



# WOLVERHAMPTON

---

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

March 2009

Dear Parents,

As the sun streams through the window of my study, I am reminded that spring has sprung so it must be time for the Head's end of term letter. And, what a term it has been - all four seasons squeezed into as many weeks - the school closed by snow for two days and yet still so much going on and so much to be proud of.

**Visits** - Once again the WGS travel club provided tremendous enrichment to classroom study as well as very enjoyable holidays. Big Six enjoyed their week at the Towers activity centre and the skiers took to the Austrian slopes even though the snow was probably as good at home.

The Prefects flourished at their leadership weekend whilst the Economists and Linguists surveyed Paris.

Year 9 Historians visited the Black Country Museum and Year 8 visited the Commandery in Worcester; Year 7 completed their Geography Field work in Bridgnorth and trips to the theatre and the Lake District were led by the English Department.

The term ends with us wishing well to our students going on the French Exchange, the Art Trip to Paris, the Classics Trip to Greece and our students heading off to practice in the Cairngorms for their trip to Peru during the summer break.

### **Sport**

In sport, highlights included the U12, U13, U15 and U16 Netball teams winning the City Championships with the Year 6 Mixed team, the U14 and U18 runners-up. Our U13 girls also won the City's Swimming Gala. Meanwhile, our 1<sup>st</sup> XI Footballers have progressed to the semi-final stage of both the City and the West Midlands Cup which is some compensation for losing so narrowly in the quarter final of the National Championships. Our Senior mixed Hockey team won a tournament involving ten teams and both our Rugby and Fives teams enjoyed notable victories against much bigger schools. Indeed, our Fives Pairs, Tom Weston, and Ben Hart, and Tom Husselbee and Matthew Pritchard, won the West Midlands Championships and went on to represent the region in the U14 National Finals at Eton College.

My thanks, as always, to the many staff who support teams and sporting activities at WGS. The school provides a tremendous range of sporting activity to a very high level.

**Table Tennis** - Congratulations to Nick Gilmour (L6) who won the West Midlands English Schools' Table Tennis Tournament and will now be representing the West Midlands at the English Schools' National Championships.

### **Representative Honours**

Individual Honours went to Cindy Harvey (U6) on being selected for the England Schools' U18 Rounders squad.

### **Music**

Our musicians continue to excel. The Ingestre Hall residential weekend was a great success and the soloists' concert was a superb evening of singing and instrumental work. Indeed, a CD recording of the event has been made and copies are available from school - Please contact Mr Proverbs. With a tinge of sadness, perhaps, the evening also marked the final performance for some outstanding senior musicians amongst them Jenny Dhingra, Matt Anderson, Sophie Young, Sam Jones and David Turner. We will miss these superb performers and thank them for all they have contributed to music at WGS during their seven years with us.

In this last week, the Choral Society evening proved a fitting climax for the term. The concert provided a wonderful evening of Choral music and special mention must be made of Joe Harper and Miles Lawrence, whose solos in Bach's *Concerto for Oboe, Violin and Strings* were tremendous whilst Alec White, (tenor solo) and James Proctor (Bass solo) in Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* were also outstanding. We thank Joe, Miles, James and Alec for all they have contributed to Music and Drama during their careers at WGS. Many congratulations as well to Lauren Dennis (9D), who has been selected for the National Youth Choir and thanks to Mr Proverbs, Mr Pawluk, Mrs Mosley, Mrs Parrans-Smith and all our peripatetic music teachers for all the work they do to bring out the best in our students.

### **Charity Fund Raising**

Towards the end of term the school also sprang into action for Charity. Red Nose Day was enjoyed by all even if Mr Hills was a little tender after he bravely had his legs waxed! Similarly, Messrs Meek, Brackpool, Wollam, Prince, Gough and Abbas also donated the hairs on their legs for the Uganda appeal.

In another event, my inability to recall the first line of the Ugandan National Anthem required me to eat a toothpaste and egg mayonnaise sandwich followed by banana in chilli sauce, and Messrs King, Carey and Uppal were also prepared to eat the unthinkable to help make the fundraising quiz a success. Messrs Hills, Dalzell, Hinchliffe and Munden were also prepared to be 'gunged' for the cause. In total, the school raised £189.47 for Red Nose Day and a fantastic £3,279.55 to help support our link school, Lords Meade College, in Jinja, Uganda, where three of our students, Sophie Young, Miles Lawrence and Rachel Davies-Foote will spend part of their gap year.

