



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

May 2009

Dear Parents,

With so much going on at school and with so many achievements to celebrate, I felt that a letter home this half-term was more than justified. However, before that, a word or two on recent health issues.

Influenza

As I write, we hope that the news regarding the recent influenza outbreak continues to improve. Naturally, we were concerned, especially as the examination season approached and as the number of confirmed cases climbed, that more and more schools would be affected.

It now appears that this strain of flu will not be as rampant as first feared and that the country will be spared a major epidemic or even pandemic at this time. However, we realise that the situation may still change for the worse or return again either later this year or next. Thus, the school has been updating its procedures and looking again at how we should respond to such crises if they were to strike.

Clearly, in such situations, the school would respond to guidance and instructions issued by the authorities and, we would have very little room for manoeuvre should we be instructed to close. However, we are looking into how we could continue to provide learning and support via the school's intranet, our email links, and website should our worst fears be realised. Students sitting examinations would be a first priority, and the examination boards do have contingency plans should a centre or student not be able to complete some or all of their examinations.

Beyond this, we can say very little at this time. The health and welfare of our students remains paramount and we will seek to keep parents as well informed as possible. The school remains vigilant and will respond as required. Meanwhile, we will continue to reinforce the importance of basic hygiene to the students.

Achievements – Sport

On a much brighter note, the school has already had much to celebrate this term. Having lost narrowly in the National Quarter Finals and reached the semi-final of the County Cup, the efforts of the 1st XI football team were finally rewarded with a hard fought victory in the City Cup Final.

Our Cross Country teams also swept the board in the City competitions with the Junior, Seniors and Intermediate teams winning their respective leagues. Daniel Genner (9D) and Zoë Stirling (10B) were individual champions in their age groups.

Nick Bandurak (11A) was part of the victorious England U18 Hockey team that won an International tournament over Easter and Nick's elder brother, Alex (U6) has been selected for the National Junior Hockey Umpire Panel. Both Eleanor Barnett (9B) and Ria Wagstaff (10B) represented England at Rounders against Scotland at U14 and U15 level respectively.

Our cricketers have had busy starts to the season with the U13 and U15 teams recording notable victories. Highlight of the season so far was Will Nield's century in the match against Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Our senior Tennis players are playing well – Sam Jones and Cindy Harvey won the City Double's Championship and Lucy Darby and Hannah York became the West Midlands League Pairs Champions. Aaron Patel (8Q), is in the European Golf Championships and we hope to see our athletes do well in their competitions after half-term.

Music

Our musicians followed last term's superb Choral Society event with the Chamber Concert - an evening of varied and lively music from Classical to Jazz, including a piece composed by our own James Proctor (U6). Highlight of the evening was the Chamber Choir prepared and conducted by Alec White (U6). The Orchestral and Band Concert followed a matter of days later showing, once again, the energy and talent of our musicians.

Jazz Spectacular

Friday 26th June – Tickets available from the General Office (£10 each). You will have to hurry because this is a very popular event.

Drama

At the top end of the school, our Upper Sixth Theatre Studies group performed their examination piece *Antigone* whilst our Junior thespians rehearsed feverishly for *James and the Giant Peach*, to be staged over three evenings, Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd May.

Trips

Over Easter, students from various years very much enjoyed the French Exchange, Classics trip to Greece, Art trip to Paris and the climbing weekend in the Cairngorms in preparation for the Peru Expedition. Youngsters from Years 8 and 9 also enjoyed the Towers residential weekends, while the Geographers are looking forward to Majorca in June. Year 7 are looking forward to their Camp in Snowdonia, the DoE cohort are off to the Long Mynd and the Battlefields Trip takes place on 5th July.

Before then, over the Bank Holiday weekend, runners from Year 10 will participate in the annual Coast to Coast run for charity from St Bees Head in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in Yorkshire. Each participant will run about a marathon over seven or eight half-hour stretches. Good luck to all!

All of these activities highlight the superb enrichment programme at WGS and I'm sure that you are as grateful as I am for the extra time and commitment our teachers put in to provide so many opportunities for our youngsters.

Leavers

Just before half-term we said goodbye to the Upper Sixth who will only be returning to sit their A Level examinations. They have been a great year group – lively, talented and contributing so much to all aspects of school life. I thank them for all they have done for WGS during their school careers, wish them every success for the future and hope that they keep in touch with the school in the years to come.

May I also take this opportunity to wish every success for the future to the youngsters from Year 11 who will not be returning to the Sixth Form in September. They too, have been a credit to the school and we wish them ever happiness and success in the future.

Looking ahead

As I mentioned earlier, we have the Jazz Spectacular to look forward to in June – tickets on sale in the General Office, and Senior Prizegiving on Friday 3rd July – details will be sent out in due course.

