



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

July 2011

Dear Parents,

Well, as WGS approaches the end of its 499th year, I can say with some pride that the school is in rude health and very excited about the future.

Despite the emphasis on examinations during the summer term, our students have still managed to do and achieve so much that is worthwhile – the Year 7 camp, the Battlefields trip to Northern France, Year 10 Art to Ironbridge, Lower Sixth to the Tate and all since half term. And, over the summer, the students will be embarking on fantastic expeditions to Morocco, Uganda and to Borneo. We wish them good luck on their adventures.

Another wonderful year of music drew to a close firstly with the fabulous Jazz Spectacular on 1st. Singers and instrumentalists put on another night of really enjoyable music and thanks must go once again to our maestro, Andy Proverbs, but also to Jo Taylor for the bar and catering and the Friends for all the work they did in helping to prepare the venue and support the evening. It was also wonderful to see so much budding talent at the Lower School concert in the last week of term which rounded off another great year of music making.

Friends (PA) Christmas Ball: A big thank you to the Friends for all their hard work and support again this year – the Quiz and Jazz Spectacular were particularly successful and please remember to reserve your tickets for the Christmas Ball on Saturday 10th December. A fantastic evening of fine food, music and dancing is guaranteed. Tickets priced at £35 each are selling fast so, to avoid disappointment, please contact the school office as soon as possible

Senior Prizegiving

Jacqui Oatley, OW 1990-1992, BBC Commentator, was the guest of honour at our very enjoyable Senior Prizegiving on 28th June. Jacqui urged our senior students to go for their dream and Ellie Griffiths sang beautifully.

Parental Consultation

Thanks to the parents who attended the Parental Consultation evening in June and those who sent in questions. It was a very positive evening and all the questions and our responses will be published on the website. Indeed, it is great to be able to respond positively to at least some of the suggestions/questions posed e.g. introducing a consistent skirt for girls and bringing forward the end of year reports (see below).

Reporting to Parents

We've been looking at the pattern of reporting to parents i.e. Parents' Evenings and both short and full reports. As a result, from September we're intending to launch a new system which will provide more frequent short reports and full reports for Years 7-10 around the summer half term, rather than on the last day of the year, to allow time for follow up. There will be a pattern established to cover reporting and Parent Evenings across the three main phases of school life i.e. Years 7 to 9, the GCSE programme in Years 10 and 11 and AS and A2 level in the Sixth Form. Mark Benfield will provide further information to all parents at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Uniform

The new grey trousers for all boys and skirts for girls in Years 9, 10 and 11 and kilts for girls in Years 7 & 8 (and Year 9 if they so choose), will be available at the Buxton and Bonnett shop in Victoria Street, Wolverhampton from the end of July. Grey trousers for girls in all years will also be available from the shop at the end of the month. However, all these items will be available to try on at the shop to allow families to pre-order from Monday 11th July. Don't forget you can also order online (see attached price list and website details).

New Tie for Years 7 to 11

The new red school tie will also be available from Buxton and Bonnett from the end of July priced at £7.50. The tie will be compulsory for all students in Years 7 to 11 and optional for the Sixth Form.

New Badge

Unfortunately, we've had a problem with the new blazer badge for the Senior School. As a result we've decided to delay the introduction of the badge until September 2012. So, there will be no change to the blazer badge for this September for the next academic year.

Sport

Benji Pearson finished 4th in the Discus in the All England Schools' Championships at U20 level on Saturday 2nd July. The Junior Boys' Tennis Team have won the Regional Aegon Championships and will now progress to the

National Championships next term. The City Athletics Championships are on the first Tuesday of the holidays so we wish all our athletes taking part the very best of luck.

In Cricket, Tom Weston has scored over 450 runs for the 1st XI this season – an outstanding achievement by any means but particularly for someone who is still only in Year 11. Sam Linney, playing for U15 team against Bishop Vesey's scored 112 not out.

