



WYVERN COLLEGE NEWSLETTER October 2017



@Wyvernsalisbury

Dear Parent/Carer

I write with news of our school. This first term of the academic year got underway on Friday 1st September with two training days and students returned on Tuesday 5th September. It has been a very busy and productive seven weeks. The boys have settled back to work very promisingly and the signs are set for continued success this year.

Thank you once again for your continued support and energy which, as always, is what keeps us driving forwards as a school. It was great to see so many prospective parents at our Open Evening in September and we look forward to working with either your younger children or with families who are new to Wyvern College.

It is a very strange feeling writing this, which will be my last newsletter as Headteacher at Wyvern College. Although the time since September 2014 is only a little over three years, so much has happened since then that it seems much longer. Wyvern however, is never dull and in some respects my joining the school feels like yesterday!

Three years ago we were languishing in some of the most dilapidated school buildings in the country and it was hard to learn effectively in rooms that leaked and alternated between arctic and tropical conditions depending on the vagaries of the heating and plumbing! Who could forget assemblies in that hall which doubled as a dining room and general dumping ground. Wi-fi was something you could get in one place only and generally by pointing a device out of an open window. Since then we have become accustomed to a class-leading learning environment, infinitely better resources and a much greater sense of purpose. Memorable performances have been held in our fabulous main hall; something unthinkable in the past, who could forget MmmBeth? Images from that will last me a lifetime.

No-one could deny that the whole national assessment and inspection regime has got a great deal tougher in the last few years. Wyvern has worked hard, not just to keep up, but to try and 'get ahead of the curve' on the national agenda. Results have improved within a demanding environment and all credit must go to the boys and their teachers for adapting and improving at an impressive rate. We have worked hard to adapt and develop the curriculum such that the preparation at Key Stage 3 makes the best possible foundation for success at GCSE and opens doors for further and higher education. We were delighted that our Section 47 Inspection validated how good the school is and what excellent ambassadors the students have become. None of this has been possible without the tireless dedication and commitment of my staff and we are indebted to them for making the school ever more rigorous while maintaining our ethos at the same time.

Our ethos is hugely important and a significant reason why an ever increasing number of families are choosing the school. No-one would disagree with Courage, Commitment and Compassion as values for life and we really embody this in our daily interactions and within the Christian life and worship of the school. Never has this been clearer than in the boys raising hundreds of pounds for charity this term, including MacMillan Cancer Support. Governors and senior staff are resolved to uphold this in the years to come as the school evolves and finds its particular role within the Magna Learning Partnership.

I said from the start that my watchword is pride. I want boys and staff to share that sense of pride in being part of an outstanding and supportive community and share that in and around Salisbury. I want them to be proud of their school, proud of their achievements and proud of the young men they have become. We all need plenty of reminders



along the way and occasionally people let themselves down. However, in the main, we have been successful in our aim and the boys are proud to be associated with and be members of Wyvern College.

It is with mixed feelings that I step down as Wyvern Headteacher. I am sorry to be leaving so many excellent students and colleagues behind and no school that I've ever worked in has had such a strong and collegiate ethos and values. I am moving to a school with real issues, not least as a much larger institution and mixed school! Nevertheless, a real challenge, privilege and opportunity.

I have repeatedly spoken to the boys about pride and endeavour and this is the next step for me. In this vein a quote from Confucius has always made sense to me "He who believes he can and he who believes he can't are usually both right." I am leaving behind an organisation I care a great deal about, but sure in the foundations that have been put into place. I have had the pleasure of working with a fine senior leadership team and Mr Jeffries will do an outstanding job as Acting Headteacher in the interim period up to Christmas. I firmly believe that Mr Bazen coming in after that, will share the values of the school and be relentless in his drive for excellence and the best outcomes for the boys.

I wish you all the very best.

Yours sincerely

Paul German
Headteacher

Parents' Evenings – Online Appointment Booking



The school has introduced an easy to use online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. We are confident this will be an improvement to the previous system and welcome any feedback.