Uniform

From September we have the new uniform arrangements for *Big Six* – Year 11 and dress code for the Sixth Form.

***Big Six* to Year 11**

As I outlined in my Christmas letter, pupils in *Big Six* to Year 11 will be required to wear a school badge on their blazer from September. New blazers with the badge embossed are available to order from Buxton and Bonnett in Wolverhampton. The girls will also have the choice of a fitted jacket/blazer, again embossed with the school badge. Please see attached price list and order forms will be available from school after half-term.

Clearly, not all pupils will need a new blazer for September, so badges to sew on will be available from school priced at £5 each.

We also intend to replace the black school V-neck with a grey cotton one, again with badge. These are also available from Buxton and Bonnett. We have included their order form, but please note that, apart from the blazer/jacket and V-neck pullover, all other items of school uniform – black straight skirt for girls, black trousers, white shirts etc, can be purchased from any retailer.

The Sixth Form dress code has been decided by representatives of Year 11 and the current Lower Sixth. In essence, they have gone for business suits – plain or pin-stripe, white shirt, sixth form tie (for girls and boys), skirt or trousers for girls and plain shoes.

All I have asked is that ties are worn done up, shirts tucked in, skirts to the knee and no excessively high heels. All Sixth Formers for September have been issued with these details.

Parents' Forum – Thursday 18th June

I always finish my letters by reminding parents that I welcome thoughts and views on the school, however they might be communicated – from telephone to email, from fax to personal visit. And, in that spirit, I close by inviting parents to a forum at 7pm on Thursday 18th June. At that evening, my Deputy Peter Hills and I, will endeavour to answer any questions parents may have.

I also appreciate that parents may want to ask a question but won't be able to attend. So, I'd be very grateful if parents could complete and return the tear off slip below to register their questions and indicate, whether or not, they will be attending. These replies will help us gather any information we may need to answer questions and to be sure of numbers for seating and light refreshments.

Whether parents are able to attend or not, I remain grateful for your support of all that we do at WGS.

Please note that the school site is closed from Monday 25th – 29th May.

Wishing you a relaxing bank holiday, even if you may not be lucky enough to be on holiday over the half-term holiday week.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Darby
Head

Student Name Form

Parent Name

I/We* will/will not* be attending the Parents' Forum on Thursday 18th June.

The question I/we wish to raise is

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Please return this slip to the Head's PA, Mrs Boss by Monday 15th June.

School Uniform Supplier
Buxton & Bonnett
51-52 Victoria Street,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands. WV1 3PJ
Tel: 01902 422186

GIRLS UNIFORM

Black Trutex girls fitted Blazer with jetted pockets and WGS school badge:

Chest Sizes:	28 - 30	£24.99
	31 - 33	£26.99
	34 - 36	£28.99
	38 - 40	£30.99
	40 - 44	£33.99
	46 - 48	£35.99

WGS school badge: £ 5.00

Grey Trutex cotton jumper with WGS school badge:

Sizes:	Ages 11, 12 & 13years	£11.99
	Small - Medium	£12.99
	Large - XX Large	£13.99

White Trutex twin pack blouses:

Buy one pack and get a second pack half price

Chest Sizes:	30 - 34	£ 9.99
	36 - 40	£11.99
	42 - 44	£13.99

Black Trutex girls trousers:

Buy one pair and get a second pair half price

Sizes:	Waist 22 - 28	£17.99
	Waist 30 - 36	£19.99

Black Trutex girls pencil skirt:

Sizes:	Waist 22 - 26	£12.99
	Waist 28 - 30	£13.99
	Waist 32 - 34	£14.99

**Any uniform order/sale on or before 11th July 2009
will get a 10% discount.**

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Tel: 01902 422186

BOYS UNIFORM

Black Trutex Blazer with WGS school badge :

Chest Sizes:	28 - 30	£22.99
	31 - 33	£24.99
	34 - 36	£26.99
	38 - 40	£28.99
	42 - 44	£31.99
	46 - 48	£33.99

WGS school badge: £ 5.00

Grey Trutex cotton jumper with WGS school badge:

Sizes:	Ages 11, 12 & 13years	£11.99
	Small - Medium	£12.99
	Large - XX Large	£13.99

White Trutex twin pack shirts:

Buy one pack and get a second pack half price

Sizes:	Collar 12½ - 14	£ 9.00
	Collar 14½ - 15½	£11.99
	Collar 16 - 17	£13.99

Black Trutex trousers:

Buy one pair and get a second pair half price

Sizes :	Waist 24 - 28	£12.99
	Waist 29 - 38	£14.99

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