



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

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December 2008

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the end of the autumn term I would like to share the following information with you:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Since our last newsletter we have had still further analysis of our examination performance in the summer of 2008. The results of our A level students place our school fourth in the whole of Staffordshire when looking at progress or "value added" from what was achieved at GCSE level in 2006. This is a tremendous achievement and is a tribute to both the Sixth Form team of **Mrs Kearsley, Mr Blake and Miss Taylor** as well as the large number of subject experts who contribute to the teaching of post-16 courses. The new and greatly improved study facilities for our sixth form students have already increased the numbers wishing to continue studying with us and we are optimistic that 2009 will see still further growth in this sector. **Current Year 11 students** should submit their applications to the Sixth Form by **Thursday 18th December**.

SUPER LEARNING DAY

On **Thursday 4th December** school held its first **SUPER LEARNING DAY**. This saw the normal timetable suspended, students working in mixed age groups and a wide variety of activities from essential life skills like pumping up a car tyre to high-tech opportunities to make video and radio recordings and on to skills in art, writing, sport and problem solving. A huge amount of work and preparation went into this event and the vast majority of students and staff had a profitable and enjoyable day. We will be running another Super Learning Day in March 2009.

SPORT NEWS

I am proud and delighted to report that we have been successfully re-accredited with the prestigious **SPORTSMARK** award. This scheme recognizes the quality of provision both inside and outside the curriculum as well as the commitment shown by young people and adults working in partnership to improve the sporting life of our community. Congratulations to **Mr Blake** and the entire PE team here at Great Wyrley.

END OF TERM

On the last day of the autumn term (**Thursday 18th December**) school will, in time honoured tradition, finish early at **12.30**. We re-open for business as usual at 8.50 a.m. on **Monday 5th January 2009**.

MY FAIR LADY

Great Wyrley Musical Society is putting on this production **25th – 28th March 2009**.

If you would like to join in the fun we would love to have you come along to our rehearsals!

EVERY THURSDAY 7.30-9.30pm GWPAHS's Lecture Theatre

(Most parts are for adults however any children who attend rehearsals must be accompanied by an adult)



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FOND FAREWELL

At the end of this term Great Wyrley will be saying goodbye to a colleague who started work here on the 1st September 1973. **Mr Lownes** has served our school with distinction for more than 35 years and has held a number of key roles and responsibilities along the way including Head of Subject, Head of Year and Primary Liaison Coordinator. Mr Lownes is a true professional and both in his teaching and other work with young people and their families he has demonstrated the highest standards of care, quality and skill. His performances in drama and music (remember Tina Turner, Freddie Mercury and Billis in South Pacific???) will live long in the memory and everyone here at school wishes him a long and happy retirement.

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE

In the event that we have to close the school due to dangerous conditions around the site please listen to local radio **100.7 Heart FM** and we will put a message if school is to be closed. We will also update the school website **www.gwpahs.org** as soon as we are able to do so. We will only put this into action in the most serious situations so I hope you will support us in ensuring that all students and adults are kept safe and free from injury.

WELL DONE CHLOE FOREMAN!

Big **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Chloe Foreman (Y11)** who has been elected Chair of the West Midlands Specialist Schools Student Voice Forum. In this role Chloe will work with students from other schools across the whole of the Midlands and will lead the organisation of a large-scale conference at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, Birmingham in March. This is a tremendous honour for both Chloe and our school and is recognition of the quality and personality of the students in Great Wyrley.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 16 th December	7.30	Christmas Music Festival
Thursday 18th December	12.30	End of Autumn Term
Monday 5 th January 2009	8.50	Start of Spring Term
Thursday 8 th January	5-8	Y10 Consultation Evening
Tuesday 13 th January	5-8	Y12 Consultation Evening
Wednesday 28 th January	5-8	Y8 Consultation Evening
Thursday 12 th February	6-7	Parents Forum
Mon 16-Fri 20 February		Half Term Break
Wednesday 11 th March		SUPER LEARNING DAY
Wed 25-Sat 28 March		My Fair Lady Community Musical
Friday 27th March		Staff Training Day School Closed
Friday 3 rd April	12.30	End of Term
Mon 6th - Fri 17th April		Easter Vacation
Monday 20 th April	8.50	Start of Summer Term

The Governors, Staff and Students of Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School wish all our partners a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a successful 2009



**Chris Leach
Headteacher**