



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

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January 2012

IMPORTANT INFORMATION-PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS GOES HOME

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

The New Year 2012 sees an intense focus on revision, examinations and modular tests. Students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are all working hard to gain the best results possible across a range of subjects. The challenge and demands are high but we are confident that their efforts will be rewarded with the positive results they deserve. From this point on the priority and emphasis will be on getting all our students to be as ready as possible for their final assessments in the summer. This is never an easy time and we all need to be patient as well as ambitious if maximum potential is to be realised. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have questions or queries about any aspect of our work in this area.

At Christmas we said farewell to **Mrs Plavenieks** (Food Technology) who retired, and a temporary adieu to **Mrs Macey** (Music) who left us for a period of maternity leave. In their place we welcome **Mrs Beach** and **Miss Guest** and we wish them all well.

Finally, can I remind parents and carers of the need for safety on site. Please do not bring your cars into school at the busy starts and ends to the day.

HOUSE SYSTEM

On the last day before Christmas the Term Cup was awarded for the first time to the house which had gained the most Vivo points during that period. Celebration Assemblies were held when the best work and achievements by students in all year groups were honoured, certificates were awarded and in a very close-run contest **TIFT HOUSE** became the first winners.

EUROPEAN VENTURES

The Modern Languages department are pleased to announce that our French AS Students will be taking part in a week's work experience in Limoges, France in October. The pupils will travel with Sixth Form students from other Staffordshire schools and will work in placements varying from Lawyers to Radio stations. This will benefit the pupils with their French, confidence and UCAS applications as well as being a memorable life experience. It is also likely that our well-established exchange with our partner school in Marl, Germany will be starting up again later this year so if you think you might be interested watch out for details.

SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEWS

In December, Mr Stark's Year 11 drama group performed work on Hate Crime to an audience of senior figures from the police, educational institutions and charities, as part of a local project into publicising the consequences of such matters as bullying and anti-social behaviour. Next month, the Year 12 drama group will spend the morning with a professional practitioner to develop their skills and experiences.



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Drama students in all years have had opportunities to experience various theatrical events recently. All of Year 7 watched "Peter Pan" in the school theatre before Christmas, whilst all Sixth Formers were invited to the Year 13 Drama group's exciting and innovative "Drunk on Emotion" in the DramaStudio. A Level Drama students watched a provocative and enjoyable performance of Marat Sade at Stratford; 45 GCSE and Year 9 students travelled to London, watched "Matilda", and invaded a Covent Garden street performer's space to stage a Flash Mob – view it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VajJ-wAmhCg.

Forthcoming visits include to Liverpool to see "A Streetcar Named Desire"; to Stratford to see "The Tempest" and attend a talk by the Director; and to Wolverhampton to see "The Diary of Anne Frank"; students should keep an eye and ear open for information. We are keen that no student is unable to attend due to financial hardship, and in such cases you should contact the member of staff leading the visit to see if we can help. And finally, **GREASE IS THE WORD!** Rehearsals are under way for our next musical spectacular "Grease" which will take place in the theatre here at school from 12-14 July.

SPORTING SUCCESS

The **Year 9 and 10 girls and boys swimming team** won the Cannock and District Swimming Gala. They stopped a Cheslyn Hay 'white wash' and beat them into second place. All of our swimming teams which involved all year groups (YR7-13) made the finals night. **Congratulations to them all!**

ENGLISH NEWS

The English department has had an extremely positive and busy time. Year 10 had the pleasure of seeing the Top Box Theatre Company perform their version of "Romeo and Juliet." After the performance, the pupils were invited to take part in various workshops that included re-enacting important scenes to enhance their understanding of the play in preparation for their GCSE controlled assessment. Year 12 were invited to see the Big Brum Theatre Company's rendition of "Frankenstein" to further their understanding of the novel for their AS level coursework. Last but certainly not least, the following students: **Nick Evans, Annie Sutton, Kelsey Taylor, Chloe Mason, Giselle Russell, Charlotte Barnfield, Ryma Picken and Emily Large**, were entered into the Young Writer's competition by Miss Orr at the end of last year. The judges of the competition selected the work of each of these students to be published into the organization's annual Poetry Anthology. Congratulations to these students for their excellent effort. **Well done!**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Thursday 19 th January | 5.00-8.00 | Year 9 Consultation Evening |
| Friday 20 th January | 7.30-10.00 | Years 7,8,9 Disco |
| Thursday 26 th January | 6.00-8.00 | Year 11 into the Sixth Form Evening |
| Thursday 9 th February | 5.00-8.00 | Year 10 Consultation evening (Non-Uniform Day) |
| Friday 10 th February | INSET day – school closed to Students | |
| Thursday 23 rd February | 6.00-8.00 | Year 9 Options Evening |
| Tuesday 6 th March | Target Review Day (Timetable suspended) | |
| Thursday 15 th March | 5.00-8.00 | Year 8 Consultation Evening |
| Friday 30 th March | End of Spring Term (Non-Uniform) | |
| Monday 2nd April-Friday 13th April | Easter Vacation | |
| Monday 16 th April | 8.50 | Start of Summer Term |

**Chris Leach
Headteacher**

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