



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

July 2010

Dear Parents,

As we race towards the end of another very busy and successful year, I thought that I'd just bring you up to speed with what's been going on since half-term and highlight some key points for September.

EVENTS

Music

It was great to see so many at the Jazz Spectacular last Friday. It was a brilliant night – superb music from students, past and present, great food and masses of hard work put in by Linda Askew and the Friends (Parents' Association). Indeed, without their help the Spectacular wouldn't be nearly as successful – so a massive thank you to all. The last Tuesday of term also saw the Lower School Concert closing the musical calendar with some outstanding performances. The Seisdon Concert in June also went really well and we wish good luck to all those going off on the Choir's tour to Belgium later this month.

Lauren Dennis, who is a chorister in the Girls' Choir at St Peter's Collegiate Church, has been awarded the Royal School of Church Music's Gold award which is the highest award given for choristers.

Sport

Our sportsmen and women will be competing right through to the end of term. Our Senior Cricketers have had some very busy weeks recently with matches against King Edward's School and Repton. The 1st XI will also take on the might of the Head's XI – a match of high skill, healthy rivalry and banter was promised and delivered.

The U12's played in the County Final at Denstone College securing a very notable victory and thereby completed a fantastic season in which they won all their matches.

Our Rounders teams have enjoyed excellent seasons and in the City Finals Year 7 beat North East Wolverhampton Academy, Year 9 narrowly lost to Wolverhampton Girls High, Year 10 won against St Peter's and Year 8 still have their match to play. The Year 10/11 squad reached the quarter final stage of the National finals thus ranking WGS 7th in the Country.

In Tennis Talia Sinnott and Immy Gibbons became Year 7 Girls Doubles Tournament winners with Matthew Gwardiak and Adam Barlow were Year 10 Boys Double Tournament winners.

Athletics saw the Year 7 Girls winning the City team championships with Years 8, 9 and 10 Girls and Boys teams all coming runners-up placing WGS 2nd overall in the team competition. Dan Genner, Tom Husselbee, Benji Pearson, Alex Russon, Ellie Barnett, Amrit Mann, Roshan Jakhu, Alex Buckham were all selected to represent Wolverhampton in the West Midlands Championships at their respective events.

Special mention must go to Benji Pearson who has been selected to represent the West Midlands in the Discus at the All England Schools' Athletics Championships.

A team of five gymnasts represented Wolverhampton in the Black Country Games, captained by Alice Baldwin, the team were Ffyoona Downes, Shona Wright, Abi Lavill and Chelsey Russell

The rain held off for Sports Day and we had a smashing morning of competition and fun. A special thank you to the many parents who came along to support.

Representative Honours

Nick Bandurak (Year 12)	has been selected to play for the England U18 Hockey team against Germany
Will Nield (Year 11)	Staffordshire County U17 Cricket
Benji Pearson (Year 11)	All England Athletics School
Tom Weston (Year 10)	Shropshire County U16 Cricket
Sarah Hickman (Year 9)	Staffordshire U14 Ladies' Cricket
Aaron Patel (Year 9)	Staffordshire U14 Cricket
Bex Roberts (Year 7)	Staffordshire U13 Cricket
Ciaran Singh (Year 7)	Staffordshire County U12 Cricket
Megan Griffiths (Year 7)	Shropshire County U13 and U15 Cricket
Stephen Jones (Year 7)	District – North Worcestershire U12 Cricket
Gurtej Randhawa (Year 7)	District – South Staffordshire U12 Cricket
Max Diment (<i>Big Six</i>)	Shropshire County U11 Cricket
Beth Cartwright (<i>Big Six</i>)	Worcestershire U13 Ladies' Cricket
Ben Oswald (<i>Big Six</i>)	Worcestershire U11 Cricket
Kieron Patel (<i>Big Six</i>)	Staffordshire U11 Cricket
Emily Bowden (<i>Big Six</i>)	Dances with the English Youth Ballet

The annual **Chris Walker Memorial Mile race** was run on the last Wednesday of term and the results from the 30 runners were as follows:

	MALE:	TIME:	FEMALE:	TIME:
1 st	Dan Genner	5:04:75	Freya Husselbee Jordan Moxey	7:44:16
2 nd	Isaac Hobbs	5:50:72		
3 rd	Wahab Malik	5:58:28		
1 st	Female teacher:		Kate Ward	6:24:13
1 st	Male teacher:		James Millichamp	5:59:56

Please also consult the details attached to this letter regarding Pre-Season Senior sport.

