



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

July 2009

Dear Parents,

Well, as we approach the end of another busy and exciting term, I am writing to update you regarding school events and to highlight a few key points for next term.

Parents' Forum - I felt that the Parents' Forum was a very useful evening. Encouraging parents -especially those who couldn't attend- to send in their questions before the meeting, not only allowed more parents to ask questions but encouraged supplementary questions and discussion to develop.

My thanks to those who sent in questions/comments and my special thanks to the 25 or so parents who took the time and trouble to attend the evening itself.

As requested, the questions and our responses will be published on the website.

Website - speaking of which, the school's website is being updated over the summer - not before time, since up to now we haven't had as much control over it as we would have liked and news/updates took far too long to get posted. We trust that this facility will be much improved from September.

EVENTS

Exams - the public examination season passed off well and the use of the new Hutton Theatre as a venue was welcomed by the A Level and GCSE students since it provides a much better/cooler atmosphere than the old gym. A2 and AS Level results will be available for collection at 10.00am on Thursday 20th August and GCSE on Thursday 27th August.

Coast 2 Coast - the annual Coast 2 Coast run was again hugely successful and our thanks and congratulations go to the team of runners: Elizabeth Bamford, Rebecca Braham, Jacob Cunningham, Molly Forsyth, Joe Foxall, Jeff Hunt, Fiona Jones, Heather Soley, Zoë Stirling and Zak Wilmot and to all the staff and parents who acted as the back-up team.

Year 7 Camp - the Year 7 camp in Snowdonia was a great success - midges aside, the extremes of weather - very hot and very wet in turn, were coped with by all.

Battlefields - the annual Battlefields Trip saw 34 Year 10 students visit northern France and Belgium.

DofE - the expedition weekend to the Long Mynd went very well.

Cricket - summer sports continued with the most recent highlights being the U13 and U14 cricket teams reaching the finals of the County Cup.

Rounders - the U13 and U15 Rounders teams were victorious in the City Championships. The U12B team did remarkably well to reach the City final but will have to wait until September for their big day.

Tennis - Boys: Junior League Champions, Senior League Champions, Junior Doubles Tournament winners: Alex Kemp and Spencer Osborne, runners-up: Jake Foster and Peter Lloyd. Glanvill Cup - senior team regional runners-up.

Girls: Junior League Champions, Intermediate League runners-up, Senior Doubles Tournament winners: Cindy Harvey and Sam Jones, Intermediate Doubles Tournament winners: Ria Wagstaff and Fiona Jones. Aberdare Cup Regional quarter finalists, West Midlands Doubles Champions, Abi Houghton and Lucy Darby.

Sports Day – the highlight of the athletics season took place in the penultimate week of term. A smashing morning of competition was blessed with beautiful weather and some very impressive individual and team performances.

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

	MALE:	TIME:	FEMALE:	TIME:
1 st	Daniel Genner (9D)	5:21:56	Molly Forsyth (10E)	7:08:00
2 nd	Neil Bradley	5:30:47		
3 rd	Jeff Hunt	5:42:27		
1 st	Female teacher:		Kate Ward	6:16:95
1 st	Male teacher:		Neil Bradley	5:30:47

Jazz Spectacular – was a fabulous evening of music and song with talent on view from *Big Six* up to Year 13 musicians who bade us a fond farewell.

Soloists Concert – a superb evening of music and song on the 7th July brought the curtain down on another wonderful year of music at WGS.

Prizegiving – A most enjoyable Senior Prizegiving for Years 10 – 13 took place in Big School on the 3rd July. Details on the Junior Prizegiving, due to be held on Friday 25th September, will be sent out next term.

Swine Flu - Contact Details

Hopefully, parents will have received the letter we sent home on 7th July. As you will be only too aware, the Health Authorities fear that the flu virus may well return with a vengeance in the autumn or winter and we are planning how best to continue providing a service for the students, either electronically or by post, in the event of a school closure.

However, to do this, we must have up to date contact details and we tend to find out that email, mobile numbers, even addresses, have changed only when we need to contact someone in a hurry. So, my apologies for asking again, but we'd be very grateful if the attached form could be completed and returned, either by post or on-line. We will also continue to include the form requesting an update of details with the fees invoice at Christmas.

