



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

Hall Lane
Great Wyrley
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March 2009

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we move towards the end of the spring term I would like to share the following information with you:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

We are now at the vital time of year in terms of preparations for examinations here at Great Wyrley. Students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have all been involved in completing coursework tasks, preparing for and taking tests. This will continue as we finish preparations for GCSEs, AS and A2s and vocational qualifications. It is crucial that all students attend regularly, take advantage of revision sessions in class, at lunchtimes and after school if they are to do their best in the summer. There is still a lot of work to do but we are optimistic that the classes of 2009 may even exceed the records set last year.

On a slightly less positive note, there are one or two aspects of student behaviour that are currently causing problems in school:

Cyber-bullying: a small number of our students are using computers and mobile phones to make negative comments or spread rumours about other young people. In the most serious cases we are working with our local police colleagues to stop this happening and prevent the arguments that spill over into school.

Uniform: Some students are allowing their standard of uniform to fall below what is acceptable. Trainers, wide belts, fluorescent laces, non-natural colour hair dye, trousers that are too tight or made from jean-type material are all items that are **NOT** allowed in school. After Easter we will be looking closely at these items and if students are not in correct uniform they may not be allowed to work in their normal classes and we will contact individual families to discuss the way forward.

Healthy Eating: It is becoming apparent that some students are spending lunchtimes eating and drinking items that are high in sugar, additives and artificial colourings. This has a poor effect on their concentration and ability to work in the afternoon. We would therefore ask you to encourage our youngsters to eat healthily by either taking lunch in school or bringing a balanced packed lunch from home.

I trust you will support us in trying to maintain the positive and hard-working atmosphere we have here at Great Wyrley by helping to find solutions to these problems.

HISTORY UPDATE

The History department would like to say a big WELL DONE to all those Year 7s who have given up lunch times & break times to produce some FANTASTIC presentations on Medieval Ireland, Scotland & Wales! Puppet shows, Plays, Posters & Power Points - well done indeed Year 7s!

History department trips coming up next term...Year 7 Stafford Castle, Year 8 Lichfield Cathedral, Year 9 RAF Cosford Cold War Exhibition and Year 10 Coursework Field Trip to Coalbrookdale, Shropshire.

EASTER VACATION

On **Friday 3rd April at 12.30p.m.** school will close for the Easter break. We will re-open our doors at



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8.50a.m. on Monday 20th April.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

On the 3rd March Yr 11 Drama students enjoyed workshops by two visiting practitioners. Rob Dicks, a professional Designer who has created sets for many leading theatre companies, led 20 students in exploring the works of John Godber, a modern playwright who the students are studying for their final GCSE coursework performances in May. 20 other students experienced a Dance performance and workshop by a group of talented HND students from Stafford University.

18 6th Formers enjoyed a 5 day Performing Arts visit to New York City. Highlights included singing and acting workshops delivered variously by a Performing Arts teacher of New York University, members of the Broadway cast of Billy Elliott and a Broadway Audition teacher. Cultural and tourist experiences included travelling to the top of the Rockefeller Centre for views of the city, a visit to the site and museum of 9/11, and the Museum of Modern Art.

A group of 30 Gifted and Talented students from all year groups were invited to and enjoyed a successful twilight Drama session, with all three drama teachers leading a range of activities from Poetry in Drama to Masks. This group are a brave bunch who we hope to nurture and see involved in more Drama activities in future.

Forthcoming visits about which to see your Drama teacher for a letter: 2nd April, A Winter's Tale, Stratford-upon-Avon; 29th April, West Side Story, Birmingham Hippodrome.

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

On Friday 16th January 2009 Year 10 Geography students completed one day of fieldwork in Birmingham City Centre. The visit made sure that all GCSE students had the chance to investigate how the zones of land use change in Birmingham. This meant that Mr Frost, Miss Edwards, Miss Ptonka and the rest of the Geography team carried out questionnaires and surveys all over Birmingham. After stocking up on much needed fuel (walking burns off loads of calories) at a friendly restaurant they went on to visit the Bullring, the Mailbox, Brindley Place and the BBC studios when students had the chance to become West Midlands weather forecasters and radio DJ's. The Geography department would like to thank all students for participating in a fantastic learning experience and representing the school in such a positive manner.

MY FAIR LADY

Great Wyrley Musical Society is putting on this production **25th – 28th March 2009**. This will see adults, young people and school staff coming together for an evening of music and romance.

Tickets are on sale now and we advise early purchase to avoid disappointment.

SKI COURSE OPPORTUNITY

The School Parents' Association is organising a family ski trip to Vars in France. Flying from Manchester on 20 December and returning on 27 December 2009. Cost adults £760, children £680. For more details please contact Mr Archbold.

EASTER MENU

Watch out for some specials in the school kitchen! Easter Special coming up on Thursday 2nd April.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 25 th -Sat 28 th March		My Fair Lady Community Musical
Friday 27th March		Staff Training Day School Closed
Tue 31 st March		Y9 ICT Trip to Alton Towers
Friday 3 rd April	12.30p.m.	End of Term
Mon 6th - Fri 17th April		Easter Vacation
Monday 20 th April	8.50a.m.	Start of Summer Term
Monday 27 th April	5-8.00p.m.	Y7 Consultation Evening
Saturday 9 th May		Community Band concert including Viva Voce
Mon 18 th -Fri 22 nd May		Y10 Work Experience
Mon 25th-Fri 29th May		Half-Term Break
Wednesday 17 th June		Staff Training Day (School Closed)
Wed 1 st -Sat 4 th July		"We Will Rock You!" School Musical
Sunday 5 th July	10.00a.m.	Wyrley Waddle
Tuesday 7 th July	7.30 p.m.	Summer Music Festival
Mon 13 th -Sun 19 th July		Y7 residential to St Lunaire
Thursday 16 th July	7.30p.m.	Oscars Night
Tuesday 21 st July		End of School Year



The staff, students and friends of Great Wyrley
Performing Arts High School would like to wish you all a

HAPPY EASTER!

Chris Leach
Headteacher