Coast to Coast

On 28th May this year's team successfully ran from St Bee's Head to Robin Hood's Bay in just under twenty six hours. They faced some of the toughest weather conditions experienced on Coast to Coast, as the rain started to fall before they set off and did not stop until night fell. The team is raising money for Compton Hospice, a local charity that provides palliative care to patients facing a life-limiting illness and support for their families. So far, the team has raised £844 and they hope to raise the total to over £3,000 by September. This year's team were: Dhillon Balaggan, Rebecca Bradley, Louis Brazenell, Eleanor Beech, Alice Baldwin, Sam Commander, Abigail Jones, Daniel Genner, Tom Husselbee and John Parnell.

Trips

The Year 7 trip to Snowdonia went extremely well with the weather being kind and everyone having a most enjoyable time.

The Year 10 Battlefields trip took place over the last weekend of term.

The Year 7 Chester Zoo trip and the Jackfield Tile Museum trips all went well.

The Choral Trip to Belgium is due to take place in the first week of the holiday.

Staff

The end of an academic year almost always means that some colleagues will be sadly leaving WGS for pastures new. We say thank you and good luck to:

Mrs Rosie Mosley (Music)	is moving to Lichfield Cathedral School
Mr Richard Tuck (Theatre Studies)	is reviving his Degree course
Mrs Nuala Gilchrist	is leaving the OpAL department after 8 years
Mr Alistair Hopkins (Head of English)	is leaving after 4 years to become Director of Studies at Bablake School

We also bid a fond farewell to those colleagues who are retiring
Mr Derek Jones who has been artist in residence for 11 years
Mrs Olga Trafford has taught part-time in both the Art and DT departments for 13 years
We thank them for their great service to the school.

Robert Brandon joined the school in 1969 and he has taught History and Politics at WGS in either a full or part-time capacity for 41 years. Robert has been a fantastic servant to this school and an inspiration to a generation of girls and boys. Robert was presented with a gift at Prizegiving in recognition of his outstanding service at WGS and I'm sure that I speak for hundreds of parents and staff when I wish him, Olga and Derek a long and happy retirement.

We also bid farewell to Richard Clay who covered in English and Mervyn Brooker who covered in Geography and made a tremendous contribution to school cricket during his two terms with us. We thank them both for their excellent service.

Other staff absences next year include three colleagues on maternity leave:

Mrs Dalzell	Head of Girls' Games	
Mrs Munson	Italian	
Mrs Guidotti	Music	From November

Lisa Harris (English) and Louise Stanley (Geography) have rejoined us following their maternity leave and new staff from September include:

Mr Mark Payne	English
Mrs Kathryn Burden	Music
Mrs Helen Peat	Music part-time to cover maternity
Miss Danielle Wilcox	Maternity cover for PE

Mr Hall	becomes the new Head of Year 9
Dr Hinchliffe	becomes the new Head of Sixth Form
Mr Crust	joins Mrs Preston as Assistant Head of Sixth Form
Mr Benfield	becomes Head of English and will be in charge of Assessment across the school

Head 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 Andrew Hymer as the first Headteacher. Andrew is currently Deputy Head at King's Hawford School, the junior school for King's, Worcester. Andrew will take up post in January 2011 to plan, prepare and to appoint the staff for WGJS.

Consultation

As I mentioned in my last letter, we have had a number of parental consultation exercises this term. A group of Year 7 parents were invited at random to an open discussion with the Friends (Parents' Association) and, in June, we hosted the annual Parents' Forum. The points raised by Year 7 and the questions from the Forum will be published on the website along with the school's responses.

We were also very grateful for the 265 responses we had to the parental survey conducted for us by Kirkland Rowell. The survey results were hugely positive and we will factor the key findings into our Development Plan for 2010-13.

Communication

Communication between school and home is a vital area and, although some headway has been made by improving the website, we've been unable to take our communication to the next level because no matter how often we ask we don't seem to be able to get everyone's email addresses. What we hope to do from September is to use the email addresses we do have and ask students if they can provide parental email addresses so that we can communicate quicker and more effectively with home. Fortunately, we do have most parental mobile numbers so we will endeavour to introduce a text messaging service re dates, arrangements, fixtures, team reminders etc during next term.

It's a cliché I know but communication is a two-way thing so, as I always say in my letters home, please don't hesitate to contact me, by whatever method suits you best regarding any issues to do with your daughter/son or the school. We welcome any comments, advice or questions you may have on life at WGS.

Uniform

I believe that the uniform looks brighter and smarter than it once did but we're not quite there yet. At school, we shall continue to expect the students to tuck their shirts in and to do their ties up but we would really appreciate your help ensuring that the girls' skirts are of pencil type, no shorter than knee-length and no longer than mid-calf. Skirts must be made of linen/polyester not stretchy elastic material.

I include some amendments we've made to the Red Book, outlining the key points concerning uniform and appearance.

