



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

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January 2010

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

We have had a very fragmented and unusual start to 2010 here at Great Wyrley! You will be well aware of the difficult weather conditions that have caused problems during the first two weeks of term. Taking the decision to close school is never done lightly and we constantly have to weigh the health & safety of all our students and staff against the loss of learning and teaching time. This includes the condition of the site, the roads around school and the ability or otherwise of enough staff to arrive at school and provide the right supervision to ensure everyone is safe and accident-free all day. I hope our communication systems via the school website and Heart FM got information to you early enough for you to make alternative arrangements for your sons and daughters. I appreciate how difficult this is and I thank you for your support and understanding during this time.

SPECIALIST PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

On the 12th January we hosted a visit from **Liz Macfarlane**, National Director for Visual and Performing Arts at the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. She spent most of the morning and lunchtime looking at our progress in Art, Drama, Music and Media and enjoyed performances from our **Viva Voce** singers and **Fallon Dyer** one of our Y13 Drama students. Liz left with a very positive impression of our work and school has now been invited to produce a case study of best practice that will be published by the trust. **Congratulations to all staff and students involved.**

DISNEYLAND PARIS TRIP

Last week the ICT Department took some students in Year 10 on a study experience at Disneyland Paris. During this experience students attended three curriculum-led education sessions. These included live interviews with Disneyland Resort Paris managers and cast members, video footage of 'behind the scenes' scenarios and case studies. The behaviour of our students (and staff!) on this trip was superb and they were a credit to our school. **Well done!**

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

The School Catering Dept is holding themed weeks plus many special offer deals throughout this term. Posters are displayed around the school and further information is also available on the school website. Enjoy!



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EXAMS COUNTDOWN

The long road to preparation for the final exams in Years 11 and 13 is well under way. This term many departments will be offering revision clinics at lunchtimes and after school so that students can be well prepared for the assessments, practicals, orals and written examinations during the summer. The **Modern Languages** team, for example, will be offering support to different groups every day of the week except Wednesdays at a variety of times from early morning before school to afternoon twilight sessions. Some students will also be offered the support of a personal "mentor" who will work with them to try and ensure that each and every student achieves their maximum potential in their examinations. Please encourage and support your son/daughter in taking advantage of these opportunities. There is a lot of work to be done but together we can achieve the right result.

YEAR 9 NEWS

Mr Stokes managed to secure funding from the Community and Lifelong Learning Partnership to pay for a motivational speaker to come in to school to speak to a group of 30 students. The speaker "**Action Jackson**" gave a 2 hour presentation involving audio visual, dancing, singing, rapping, puzzles, and games. He involved the students in a range of activities to get them thinking about their positive and negative qualities, the positive and negative influences from home, friends and school, and how these affected their personal attitudes, expectations, progress and development. All students enjoyed the session, and several stated that it had been a big "wake up" call. Many have since shown measurable improvement, and some have made excellent progress this term following the session and have stated their turnaround was largely or partly due to the input from the session. **Congratulations!**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25 th January	5.00-8.00	Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening
Thursday 11 th February	5.00-8.00	Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening
Mon 15th-Fri 19th February		Half Term Break
Thursday 25 th February	5.00-8.00	Year 10 Consultation Evening (re-arranged)
Thursday 4 th March	6.00-8.00	Y9 Option Choices Evening
Friday 26 th March	7.30-10.00	Disco Years 7,8,9
Wednesday 31 st March		End of Spring Term
Thur 1 st -Wed 14 th April		EASTER VACATION
Thursday 15 th April	8.50	Start of Summer Term

Chris Leach
Headteacher