



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

Hall Lane
Great Wyrley
Walsall
WS6 6LQ

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December 2010

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we work our way to the end of the autumn term here at school, I would like to share the following information with you:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

This has been a long and very positive autumn term here at Great Wyrley. A lot of important work has been completed including Modular Tests, Controlled Assessments and preparation for examinations to come in the New Year. There is a lot in the press and media at the moment about education and plans for the future organisation of learning and study from early years through to university level. What is clear is that it has never been more important to gain a good general education with a set of credible qualifications if our young people are to be competitive in the labour markets of the future. Here at Great Wyrley we believe we are helping most of our learners to make positive choices and achieve their full potential. This is thanks to the strong partnership we have with the young people themselves and you the families. The near future is likely to be complex and there will be some difficult choices to be made but if continue to be honest with each other and work together I am sure we will achieve the right results for all of us.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

In time-honoured tradition, school will close for the Christmas holidays at **12.30p.m. on Friday 17th December** and will reopen for business on **Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 8.50a.m.**

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER

The school telephone numbers will be changing over the Christmas holiday period. Please check this website over Christmas for up-to-date information. Parents and staff will also receive a text message giving the new main school number as soon as it is available.

GOVERNOR NEWS

The Governing Body held its termly meeting at the end of November and there are a number of changes to tell you about. After many years of outstanding service to school and our local community **Mr Derek Watson** (Chair) and **Mr Phil Baker** (Vice Chair) stood down their senior duties and were replaced by **Mr Dixon Wilton** and **Mrs Joanne Westwood** respectively. Mr Watson and Mr Baker will continue to serve on committees and all here at school would like to place on record our thanks for the expertise, support and energy they bring to this work.

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

Thank you for your patience and understanding when school had to be closed recently. This





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decision is only taken as a last resort when we believe that the health & safety of staff and students would be risked by asking them to come to school. Considerations include the state of the school site and its pathways, local roads and access, the wider weather conditions and forecast and an estimate of whether we will have enough adults on site to supervise the young people even if we can get them into school. Just to remind you of the procedures we have in place:

Once the Governors and I have decided to close school we will inform you in a number of ways: **The texting alert, a notice on the school website, a message to Heart FM local radio and, if possible, a notice on the school gates.** If none of these are in place you should assume that school is open as normal. We fully appreciate the problems and difficulties that are caused by an enforced closure and we will never close unless we have to. Everyone's safety, however, is the most important consideration and I thank you for your trust and cooperation should the need arise. **Once we re-open I would also ask you to support us by reminding your sons and daughters about behaving safely in school during icy conditions (stay inside as much as possible, avoid icy areas, do not throw ice or snow).**

SCHOOL MUSICAL

In January we will be starting auditions and rehearsals for the school show . These will be on Wednesday after school. This Year's spectacular will be '**Return to the Forbidden Planet**', a West End hit and winner of the 1990 Olivier Award, Return to The Forbidden Planet mixes Sci-Fi, Shakespeare and Rock 'n' Roll to create a mad-cap, high-energy adventure. It is unique in the fact that the band is part of the cast and the cast are part of the band, whilst the audience are passengers on the doomed voyage.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14 th December	7.30	Christmas Music Festival
Wed 15 th December	12.30	School Christmas Dinner (Pre-Order)
Thursday 16 th December	2.30	Y7 Christmas Pantomime
Friday 17th December	12.30	End of Autumn Term
Tuesday 4 th January 2011	8.50	Start of Spring Term

Chris Leach
Headteacher

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT GWPAHS!



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Schools Curriculum
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