



# Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

Hall Lane  
Great Wyrley  
Walsall  
WS6 6LQ

Tel: 01922-857030

Fax: 01922 857066

headteacher@greatwyrley.staffs.sch.uk



## September 2008

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we begin our work for another year here at school, I would like to share the following information with you:

#### **HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE**

The summer saw the latest round of examination results published for students in KS3 SATs, GCSE, AS and A2 levels. I am delighted to report that in a number of sectors **excellent results** were achieved. Our Year 9 students SATs scores place them close to the top 25% of students nationally and with **55%** of our Year 11 students achieving 5 or more A\*-C passes at GCSE it was another good year. Our Year 13 Sixth Form students achieved a **99% pass rate** with **37% achieving A or B grades**. They were successful in securing places on degree courses at Universities across the country and the Year 12s produced AS grades that promise another bumper crop of results next summer. Results like this only happen when families who trust us send us youngsters who work hard and they are taught well by skilled professionals. So big **CONGRATULATIONS** to all concerned and here's to continuing the success story this year.

#### **HELLO/GOODBYE**

At the end of the summer term we said "au revoir" to a number of staff who served our school with great distinction over a long period of time. **Mr Moore** (Assistant Head), **Mrs Cumming** (Geography), **Mr Pockson** (Science), **Mrs Gammon** (Art) and **Mrs Smallwood** (DT) had more than 100 years of outstanding service between them. We also said goodbye to **Mrs Taylor**, **Mrs Butler**, **Ms Chambers**, **Miss Handley**, **Miss Bannister** and **Miss McLaren** and they all left with our thanks and very best wishes for the future.

New staff this term include **Ms Clifford** (Assistant Head), **Miss Wolf** (MFL), **Miss Dawes** (Music), **Miss George** (DT) **Mr Bayliss** (Business/ICT), **Mr Gillen** (DT) **Dr Ireson** (Science), **Miss Fiero** (English), **Mr Hill** (Geography), **Mr Smith** (ICT), **Mr York** (ICT Tech), **Mrs Wheelhouse** (ICT Tech) and **Miss Malpass** (Science Tech). We wish them all a long and successful career with us here at Great Wyrley.

#### **TARGET SETTING DAY**

On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** we shall be holding our annual Target Setting Day for students. On this day the normal timetable is suspended and all students will have a scheduled appointment with their form tutor to review data, set targets and formulate an action plan that will be reviewed as we progress through the school year. Students should expect to be in school for at least an hour on that day. Once their action plan has been completed and approved they will be free to leave the school site and return home. Some students, typically those who need some support with coursework, will be asked to remain at school for a longer time to complete any missing or unsatisfactory work. Equally, any student, particularly those in years 7-9 who cannot or do not want to leave the school site will of course be supervised in school until the end of the normal school day. If you would like your son/daughter to remain in school all day please confirm this in writing. If you have any concerns about any aspect of this process please contact us here at school.



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## FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

The School Catering Service is involved in a number of new initiatives this term. This will involve themed weeks such as "**British Food Fortnight**" – starts **Monday 22 September**, and later this term "**Curry Week**" – **23 November**. There are new break time menus available and students are able to order "goody bags" from the Canteen before registration to collect at lunchtime.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE

On **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October** school will close early at **2.25p.m.** to allow time for preparations for our Open Evening for prospective parents of students entering school in September 2009. A large number of students will be coming back to help departments on Open evening itself but in order to cope with the large numbers of visitors anyone else should avoid coming onto the school site that evening.

## UNIFORM MATTERS

I wrote to you at the end of last term to remind everyone about our uniform code. I am really pleased to say that the vast majority of our students have returned after the summer break with perfect appearance. There remains a small number who are either wearing incorrect trousers (jean type material, too tight or too baggy), pullovers of the wrong colour, unsuitable shoes or with hair that is not a **natural** colour (red, purple, green) or makeup which is not allowed at all until Year 10 and then only discretely. I trust you will support us in our efforts to be smart and professional in our appearance as well as our performance and that any problems will be remedied urgently.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

Could I please repeat a request I made on several times last year that parents and carers coming to drop off or collect students at the beginning or end of the school day do **NOT** use the entrance drive or its approaches to park or turn around in. There have been a number of occasions where safety has been compromised and we are anxious not to cause accidents or injuries to anyone in our community.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00	Work Experience Evening ( <b>Year 10</b> )
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	6.00	Open Evening (presentations 6.30 & 8.00)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30	Musical Showcase
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October		Target Setting Day
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	6.00	Y11 into the Sixth Form Evening
Saturday 18 October	7.30	Great Wyrley Community Band Autumn Concert
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	4.00-7.00	Y7 & Y12 Form Tutor "drop in"
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Oct-Fri 31 Oct</b>		<b>Half Term Break</b>
Monday 3 November		Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4 November	8.50	<b>Back to School</b>
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	7.00	Fireworks Extravaganza
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30	"Desperado" music evening
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December		Staff Training Day School Closed
Saturday 6 December		Chester Trip – tickets £12.00
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>End of Autumn Term</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	8.50	Start of Spring Term

**Chris Leach**  
Headteacher