Uniform

As I explained in my letter home at half-term, the school blazer and grey v-neck pullover with the school badge embossed are now available from Buxton and Bonnett. However, please note that although Buxton and Bonnett are supplying the school blazer/girls jacket and pullover with the school badge embossed and can also supply all items of the uniform, parents are not obliged to buy the uniform from this supplier. Indeed, since blazer badges that can be sewn on are available from school, only the grey pullover needs to be bought from them. Buxton and Bonnett's shop is at 51-52 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton and orders can be made by telephone: 01902 422186 and the company are hoping to set up an online service soon. Buxton and Bonnett have assured us that they have plenty of boys' blazers and the new style girls' jackets in stock.

Details and price list are attached. If parents require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Student Parliament

As might be expected, the work of the Student Parliament stalled somewhat over the exam period with most of our senior MPs caught up in public examinations. However, we have responded to requests made earlier in the term and thus the Friends have kindly donated £2,000 towards new picnic tables and benches. The programme to continue to renew/replace fitness machines in the multi gym will continue and all toilets will have new toilet seats from September! The Student Executive is also thinking about initiatives for Student Parliament next year including the possibility of a "WGS has got talent" show!

Summer Projects

Over the summer holidays we always try to carry out major refurbishment, decoration and maintenance work. This year we intend to:

- replace the flooring in the Sports Hall
- complete the replacement of the windows in the Merridale building
- decorate as much of the Merridale building as possible
- provide new chairs for all the classrooms in the Merridale and Derry buildings
- tarmac the area beside the John Roper Room

The new Sports Hall floor will be a real boon and these vital works will help to improve some tired areas and rooms.

Cars in and around school

Just a reminder to parents how important it is that cars are not brought onto the site other than when you have an appointment with a member of staff or are coming into school to watch a match or to attend a function. It is not fair to parents who park outside if one or two drive onto the site just to pick up their youngsters.

And still on parking, can I ask parents picking up sons/daughters not to park/stop/drop off or pick up in the yellow zigzag zones /boxes immediately outside the gates of the school. To pick up youngsters there may be very convenient and may only take a couple of seconds, but it is very dangerous and illegal.

Holidays

A reminder too that we are experimenting with the two-week half-term holiday this autumn. So the students will break for half-term on Friday 16th October and return to school on Monday 2nd November – see calendar attached.

As stated earlier, we will review these new holiday arrangements to see what's best for the future.

Staff Leaving

After a combined service of almost 100 years to the school, Mr Ken Stott (DT), Mrs Mary Wilmot (Bursar) and Mr Fred Foreman (DT Technician) will be retiring. We thank them for their outstanding service and loyalty to the school and wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Dr Grebe is returning to Germany, Mrs Lloyd is moving to Shrewsbury School, Mrs Turner is moving to Nottingham High School and Mr Blackwell is pursuing his own theatre business. We thank them for all they have contributed to WGS and wish them every success in the future.

New Appointments Mr Hall, and Miss Harris, English, Mr Sutherland in History, Mr Simpson Technician in DT and Mr Jones will be the new Bursar.

From September there will be a few changes in the internal staff too:

Miss Jones becomes Head of Year 7

Miss Munden becomes Head of Year 8

Dr Hinchliffe becomes Head of Year 9

Mr Anderson becomes Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Mr O'Malley becomes Head of DT and Mrs Mahey becomes Head of IT

I know that these colleagues will do a tremendous job.

Pre-Season Training

Wednesday 26th August

Football – Seniors and Intermediate Wednesday 26th August from 10am–12noon

Friday 28th August

1st XI football fixture v King's, Chester (a)

U13 football and U15 football from 10am-12noon

Senior Boys and Girls Hockey – 1st XI squad training 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Tuesday 1st September

Football/Netball new *Big Six*/Year 7 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Senior Netball trials 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Lost property/Items left at End of Term

Please note any lost property or items left at the close of Summer term not claimed by 31st July 2009 will be disposed of.

Coach Travel

Would anyone wishing to use the school coaches return their completed forms by 17th July to Mrs Bonell, Bursar's Secretary in order to secure a place.


Lunches from September

The order form for lunches from September is also attached. I would ask that you return the form by the date requested in order that cards can be validated for the start of term.

And that brings me to the end of the academic year at WGS. The school has had a tremendously busy and successful year. Good luck to the students and staff heading off to Peru and Uganda and we hope that our GCSE, AS and A Level students will be well rewarded for all their efforts. We hope too, that all our students and parents have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to say how much I've enjoyed my first year – students, parents and staff have made me so welcome and I feel very much at home at WGS.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Darby', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vincent Darby
Head