Representative Honours

Will Nield (Lower Sixth)	Staffordshire (U17) County Cricket
Aaron Patel (Year 10)	Staffordshire (U15) County Cricket
George Williams (Year 10)	Junior Rotax National British Championship, Open British Championship, Rotax European Championship
Megan Griffiths (Year 8)	Shropshire U14 & U15 Cricket
Bex Roberts (Year 8)	Staffordshire U13 Cricket
Ciaran Singh (Year 8)	Staffordshire Cricket
Eve Webb (Year 8)	South Staffordshire U13 Netball
Ben Oswald (Year 7)	Worcestershire Cricket
Max Diment (Year 7)	Shropshire Cricket
Edward Cooper (<i>Big Six</i>)	Staffordshire Tennis

The annual **Chris Walker Memorial Mile race** was run on the last Wednesday of term and the top results from the 24 runners were as follows:

	MALE:	TIME:	FEMALE:	TIME:
1 st	Aaron Bachra	6:46	Poppy Nabbs	6:38
2 nd	Tom Pleydell	6:59	Molly Parr	7:42
3 rd	James Birch	7:06	Freya Husselbee	7:42
1 st	Female Teacher		Kate Ward	6:14
1 st	Male Teacher		Nick Munson	6:04

Please also consult the details at the end of this letter regarding Pre-Season Senior sport.

Staff

Most parents will be aware that we will be bidding a fond farewell to three teachers at the end of this term. Danni Wilcox has been covering Heidi Dalzell this year and has done a smashing job. We wish Danni every happiness and success in her new post at St Mary's in Worcester. We will also be saying a million thanks and happy retirement to two stalwarts of the common room, Tony Bennett and Tony Page – Tony Bennett joined the school in 1984 and has taught Physics and been Head of PSHE and Independent Learning. He was also behind the WGS achieving a Healthy School Award. Tony Page, started in 1982 and has been a fine Head of Economics and Business Studies and has also done huge amounts for sport – firstly with football and later playing a hugely valuable role in the development of rugby at the school. Two colleagues then who between them have contributed 56 years of superb service to WGS and taught a generation of students – we wish them a long, happy and enjoyable retirement

We will also be bidding a fond farewell to my PA, Jann Boss who has managed to support, guide and do almost everything for two head teachers during her 14 years service at WGS. Jann has landed a bigger role at King Edward's, Birmingham. We wish her every happiness and success and thank her for all she has done for WGS.

New Staff and staff changes:

Mr Nathan Burden	Physics
Mr Tom Smith	Head of Economics & Business Studies
Mrs Fogarty	Takes on the role as Head of PSHE
Miss Alison McAllister	Takes on the role of Head of Girls' PE and Games
Mr Jim Millichamp	Takes on the role of Assistant Head of Years 10 & 11
Mr Jonathan Wood	Takes on Peer Support

Opening of WGJS

Following the confirmation that our new Junior School, WGJS, will open in September 2011, I am delighted to be able to announce the appointment of teaching staff. Mr Cothey, Miss Cousins, Mrs Pawluk and Miss Wassell will join Mrs Baker and Mr Hymer and Gloria Lofthouse, the Junior School Secretary. The school will open with 80 students in Years 3 to 6, all smartly turned out in bright red blazers.

Parking/Driving on the School Grounds

From September, parents of our youngest pupils in Years 3,4 and 5 will be able to drive into school to drop off and pick up their children. All these parents will be issued with a sticker for their car.

Unfortunately, as you know, we cannot accommodate parents of students in Years 6 – 13 driving into the school grounds (indeed, we never have) unless they

- i. Are dropping off or picking up a large musical instrument
- ii. have an appointment in school

These restrictions apply to all vehicles between 7.45am and 4.15pm Monday to Friday.

Conscious of the increased traffic on the school grounds from September, the school is looking to employ someone on a part-time basis – 8.15am – 9.15am in the morning and 3.30pm until 4.30pm in the afternoons to help supervise traffic flow and parking. Anyone interested in the role should contact the Bursar, Mr Simon Marsden on the school number.

