



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

18th February 2011

Dear Parents,

Well I'm sure that you can't believe where the last six weeks have gone – Christmas seems like an age ago and the rather euphemistically entitled Spring half-term holiday is upon us.

- **Top 5% in the Country!**

2011 is already shaping up to be a vintage year for the school with confirmation from the Department for Education about just how well we did in last year's GCSE and A Level examinations.

- With 70% of GCSEs passed at A*/A grade our current Lower Sixth beat the school's previous best set way back in the 1990's. At A level, our results were even more noteworthy since the Government's value added measure put WGS in the top 5% of schools and colleges nationally. And for individual students, that meant that they achieved better than they were expected to achieve by at least one grade at A Level.
- There isn't a selective school or college, independent or state, within a 25 mile radius that comes near WGS on this vital measure.
- Put simply, students at WGS do better than similarly able youngsters in schools and colleges throughout the country – a fantastic achievement and many thanks must go to our teachers who do so much to ensure that our students are accepted onto the most competitive courses at the country's leading universities.

However, what makes WGS so special is that, although examination results are important and impressive, the school is anything but an academic hothouse – WGS is really about so much more i.e. a rich, well rounded educational experience full of fun, opportunity and encouragement that really does add value.

- **"The Whole Child" – The Arts**

And, nowhere is this commitment to a broad education more obvious than in the school's outstanding drama and music. Indeed, anyone who was lucky enough to see the production of *The Taming of the Shrew* could only marvel at the quality of the performances from so many talented young actors, singers and musicians inspired by Messrs Benfield, Tyler and Proverbs.

And, less than a week later, our musicians took to the stage in a smashing Soloists' concert - a CD of this concert should be available soon. I must also take this opportunity to remind you about the Orchestral and Band Concert on the 28th March and the Choral Society's production of Handel's *Messiah* on Monday 4th April – tickets are available from the General Office.

- **"The Whole Child" – Sport**

It never ceases to amaze me just how many of our actors and musicians also represent the school at sport and for a small school we offer a range and quality of sporting participation and success that puts many large schools to shame.

Highlights this term start with our Netballers – always the top in Wolverhampton, our U14, U16 and 1st VII's all reached the regional finals. They played superbly well with the U14 being pipped in their semi-final by the eventual winners. The Junior Netball and Hockey teams are enjoying very busy seasons and the Senior Hockey teams have enjoyed some notable victories.

Football highlights include an impressive of wins for our very young Senior XI against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn and the U13s winning their cup replay against King's school. The U13 Rugby XV recorded the best win of any school team so far this year with their

stunning 12-10 victory against Queen Mary's, Walsall – a very well established rugby school and it was great to see the 1st XV record their first victory of the season against King Edward's, Birmingham. This should spur them on for the rest of the campaign.

Our Intermediate Badminton players are progressing in the local League and our Fives teams have done really well against Shrewsbury and defeated our biggest rivals, King Edwards, Birmingham. In Chess, our very young team registered an impressive third place in the recent Quickplay Tournament in Birmingham.

- **“The Whole School” – Near and Far**

And, in the midst of all this activity *Big Six* had a fabulous time on their residential week at the Towers Centre, the Careers Forum was very well attended and Year 8 visited The Think Tank in Birmingham. We also hope that the party of 44 students skiing in Austria over half-term see plenty of snow whilst praying that we don't.

- **WGJS – “A School within a School”**

The Head of our new Junior School, Mr Andrew Hymer, has been busy planning to welcome his first pupils in their snazzy red blazers from September. The conversion of the Hallmark building is now complete and our new 'school within a school' boasts seven classrooms, a superb hall/gymnasium, grass and hard play area as well as two Fives courts! Interest in the school has been tremendous and many families are looking to start their children in Years 3, 4, 5 or *Big Six* from September. So, if there are any families you know interested in finding out about or joining WGJS, please ask them to contact Mr Hymer as a matter of urgency because the school is filling up fast!

