



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HALF TERM NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Dear Parents,

I thought that I would drop you a line to bring you up-to-date with news from school since the New Year.

Snow – Clearly, the weather has been a major issue so far this year and I'd like to thank the parents and students who endured many long and arduous journeys to get in through clogged traffic and slippery roads. Thanks also to our caretaking staff, and particularly our groundsmen Tom and Les, for working extra hard to keep the steps and paths clear so that the school could remain open. Hopefully, the worst of the winter is behind us but brave, even foolhardy, is the man who makes predictions about the weather! So, please keep an eye on the website and an ear to the radio if the snow returns.

Sport – The cold snap took a predictable toll on our sporting fixtures and yet on a single Wednesday afternoon in January, we still managed to field a senior Girls' Hockey team against Solihull school, a senior boys' Hockey team against Princethorpe, a senior rugby side against Oswestry, 3 senior netball teams against Bablake school and 2 senior football teams against King's, Chester – a remarkable achievement for such a small school and huge credit must go to our young sportsmen and women and the tremendous staff who encourage and prepare them to compete so well. It's smashing to see the revival of Fives gathering pace with our first girls' team drawing against Shrewsbury and Badminton is also going from strength to strength. Just before half-term our football teams swept the board against King's, Worcester, and great news for Elizabeth Forrester (U6) who has been selected to train with the U23 British Showjumping squad.

Godspell – The highlight of the term was the magnificent school production of *Godspell*. Once again, Ian Tyler and Andy Proverbs worked their magic to provide superb direction and music for a hugely enthusiastic and talented cast. The show was stunning with singing, dancing and acting of the highest order throughout. Corrado Manzai showed all the charisma and presence required of a leading man, John Gromadzki delivered the comedy and the tragedy of his lines with aplomb, whilst Ellie Griffiths, Fey Latunji, and Lauren Dennis sang beautifully. Beth Berwick-Lowe almost stole the show as the racy Sonia and the energy, singing and fun Phoebe Kidson and Alistair Macaulay brought to their roles was fabulous. Jake Williams revealed a real comic talent and Ishanee Roy, Joe Sefton, Tamira Patel and Annie Craddock all shone in their parts. We must also not forget the tremendous contributions made by our backing singers, Jordan Moxey and George Rowe, and the young singers and dancers in the chorus and in the band. A fantastic team effort then, and a wonderful show that will live long in the memory.

Staff – Our temporary teachers, Mr Brooker (Geography) and Mr Clay (English) have both settled into WGS really well and I'm sure that they will enjoy being with us for the rest of the academic year. Dr Edlin is getting back into the swing of things after his sojourn down under. Indeed, not content with returning to the laboratory with such gusto, Dr Edlin has also taken it upon himself to reorganise lost property. So, if your son/daughter loses something (which will be clearly labelled, of course), they will now know where to retrieve it from.

11+ and 16+ Applications - It is heartening to see so many youngsters applying for Year 7 in September with over 160 candidates (about the same as last year) sitting the entrance test in January. We also had a very positive introduction to the Sixth Form evening and our first Open Morning for Big Six was a great success.

School Buses - Hopefully, amendments to the coach service will work well for all. School minibuses will replace the coach on the Wednesfield/Walsall route and for our students coming from Cannock. The coach that comes in from Coven will also pick up youngsters at Penkridge. However, pick up/drop off and journey times will remain as now – traffic permitting. A separate letter is being sent to all parents of children on these routes.

School Policies –We are required to ensure that parents know what information about the school is available to them and in what form. Thus, the school’s Safeguarding Child Protection Policy is published on the website and a printed version is available on request from the school.

The Policies listed below are available on request from school and a number also feature on the website and in the Red Book issued to all students and parents at the start of each academic year:

- Policy and arrangement for admission, discipline and exclusions
- Education and welfare provision for pupils, with statements and pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Curriculum policy
- Anti bullying policy
- Policy for health & safety on school visits
- Rewards and sanctions policy
- Academic performance in the previous school year
- Staff, including temporary staff, and qualifications

Conclusion – So, as we approach the midpoint of the academic year 2009/2010, much has been achieved. Good luck to the skiers over half term and to Year 11 with their revision for the mocks in March. As always, I close by inviting any comments, ideas, or thoughts parents might have on how we can continue to develop and improve WGS.

With best wishes

Vincent Darby
Head

p.s. Apologies for the delay in the publication of the Wulfrunian magazine. Unfortunately, due to a long term illness we’ve been one short in the Development Office for over six months. So, my thanks to Mark Hand who has once again, managed to produce a superb publication, but this time almost singlehandedly.

A FEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – SPRING 2010

February

Monday 22 nd	School reopens 8.45am Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams begin
Tuesday 23 rd	Big Six Assessment Day Year 7 Geography Trip to Bridgnorth
Wednesday 24 th	Big Six Assessment Day
Thursday 25 th	Year 11 Art Paint Day Year 7 Geography Trip to Bridgnorth
Friday 26 th	Concert for Haiti, Hutton Theatre, 7.30pm
March	
Monday 1 st	Careers Forum for Years 10 & 11, Social 1 & 2, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Tuesday 2 nd	Big Six Assessment Day Upper School Soloists' Concert, Big School, 7.30pm
Wednesday 3 rd	Geography AS Residential Trip to Isle of Arran to 7 th March Big Six Assessment Day
Thursday 4 th	Year 8 History Trip to Worcester Commandery & Harvington Hall
Friday 5 th	Non-Uniform Day Old Wulfrunians' Dinner, 7.00pm
Monday 8 th	Big Six Science Discovery Visit Think Tank, Birmingham 9.30am – 3.30 pm Year 9 Parents' Evening, Big School 5.00pm
Thursday 11 th	Lower Sixth Higher Education Seminar, Derry Hall, 6.30pm Amsterdam Culture Visit Presentation Evening, John Roper Room, 7.00pm
Friday 12 th	School Disco – Big Six to Year 10
Thursday 18 th	Upper Sixth Parents' Evening, Big School, 5.00pm
Monday 22 nd	Art GCSE Session 1 Year 11 Parents' Evening, Big School, 5.00pm
Tuesday 23 rd	Art GCSE Session 2 AS French Conference, Birmingham University, 9.15am Orchestral Band Concert, Big School, 7.30pm
Thursday 25 th	Art GCSE Session 3
Friday 26 th	Art GCSE Session 4
Saturday 27 th	Sixth Form Leadership Weekend, Rother Valley Country Park to Sunday 28 th
Tuesday 30 th	Choral Society Concert, Big School, 7.30pm Year 8 Dovedale all day
Wednesday 31 st	French Exchange & French Work Experience leaves 3pm returns 8 th April
April	
Thursday 1 st	Term Ends c12.30pm
Monday 5 th	Amsterdam Art & Culture Visit to 9 th
Monday 19 th	ON MONDAY 19 TH APRIL ALL STUDENTS MUST BE IN SCHOOL FOR A NORMAL 8.45am START – THERE IS NO STAFF TRAINING DAY

Advance notice:

SUMMER TERM

Study leave for Years 11 and 12 begins at 4.00pm on Friday 14th May

Study leave for Year 13 begins at 4.00pm on Thursday 20th May

The Junior production will take place on 26th, 27th and 28th May

The complete Summer term calendar will be available in April