Other highlights this term included the Careers Convention for senior students, a very well attended and enjoyable Old Wulfrunian Association Dinner and an Exhibition of Wildlife Watercolours by Mike Warren, OW of the 1950's vintage and a renowned artist.

**Staff News** As Miss Murray prepares to leave at Easter and Mr Marshall, Mrs Parrans-Smith and Miss Round at the end of April, and Mr Meer at the end of May, we thank them for all their hard work. Mrs Mahey and Mrs Guidotti have returned from their maternity leave. We will welcome back Mr Munson after Easter and Mrs Hannah, Mrs Baker and Mrs Dovey will be returning from their maternity leave in June. Mrs Baxter will not be returning because she would like to spend more time with her family. Congratulations to Mrs Newton who has just been appointed as Manager of the England's Women's Cricket Team who were crowned World Champions only last week. She will leave us at the end of May.

### **Forthcoming Attractions**

Looking ahead to next term, the cricket squares are looking in tip top condition for what we hope will be a long and successful summer. Our athletes will endeavour to do well in local events and thus go on to West Midlands Championships, and our rounders teams will hopefully carry all before them. In music, we will be building up to the Jazz Spectacular on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - for tickets please contact the school office. Then, once Year 7 return from their week in Buxton, the school will ready itself for Prizegiving (Years 10-13), which will be held in Big School on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Details of all of next term's events and activities will be published in the summer calendar issued to all pupils at the start of term and published on the website.

Clearly, though, for many of our older students, (and their parents), we are heading into the examination season. A varied and active approach to revision, combined with some hours of sacrifice and toil will, hopefully, bring an excellent set of results. Students in Years 11 and 12 will begin their study leave at 12.45pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Year 12 will return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. The Upper Sixth will leave us on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May following the Leavers' Lunch in Big School.

It looks like the Year 11 and 12 Uniform Committee have agreed a dress code for the Sixth Form from September. Full details will be available from next term.

In closing, thanks to all the teaching and non-teaching staff at WGS who do a superb job. Thanks also to all the parents who have contacted me throughout the term - your thoughts, advice and comments have been very helpful, and my thanks to your children, our students, who are a pleasure to be with, to listen to and to watch as they learn and grow.

Wishing everyone a relaxing Easter with a reminder that Summer term starts at 8.45 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Darby  
Head

## SCHOOL NOTICES - SUMMER TERM 2009

### **Parking outside WGS - issues for local residents - our response to complaint made in Express & Star**

Concerns have been expressed by local residents about the disruption caused by WGS parents' picking up and dropping off their children at the beginning and end of each day.

We therefore hope you will understand why we are sending out the following suggestions and ask that you bear them in mind when it comes to 'school run' times next term.

In general terms we have observed that by around 4.15pm the streets around WGS are moving freely and if we can limit any disruption to the shortest possible period leading up to this point, we hope any inconvenience will be kept to a minimum. We would therefore like to suggest that:

- *wherever possible* parents should not arrive before 3.50pm to pick up children at the end of the school day
- *wherever possible* parents should wait until approximately 4.10pm before arriving, by which time students will be coming out of school, therefore keeping waiting times to a minimum

We should state that we believe WGS is not the only school being affected in this way and that the 'school run' has increased the volume of traffic in the streets surrounding *many* of the region's schools. However, given these latest concerns, WGS is endeavouring to lessen the impact on local residents by addressing the issue with its parents. It will also be urging any local resident who has particular concerns to contact the school directly in order to discuss the matter and identify ways of moving forward.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### **CRICKET**

Pre - season cricket training

<b>Seniors</b>	Wednesday 15th April	3.30pm - 5.00pm
	Thursday 16th	3.15pm - 6.00pm
	Friday 17th	4.00pm - 5.00pm
	<b>Saturday 18th April</b>	<b>1st XI v Solihull School</b>

<b>Years 7, 8, 9</b>	Thursday 16th & Fri 17th	3.00pm - 4.30pm
----------------------	--------------------------	-----------------

### **BERLIN TRIP**

Thanks to parents for deposits for Berlin trip. By now students should have given their parents a payment card.

There are still a few places left on the trip to Berlin that takes place over October half term. If anyone is interested please see Mrs Harris after Easter for more information.