A short guide on how to add appointments is available on our website. Prior to a Parents' Evening a text message will go out to parents to tell them where they can book their appointment. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.

Charity Cake Sale – 8R



On Friday 13th October 8R held a cake sale for our school charity Help for Heroes.

Thank you to all students and parents for baking and bringing in cakes. We raised a total of £57.22. Congratulations and Well Done 8R!



Year 7 Internet Safety Day, Miss Batchelor

On our first Curriculum Acceleration Day of the academic year we welcomed PCSO Alan Aldersley-Byrne to educate all Year 7 students on the importance of Internet Safety.

Our first session involved watching 'First to a million'. This film follows a group of teens in their battle to be *first to a million* views of their increasingly outrageous films. This gave a great opportunity for PCSO AI to give advice on what to do when things go too far.

After break there was an Apprentice style task. Each group were given the challenge to create an Internet Safety Campaign that would be suitable to deliver to KS2 students.

There was a plethora of information including power points, plays and posters.

Mr Jeffries, Deputy Headteacher spent a long time deliberating over who should be fired and who should be hired. After much tension the winning group, Team 'It's Da Boys' were awarded their worthy certificates.

The finale to the day was spent watching the film 'Catfish'. This exhilarating film showed months of unsettlement as an intriguing Facebook mystery unravels.



Help and Advice

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Thinkuknow - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

UK Safer Internet Centre - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

ChildLine - <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>



Ceop - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Year 10 English Trip to Salisbury Journal, David Anoh in 10L



The trip to the Salisbury Journal was a fascinating and engaging experience as it allowed students like myself to learn from professionals about the vast world of the Media and the numerous ways to enter it.

Grateful thanks to the editor of the Salisbury Journal for the wonderful tour of the building as well as an interesting Questions and Answer session.

The trip gave an opportunity to use the skills we already knew as well as newly introduced skills to research topics within Salisbury and create an article for the Journal to review. This created a competitive nature whereby we were working to the best of our ability to produce work that not only we would take pride in but also the Salisbury Journal.

English Department, Mrs Burke

We are missing a number of texts – ‘Macbeth’, ‘The Sign of 4’ and ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time’ among others. If your son has any school books he is no longer using please can these be returned as soon as possible? Thank you.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies, Miss King

As your son is a senior student at Wyvern College we would like to celebrate this and create a suitable Year 11 ethos; Miss Powlesland, Mrs Tailby and I are keen to see all students have a memento of their time at Wyvern College.

I have investigated the cost of hoodies and have found that for £22.99 at **LeaversHoodies.com** students can purchase a wide range of colours, have their name on the back and the names of their classmates in the ‘18’ logo. The hoodies are of good quality and have the school’s logo embroidered and Wyvern College Salisbury on the front.

If your son is interested in purchasing a hoodie please visit www.leavershoodies.com/shop/wyverncollege2018shop and choose your colour and size (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Your son will also be able to add his name or a nickname (a charge of £3 extra). These will be vetted to ensure that only appropriate names are printed on the back. **All Orders Should be Submitted by 17th December 2017**, sample pictures enclosed with this letter.

Hoodies will be available for collection after final exams in June 2018. I hope your son will purchase a hoodie to commemorate his final year of school

If you have any queries about the hoodie please contact me – mking@wyverncollege.wilts.sch.uk



Maths Department, Mr Byekwaso

We were proud of the results for our GCSE Mathematics released in August 2017. We are continuing with plans to build on the improving attainment for our students. Emphasis for our students is on regular revision and timely completion of all set class and homework. We thank parents and guardians who properly equip students in addition to supporting the school in ensuring time and space for dedicated independent study by their son.

Please continue to purchase the Maths Watch CDs through Parent Pay.

This academic year we shall be entering both the Junior and Intermediate UKMT Mathematical Challenges as well as the Team Mathematics Challenge for which last year was our first ever entry.

