clearing, am Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner
Sat	25 th	

Sun	26 th	Week 9:
Mon	27 th	Year 10 Moroccan practice walk up the Wrekin 1pm – 4pm
Tues	28 th	Year 9 Moroccan practice walk up the Wrekin 1pm – 4pm
Weds	29 th	Year 11 induction to the Sixth Form, Hutton Theatre, 9am Year 11 clearing, Derry Hall, 10.00am Sports Day Field Events, pm
Thurs	30 th	Sports Day - Track Events, 9.30am – 12.45pm – No afternoon school
July		
Fri	1 st	Jazz Spectacular, 6.30pm
Sat	2 nd	Art Exhibition, Art Centre, 12pm – 3pm

Sun	3 rd	Week 10: Year 10 Battlefields Trip to 6 th leaves 6.30am
Mon	4 th	Work Experience Week 2
Tues	5 th	L6 Art Trip to Tate Modern, London
Weds	6 th	Walker Memorial Mile, 1pm
Thurs	7 th	Lamda Exam, Hutton Theatre, 9am – 5pm
Fri	8 th	Term Ends 12.30pm Full Reports issued to Year 6/7/8/9/10 Borneo Expedition departs
Sat		