We don't need a revolution to improve the smartness of the students but we're increasing our expectations in this regard and we're very grateful for your continued support.

Thanks

So, as the year draws to a close, can I thank all parents for their continued support. We're very lucky at WGS - we have lovely, positive, talented students, superb teachers and very supportive parents – little wonder then that WGS is such a busy, happy and successful school.

Wishing you a happy and relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing all students for the start of the 2010/11 academic year at **8.45am on Wednesday 1st September.**

With best wishes,

Vincent Darby

Enc Important Notices/Reminders
Uniform amendments in Red Book
Charging Schedule 2010/2011
Copy of John Cheatle Group letter regarding Uniform availability on website

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September	
Wednesday 1 st	Start of term
Monday 6 th	Upper Sixth Parents Evening 5pm
Saturday 11 th	OW Sports Festival Dinner, Big School, 7pm
Thursday 16 th	Work Experience Evening, 5.30pm
Wednesday 22 nd	Junior Prizegiving, Big School, 7pm
Friday 24 th	HPV Year 8 Girls
Thursday 30 th	Year 10 Immunisation GCSE Information Evening for Year 10, Hutton Theatre
October	
Saturday 2 nd	OPEN DAY between 10am – 3pm
Wednesday 6 th	Lower Sixth Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 12 th	Big Six Parents' Evening, Library, 5pm
Friday 15 th – Mon 1 Nov	HALF TERM
Friday 15 th – Mon 18 th	Year 8 Hockey Tour
Sunday 17 th – 22 nd	Italian Trip to Rome
Monday 18 th – 22 nd	Classics Trip to Rome
November	
Tuesday 2 nd	Ski Trip meeting, Social 2, 7pm
Thursday 4 th	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 5pm
Friday 5 th	FOUNDER'S DAY - NO AFTERNOON SCHOOL
Thursday 18 th	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 5pm
Tuesday 23 rd	Year 7 Parents' Evening, 5pm
Wednesday 23 rd	Year 8 HPV Girls
December	
Tuesday 7 th	Carol Concert, Big School, 7pm
Wednesday 8 th	Carol Concert, Big School, 7pm
Friday 10 th	12.30pm coaches 12.45pm LAST DAY OF TERM, NO AFTERNOON SCHOOL

IMPORTANT NOTICES/REMINDERS

Exams

A2 and AS Level results will be available for collection at 9.00am on Thursday 19th August and GCSE on Tuesday 24th August.

Year 10 GCSE results will be available from 11.00am on Tuesday 24th August.

A message from Dr Camm about Work Experience 2011

Over the last few years, particularly after the recent recession, many companies are finding it very hard to offer work experience placements to our students. Now, as universities are looking more and more for students that show breadth outside of the academic curriculum, I believe more than ever, that students should go on placements where they can demonstrate their incredible potential and versatility. If you are therefore in a position where you/your company/an acquaintance can offer valuable placements to one or more of our students, I would be extremely interested to hear from you. I will then be able to put together a database of such placements, (across as wide a range of categories as possible), to help students find placements where both the student and company will benefit. The placements for work experience will be in the last week of term for Year 11 (4th-9th July 2011) and on Wednesday afternoons for any Lower Sixth who are interested.

If you could offer placements, please let me know by emailing me (jpc@wgs-sch.net), I will then be able to give you more information if you wish and we could discuss how best to make it a valuable experience for both the student and placement.

Used Uniform

A small group of Friends of WGS have offered to set up a uniform exchange. Students grow out of uniform so quickly, and it is expensive to replace so an exchange offers the many virtues of recycling. They propose setting up a message board on the school website for this purpose where items may either be OFFERED or REQUESTED. This facility will be launched on Tuesday 24th August, from 10 - 12am (GCSE Results Day) when parents are invited to bring clean serviceable uniform which their child has either outgrown or no longer requires. Parents who would like items of uniform may simply look and take what they need. The Friends want to offer this as a free service, so no money is involved.

If you intend to bring or collect items on that day, please contact Katie Palmer or Linda Askew (see numbers below). This will help them to gauge how much space they will need. Also any offers of help on the day will be welcome.

Linda Askew 01902 850264 - theaskews@btopenworld.com

Katie Palmer 01384 863945 - thepalmers1@sky.com

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	Friday 27 th August	10.00am – 12.00noon
	Tuesday 31 st August	3.30pm – 5.00pm
U15/U14 Boys	Tuesday 31 st August	3.30pm – 5.00pm
U12 Boys	Tuesday 31 st August	2.30pm - 4.00pm

Hockey (boys and girls) – Tuesday 31st August 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Netball - Tuesday 31st August 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Rugby

Senior Rugby players will already be aware that their practices are on Friday 27th at 11am and Tuesday 31st August at 3.00pm