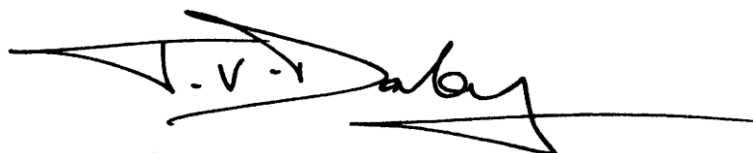
- **OW Dinner:** it's great to read the OW articles in this year's Wulfrunian and I'm hugely looking forward to welcoming the OWA to school for their Annual Dinner on Friday 4th March.

- **Friends:** a week later, on Friday 11th March, the Friends (Parents' Association), are hosting the annual Family Quiz – always an enjoyable event at £4 a ticket which includes the quiz and a fish and chip supper and a guarantee that you won't finish last because there's always the Head's team to bring up the rear! (please see attached flyer for details).

- **2012:** our plans for the Quincentenary are well advanced and I've included the current timetable as an attachment with this letter.

So, as the days begin to lengthen, we look forward to a very busy second half to the Spring term. Please find attached a copy of the calendar of events between now and the end of term on Friday 8th April. Remember too, that if you have any views or ideas about how we can improve the education we provide for your sons and daughters, please don't hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,



Vincent Darby
Head

enc. Timetable of Events for Quincentenary
Quiz Flyer
Dates for next term

Spring Term 2011

Sun	27 th	Week 8: Assembly theme: <i>Trial and Error</i>
Mon	28 th	Mock Exam week French Exchange Information Evening, Social 1 and 2, 6.30pm
March		
Thurs	3 rd	<i>Wolverhampton Literary and Scientific Society, Derry Hall, 6.45pm</i>
Fri	4 th	OW's Association Dinner, Derry Hall, 7.00pm

Sun	6 th	Week 9: Assembly theme: <i>Reward and Punishment</i>
Mon	7 th	Year 9 Parents' Evening, Big School/John Roper Room, 5.00pm
Tues	8 th	Chamber Concert, Big School, 7.30pm
Wed	9 th	Venice Information Evening, John Roper, 7.00pm
Thurs	10 th	Youth Coaching Programme, Seminar Room, 6.00pm
Fri	11 th	Francais Facile, French Intensive day Upper Sixth am, Year 11 pm Friends' Quiz Night, Derry Hall, 7.30pm
Sat	12 th	AS Level Geography Field Trip to Bude, Cornwall – 17 th March

Sun	13 th	Week 10: Assembly theme: <i>Us and Them</i>
Tues	15 th	Choral Society Rehearsal, Big School, 4.00pm
Thurs	17 th	Upper Sixth Parents' Evening, Big School/John Roper Room, 5.00pm
Fri	18 th	Battle of the Bands, Derry Hall, 7.00pm

Sun	20 th	Week 11: Assembly theme: <i>Illusion and Reality</i>
Tues	22 nd	Year 11 Parents' Evening, Big School, John/Roper Room, 5.00pm
Wed	23 rd	Team Maths Challenge, Jennie Lee Centre, all day
Thurs	24 th	Senior Concert Band rehearsal, Big School, 4.00pm <i>Wolverhampton Literary and Scientific Society, Derry Hall, 6.45pm</i>
Sat	26 th	Morocco group training 2, Derry Hall, 10.00am – 5.00pm

Sun	27 th	Week 12: Assembly theme: <i>Strength and Weakness</i>
Mon	28 th	GCSE 1 Art Exam, Art Centre, all day Orchestra rehearsal, Big School, 4.00pm
Tues	29 th	GCSE 2 Art Exam, Art Centre, all day Orchestral and Band Concert, Big School, 7.30pm
Wed	30 th	Year 8 History Trip to Worcester, all day
Thurs	31 st	GCSE 3 Art Exam, Art Centre, all day Choral Society rehearsal, Big School, 4.00pm

April

Fri 1st GCSE 4 Art Exam, Art Centre, all day

Sun	3 rd	Week 13: Assembly theme: <i>Innocence and Guilt</i> <i>Choral Society final rehearsal, Big School, 2.00pm</i>
Mon	4 th	Choral Society Performance, Big School, 7.30pm
Wed	6 th	French Exchange departs to 14 th April German Exchange visit to Bochum to 13 th April
Fri	8 th	Term Ends 12.30pm
Mon	11 th	Art & Culture visit to Venice – to 15 th April