Thanks

And so, as the school's 499th year draws to a close our plans for the 500th are about to unfold. Our year of celebration will officially begin with the Founder's Day service at St Peter's Church on Friday 21st October and a full calendar of events is on the website. We are still hopeful of a VIP visitor to open our new Junior School during the year and I was able to announce at Prizegiving that, through the generosity of OWs both at home and abroad, we have already raised £500,000 towards our campaign for buildings and bursaries which is not due to be officially launched until Summer 2012.

So, great news with which to close the academic year 2010-11. Once again our students have done and achieved so much, our staff, teaching and non-teaching, have been superb and you, our parents, have once again been hugely supportive of both your children and the school – thank you.

In closing, as always, I invite you to contact me by email, letter or telephone if you wish to raise any points, suggestions or questions. I wish you a happy and relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing all students for the start of the 2011/12 Quincentenary academic year at **8.45am on Tuesday 6th September.**

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Darby

Exam Results

Provisional A2 results available from 7am. Full A2 and AS Level results will be available for collection at 9.30am on Thursday 18th August

GCSE results for Year 11 will be available from 9.30am on Thursday 25th August.
Year 10 GCSE results will be available from 11.00am.

IMPORTANT NOTICES/REMINDERS

Pre-Season Senior Sport

If students would like to be involved (or are involved) in the following sports at senior level (Year 11, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth) – Football, Hockey, Netball or Rugby (boys or girls) there will be practices as follows:

Football

Seniors

Wednesday 31st August 10.00am – 12.00noon
Thursday 1st September 10.00am – 12.00noon

Friday 2nd September 1st XI v King's Chester (A) 11am kick off

U14 Boys

Friday 2nd August 10.00am – 12.00noon

Monday 5th September 4.00pm – 5.30pm (6-a-side training)

Yr 6 & U12 Boys

Thurs/Fri 1st & 2nd Sept 10.00am-11.30am

Hockey Senior Girls only	Friday 2 nd September	12.00noon – 2.00pm
Senior Netball –	Friday 2 nd September	12.00noon – 2.00pm
	Monday 5 th September	3.30pm – 5.00pm
Rugby Senior XV (Y11-U6):	Wednesday 31st August	11.00am - 1pm
	Friday 2nd September	11.00am - 1pm
U14 XV:	Thursday 1st September	11:00am - 1pm

Please remember to bring your gum shield and a drink

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Autumn Term 2011

September

Sun		Week 1: Assembly theme: <i>Being part of 'us'</i>
Mon	5 th	Staff Training, Social 2, 9.15am
Tues	6 th	Term Begins
		L6 Induction – Baggeridge
Wed	7 th	L6 Induction, Art Centre, am
Thurs	8 th	L6 Parents' Information Evening, Big School, 7.00pm
Sun	11 th	Week 2: Assembly theme: <i>Being challenged</i>
Tues	13 th	U6 Parents' Evening, Big School/John Roper Room, 5.00pm
Wed	14 th	Opro (mouth guards), John Roper, 9.30am
Thurs	15 th	Year 11 Trip to Birmingham University, all day
		L6 visit to Cambridge, all day
Fri	16 th	Sixth Form visit to Oxford University, all day
Sat	17 th	OW Sports Festival, all day
		OW's Sports Dinner/Big Band reunion, Big School/John Roper, 7.00pm
Sun	18 th	Week 3: Assembly theme: <i>Being responsible</i>
Wed	21 st	Junior Prize Giving, Big School, 7.00pm
Thurs	22 nd	HPV for Year 8 – girls, John Roper Room, 9.30am
Sat	24 th	D.O.E Expedition to Long Mynd
Sun	25 th	Week 4: Assembly theme: <i>Being scholarly</i>
		D.O.E Expedition to Long Mynd
Mon	26 th	Individual school photos
		Year 11 Parents' Evening, Big School/John Roper Room, 5.00pm
Wed	28 th	Whole school screening, Year 7, Hutton Theatre, 9.15am
		New entrants form Year 8 – 12 screening, Hutton Theatre, 2.05pm
October		
Sat	1 st	OPEN DAY for prospective parents, 10.00am – 2.00pm
		Art Exhibition – A Quincentenary Celebration
Sun	2 nd	Week 5: Assembly theme: <i>Being prepared</i>
Mon	3 rd	GCSE Information evening for Year 10 Parents, Hutton Theatre, 7.00pm
Thurs	6 th	Rhine Valley Parents' Information Evening, Sixth Form Seminar Room, 7.00pm
Fri	7 th	School photos for missed student and siblings
Sat	8 th	D.O.E Expedition to Long Mynd
Sun	9 th	Week 6: Assembly theme: <i>Being recognised</i>
		D.O.E Expedition to Long Mynd
Tues	11 th	Student Executive, OpAL 1, 8.45am
Wed	12 th	Year 8 Art visit to Tate, Liverpool, all day
Sat	15 th	Junior School, OPEN Day, 10.00am – 2.00pm
Sun	16 th	Week 7: Assembly theme: <i>Being part of history</i>
		Organ Fund Concert, St Peter's Church, afternoon
Tues	18 th	Uganda Concert, Pearl of Africa, Big School, 7.30pm
Thurs	20 th	Half Term Grades to parents, Year 7 – 11
Fri	21 st	Founder's Day Service, St Peter's Church 11.00am
		No afternoon school
Sun	23 rd	Rhine Valley Trip to the 28 th
Mon	24 th	Half Term to Friday 4th November
Fri	28 th	U14 Rugby Tour to 31 st , Devon