All classes sat end of unit tests and continue to be set long term assignments, particularly on the PiXL Maths App. Year 7 have been given a Baseline Test.

We encourage our students, particularly in Year 11, to attend the lunch and after school revision sessions. Year 11 will sit two major Pre Public Examinations in November 2017 and February 2018.

They should be completing one full exam practice paper every fortnight as part of their preparation for the GCSE Examinations in the summer of 2018. Remember to refer to our school website for details of Intervention and Revision opportunities.

We invite you to join the school in welcoming our new member of staff teaching Mathematics; Mr Sarpong.

Diary Dates

Date	Times	Event
Monday 30 th October		Selected Yr11 – Finance Revision Staff Development Day – School closed
Tuesday 31 st October		Term 2 Begins
Tuesday 7 th November		UK Maths Challenge
Wednesday 8 th November	10.30 a.m. -11.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Thursday 9 th November	4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 10 th November		Armistice Service
Thursday 16 th November	7.00 p.m.	Prize Giving
Thursday 23 rd November	TBC	Expressive Arts Evening
Thursday 30 th November	4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 7 th December	4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Year 10 Parents' Evening



Friday 8 th December		Non Uniform Day
Thursday 14 th December	1.30 p.m.	Curriculum Acceleration Day Cross Country
Friday 15 th December		Christmas Lunch – Orders will be taken nearer the date
Wednesday 20 th December		End of Term 2 – students dismissed at 12.30 p.m.
Thursday 4 th January		Term 3 Begins
Monday 15 th January		Year 8 & 9 – Bath Spa University Awareness Day
Monday 22 nd January		Year 7 – Bath Spa University Day
Tuesday 23 rd January	TBC	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 25 th January		Curriculum Acceleration Day
Thursday 1 st February		Intermediate UK Maths Challenge
Tuesday 6 th February		Safer Internet Day
Friday 9 th February		End of Term 3
Monday 19 th February		Term 4 Begins
Thursday 1 st March		Team Maths Challenge World Book Day
Monday 5 th March		Curriculum Acceleration Day
Monday 12 th March		Year 8 & 9 - Bath Spa University Awareness Day
Monday 19 th March		Year 7 Bath Spa University Awareness Day
Thursday 22 nd March	4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 23 rd March		Non – Uniform Day
Wednesday 28 th March		End of Term 4
Thursday 29 th March		Staff Development Day – School Closed
Monday 16 th April		Term 5 Begins Headboy Applications Open
Thursday 19 th April	TBC 6.00 p.m.	Easter Service Year 11 Parents' Revision Evening
Wednesday 25 th April		Headboy Applications Close
Thursday 26 th April		Junior UK Maths Challenge



Monday 16 th April		Year 10 Employability Skills Workshop
Wednesday 2 nd May		Headboy Interviews
Monday 7 th May		Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday 14 th May		Year 10 – Mock Interview Day Headboy announced
Thursday 24 th May		Curriculum Acceleration Day
Friday 25 th May		End of Term 5
Monday 4 th June		Term 6 Begins
Wednesday 6 th June		Curriculum Acceleration Day
Thursday 7 th June	4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Year 8 Parents’ Evening
Thursday 21 st June	4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Year 7 Parents’ Evening
Thursday 28 th June		Year 5 Taster Day
Friday 29 th June		Careers and Aspirational Day
Monday 2 nd July		Year 9 Bath Spa University visit
Wednesday 4 th July		Year 6 Induction Day/Evening
Thursday 5 th July	5.30 p.m.	Year 5 Workshop Cathedral Service
Friday 6 th July		Sports Day
Monday 9 th July		Sports Day (Reserve Day)
Thursday 12 th July		Sports Day Celebration
Monday 23 rd July		Activity Day
Tuesday 24 th July		End of Term 6
Wednesday 25 th July		Staff Development Day – School Closed



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