



Great Wyrley

Performing Arts High School

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November 2008

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we work our way through the autumn term I would like to share the following information with you:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

In my last newsletter I was delighted to report that in a number of sectors **excellent results** were achieved in the summer examinations. I am now even happier to tell you that due to a software problem our GCSE results are even better than we first reported. **60%** of students gained 5+ A*-C grades with **53%** including English and Mathematics. By some measures this puts us in the **top 15% nationally**. So big **CONGRATULATIONS** to all concerned and here's to continuing the success story this year.

MODERN LANGUAGES

On 12 November a group of staff and students from our partner school in Marl, Germany arrived on the first leg of this year's exchange programme. Whilst here they explored our history and culture and visited the Black Country museum and Cadbury World as well as developing the Science links we started to build on our last visit by visiting the Think Tank in Birmingham. A reception was held for visitors, staff, pupils, PTA and governors in which we celebrated the musical and dramatic talents of our school. In addition there was a fun evening of bowling as well as opportunities to sample school life, the creation of a musical rap and a weekend at leisure with families. The next leg of the exchange takes place at the end of April 2009 and pupils in year 8 are already preparing introduction letters for pen friends in preparation for the next exchange in 2010-2011.

10 year 8 students also visited Keele University on the evening of 11 November with their parents to take part in the Routes into Languages event, which involved language awareness activities and a continental buffet. The students will return for a language immersion day and overnight stay on 23-24 April 2009.

ART NEWS

KS3 students had work selected for the 'Open Spaces, Urban Places' exhibition at the Shire Hall Gallery in Stafford. We were very pleased to have work selected as the entry criteria was very strict and the standards high. The students that were successful in having work selected were...

Chloe Coldicott, Nicole Kerr, Macauley Simms, Libby Moutter, Shannon Rogers, Jack Dickinson, Lewis Craddock, Georgia Guest, Liam Bates, Lauren Vaughan, Liam Anderson, Nazario Jackson, Chelsea Jo Dennison

Year 12 students have been on a visit to the BP National Portrait Gallery to gain inspiration for their coursework. They have also taken part in a workshop with a professional artist. Anthony Hammond ran a three hour workshop with students and they learnt about willow sculpture and techniques.



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SCHOOL CLOSURE

On **Friday 5th December** school will be closed for Staff Training. On the last day of the autumn term (**Thursday 18th December**) school will, in time honoured tradition, finish early at **12.30**.

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)

PARENT FORUM

On Tuesday 11th November we held the first ever **Parent Forum** here at school. A small group of parents met with me and other staff/governors to discuss current developments and future possibilities for the Great Wyrley Community. The topics included new flexibilities in the KS3 curriculum, Arts College opportunities, Building Schools for the Future and the future of 14-19 education. There will be another opportunity to meet next term (**12th February** provisional date) so if you are interested in joining us please contact me here at school.

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 ELLIE SUTTON!

Big **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Ellie Sutton (Y11)** who in the last couple of weeks has become the "Poet Laureate" for Great Wyrley as well as raising more than £450 for Great Ormond Street Hospital by wearing her pyjamas to school for a day!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 15 th November	7.30	"Desperado" music evening
Wednesday 26 th November	5-8	Y9 Consultation Evening
Thur 27 th -Sat 29 th November		"Cinderella" Community Drama Production
Thursday 4 th December		SUPER LEARNING DAY
Friday 5 th December		Staff Training Day School Closed
Thursday 11 th December	5-8	Y13 Consultation Evening
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

Chris Leach

Headteacher



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