November		
Wed	2 nd	School Play Rehearsal, Hutton Theatre, 10.00am – 5.00pm
Thurs	3 rd	School Play Rehearsal, Hutton Theatre, 10.00am – 5.00pm
Fri	4 th	School Play Rehearsal, Hutton Theatre, 10.00am – 5.00pm
Sat	5 th	
Sun	6 th	Week 8: Assembly theme: <i>Being committed</i>
Tues	8 th	Senior Maths Challenge Ski Trip Parents' Information Evening, Sixth Form Seminar Room, 7.00pm
Thurs	10 th	Year 7 Parents' Evening, Big School/John Roper Room, 5.00pm
Fri	11 th	Armistice Day Wolves Civic Choir, Big School,
Sat	12 th	Year 11, Lord Mayor's Float, London Wolves Civic Choir, Big School,
Sun	13 th	Week 9: Assembly theme: <i>Being yourself</i> Remembrance Sunday
Tues	15 th	Student Executive, OpAL 1, 8.45am Soloists Concert, Big School, 7.30pm
Thurs	17 th	Student Parliament, Hutton Theatre, 8.45am Year 8 HPV, Round 2 – girls, John Roper Room, 9.30am Year 11 transition evening
Sun	20 th	Week 10: Assembly theme: <i>Being aware</i>
Mon	21 st	Year 5 – 7 'Tempest' Workshop Year 8 Parents' Evening, Big School/John Roper Room, 5.00pm
Wed	23 rd	Year 10 School Leaver Booster, John Roper Room, 9.30am
Sun	27 th	Week 11: Assembly theme: <i>Being involved</i> Advent Sunday
Tues	29 th	Year 11 Success Workshop
Wed	30 th	St Andrew's Day
December		
Sun	4 th	Week 12: Assembly theme: <i>Being honest</i>
Mon	5 th	Orchestra Rehearsal, Big School, 4.00 – 6.00pm
Tues	6 th	Choir Rehearsal, Big School, 4.00 – 6.00pm
Thurs	8 th	Senior Wind Band Rehearsal, Big School, 4.00 – 6.00pm
Sat	10 th	Friends' Yuletide Ball, Big School, 7.00pm
Sun	11 th	Week 13: Assembly theme: <i>Being inspired</i>
Mon	12 th	Christmas Carol Concert Rehearsal – all day
Tues	13 th	Christmas Carol Concert, Big School, 7.30pm – 10.00pm
Wed	14 th	Christmas Carol Concert, Big School, 7.30pm – 10.00pm
Thurs	15 th	U6 Theatre Studies Devised Play, Hutton Theatre, 7.30pm
Fri	16 th	Grades to Year 7/8/9 Long Reports to Years 10/11/L6/U6 Term Ends 12.30pm