



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

October 2011

Dear Parents,

I thought that I'd just drop you a short letter to highlight some of the key events of the term so far.

WGJS

Our new Junior School (WGJS) opened with 87 youngsters in Years 3 to 6 and both students and staff have settled in really well. It's lovely to see dozens of junior pupils in bright red blazers around the campus.

Uniforms

The Senior School also looks a lot brighter courtesy of the new grey trousers and skirts and the 1512 red tie that has really lifted the school uniform. Hopefully, the delays and poor service we received from our supplier are behind us and we are looking at alternative providers for next year.

New Staff

Our new teachers, Mr Burden in Physics, Mr Smith in Economics and Business Studies and Mr Short, covering for Mr Owen Davies, have made excellent starts to their careers with us, and my new PA, Mrs Murphy, is already doing a tremendous job. We also have a new Estates Manager who has already ensured that a number of long overdue improvements, repairs and redecoration have been undertaken. In a similar vein, the sixth form are really pleased with the expansion and refurbishment of the common room and that their chosen colour scheme has worked so well.

Sport

Our sporting seasons are in full swing – the Year 7 footballers have made a very promising start registering an impressive win over Deansfield in the City Cup. Our older footballers also enjoyed excellent wins over St. Edmunds and Baverstock School from Birmingham, whilst our very young senior teams enjoyed victories against The Grange and Oswestry. Our netballers have once again exploded into action with the seniors defeating King Edwards Lichfield, Stourbridge and Cheltenham Ladies College and the U13 and U14 Vlls were victorious over Thomas Telford. Our senior boys and girl hockey teams began the season with creditable draws against Adams and Abbotsholme respectively and our Years 7 and 8 girls defeated Wrekin College. Our fives team travelled to Oakham and Uppingham schools to begin their autumn campaign and our cross country teams are well placed after the opening races of the City Championship. Our U14 rugby team have won all their matches thus far and can set off for the half-term tour to Devon with real confidence.

Music and Drama

On Tuesday of this week we hosted the Pearl of Africa Choir from Uganda who followed up impromptu performances over lunch and in the Junior School with workshops in the afternoon and a tremendous concert in the evening. I know that the school choir will sing beautifully at the Founder's Day service and will soon be rehearsing for our Christmas Carol Concerts on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December – book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Thinking a little further ahead, rehearsals are already underway for the school play in February, *The Beaux Stratagem* – a comedy set in 17th century Lichfield!

Trips and Visits

A variety of trips and excursions have also taken place:

- Year 11 visited Birmingham University
- U6 students visited Oxford and Cambridge Universities
- U6 Theatre Studies students attended a matinee performance at the Globe Theatre in London
- There have been two Duke of Edinburgh's Award weekend expeditions to Long Mynd.
- Year 8 visited the Tate, Liverpool
- Over half-term there will be trips to Germany and Italy and the U14 rugby players are off to Devon.

Reporting

As promised, new style reports should be winging their way home this weekend (and please do get in touch with us if you have any concerns or worries). As we explained at the start of term, we're responding to parental requests to provide shorter reports more often and we hope that the format we've chosen will provide students and parents with judgements on progress that will recognise effort and success whilst highlighting areas for improvement. But remember A*s and 1s are meant to be rare beasts and E's and 5s are meant to be rarer still!

Finance

Just for information, our Finance Department has moved up to the main school. So, if you are coming in to see Finance please be aware of their new home.

Forthcoming Events

The second half of term will be even busier and so may I take this opportunity to highlight:

- Parents' Evening for Year 7 - Thursday 10th November, 5pm – 7pm
- Soloists' Concert - Tuesday 15th November, 7.30pm
- Year 11 Transition Evening - Thursday 17th November, 7pm
- Ghost Walk - Friday 18th November, 7.30pm
- Parents' Evening for Year 8 - Monday 21st November, 5pm – 7pm
- Friends' (PA) Yuletide Ball - Saturday 10th December, 7pm
- Christmas Carol Concert - Tuesday 13th December 7.30pm – 10pm
Wednesday 14th December, 7.30pm – 10pm
- Theatre Studies Devised Play - Thursday 15th December, 7.30pm
- Term Ends - Friday 16th December, **12.30pm**

Final Word

A very busy half term will culminate in the balloon launch and the Founder's Day service to herald the beginning of our year of celebration of the school's quincentenary - it is heartening to see WGS in such rude health as we embark on our 500th year. Please keep abreast of our calendar of events on the website – a website that is in the process of being revamped for November.

In closing, I write to thank you for all your support and co-operation so far this term and, as always, I urge you to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, concerns or criticisms that you may have.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Darby