



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

Hall Lane
Great Wyrley
Walsall
WS6 6LQ

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November 2010

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

This is a very busy term and already many of our students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have sat modular examinations, submitted coursework or have completed controlled condition assessments that count towards their final exam grades. It is vital that good attendance and hard work in class is maintained if our students are to be competitive in the world of further/Higher Education and the world of work. The economic situation has changed and it is more difficult than ever to secure our futures so a good set of qualifications is more essential than ever.

There is a lot going on in the Educational world as well as in all other aspects of local government at this time. Schools are awaiting a government white paper that will map out the next five years for learning, inspection, governance, organisation, provision and resourcing for all sectors. There will clearly be some tough decisions to make but I am confident that if we continue to challenge each other and work together then we can secure the best deal for the young people of Great Wyrley and beyond.

PE & SPORT UPDATE

Elis Brookes (year 9) is performing at a very high level in ice skating. She trains at Coventry and has recently won an open event in Gillingham and came second in another. Elis is working at levels 3 and 4.

Emma Price (Year 8) is also a talented skater who competes nationally.

Gymnastics club is thriving with up to 25 members, mostly year 7 pupils who are working towards different awards. **Jess Robbins (Year 8)** continues to make great progress and competes regionally and nationally.

Emily Quimby (Year 13) was chosen by Adidas to attend a special Olympic Champion's day in Sheffield due to her outstanding work as a Young Ambassador for PE and Sport. **Hannah Haynes**

(Year 11) is performing at a very high standard in dance. She is a fantastic quality dancer! Recently she won the solo and pairs sections in the premier champ U16 section, at Mablethorpe in the Lincolnshire Championships.

George Kimberley (Year 12) was third in the Midlands Triathlon and will be going to the NW regional final. It was the first triathlon he had done and he surprised himself (not us though).

TEXTING SERVICE

Since September we have been using a texting service to keep families better informed about events at school and information relating to our students. We are hoping to extend this still further as we move through the school year and I would welcome any feedback you may have about this service.

GERMAN EXCHANGE MARL 2010-2011

At the beginning of November we welcomed our German partner school from Marl and they experienced a mixture of life in lessons here at Great Wyrley, time in families and they had opportunities to visit some of the places and local culture of our region. A good time was had by all and they left with tears in their eyes and looking forward to the return trip to Germany in May. Congratulations to **Mrs Howarth** and all the other staff and students involved.



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BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

As we approach the start of winter I need to remind everyone about the procedure we will use at times when we have to close school due to bad weather. This 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. 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 in advance for your trust and cooperation should the need arise.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

I would like to remind you that a number of families are entitled to free school meals for their children. In some cases you may not be aware of this or the procedure may be unclear and when this happens this entitlement is not claimed. If you would like any advice on this matter please do not hesitate to contact us here at school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Wed 24-Sat 27 th Nov | 7.30 | Community Pantomime "Snow White" |
| Thursday 2 nd December | 5.00-8.00 | Y9 Consultation Evening |
| Friday 3 rd December | 7.30 | Presentation Evening |
| Saturday 4 th December | 7.30 | Community Band Christmas Concert |
| Saturday 4 th December | | Chester Trip (spaces still available) |
| Thursday 9 th December | 6.00 | Y11 into the Sixth Form Evening |
| Tuesday 14 th December | 7.30 | Christmas Music Festival |
| Wed 15 th December | 12.30 | School Christmas Dinner (Pre-Order) |
| Thursday 16 th December | | 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