

# WIXAMS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



Wixams  
Academy

# WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As the term draws to a close, I would like to reflect on the successes and challenges of the year so far and also update you on key developments around the corner.

Our new students settled in very quickly in September and all year groups have been working hard. Year 11 have completed their first full set of mock exams in preparation for their GCSEs in the summer. Other year groups took home school reports last week which reflect their hard work. Many students have taken part in clubs, teams and performances and we are very proud of their contributions to Academy life.

At Christmas we say goodbye to teachers Ms Jenkins and Ms Lancaster. We thank them for their hard work and commitment at the Academy and wish them the very best of luck with their moves. We also say goodbye to father and daughter team, Mr & Ms Rodger. Simon has worked in our site team for a number of years now and we will miss his amazing knack for 'fixing things' and for his sense of humour. Ms Rodger has made a big impact supporting students in her relatively short time with us.

We have excellent new staff joining us in languages, computing, geography, the site team and learning support and we look forward to these new colleagues working with us in the New Year.

A major new development is the opening of our sixth form in September 2022. We will be carrying out some building work over the summer to expand our facilities. More details about our sixth form offer and our online application form can be found here:

[www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/sixth-form](http://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/sixth-form)

Last week saw the launch meeting for the full expansion and development of Wixams Academy, which will see us more than double in size by 2024. This will mean many exciting developments in our facilities. There will be a press release and further information shared with the community in January.

I would like to thank our entire community for supporting the Academy this year. Whilst school has returned to a semblance of normality, COVID clearly continues to have an effect on the world and we are not immune (!) to the challenges and students, staff and families continue to be affected by these.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing you all again in 2022!

**Paul Spyropoulos**  
Principal



Merry  
CHRISTMAS



THE WIXAMS ACADEMY VALUES  
DETERMINATION  
RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY  
COMMUNITY • HONESTY  
COMPASSION

# KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates	Information
Tuesday 4 January	Inset day for staff training – school closed to students
Wednesday 5 January	Mass COVID TESTING ALL WEEK 5 – 7 January
Wednesday 5 January	Students return to school
Friday 7 January	Year 11 MOCK results go home at the end of the day
Tuesday 11 January	Year 11 Reports given out to students, year 11 Subject Evening –SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2.00pm FOR ALL STUDENTS
Monday 17 January	Flu Vaccination – all year groups TBC
Wednesday 26 January	Bedford Uni trip for year 7 & 8 students
Thursday 27 January	Resilience Evening Parent Workshop - all year groups – 7.00pm
Thursday 3 February	St George Park Trip for year 11
Thursday 3 February	6th Form Open Evening
Wednesday 9 February	Future Focus Day – year 11 Students Main Hall
Thursday 10 February	Prep cancelled due to teacher training – school ends at 3.30pm
Friday 11 February	Suggested 6th Form Application Deadline
Monday 14 – Friday 18 February	School closed for half term
Wednesday 2 March	Year 8 reports go home
Thursday 3 March	Year 8 Subject Evenings 2.30pm-7.30pm – SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2.00pm FOR ALL STUDENTS
Tuesday 8 March	Year 8 Subject Evenings 2.30pm-7.30pm – SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2.00pm FOR ALL STUDENTS
Tuesday 8 March	Year 9 ASDAN Oral Presentation
Friday 11 March	Option Booklets go home
Week commencing 14 March	Year 11 MOCKS
Thursday 17 March	Year 8 Options Evening 4.30-6.30pm
Friday 1 April	Last day of term
Monday 4 April – Tuesday 19 April	Easter Break
Wednesday 20 April	Students return to school



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# SPRING TERM 2022

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## Dates

Wednesday 5 January 2022 – Friday 1st April 2022

(Half term: Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February)

Training Days: Tuesday 4 January, Tuesday 19 April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3 January 2022, Friday 15 April, Monday 18 April

Easter Break: (Monday 4 April – Tuesday 19 April)

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## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

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### YEAR 7

Congratulations year 7 on completing your first term at Wixams! It feels like time has absolutely flown by. Here are some of our highlights from this half term...

A big thank you to Miss Reilly for organising the year 7 'Gangsta Granny' trip to the Theatre MK. The students were incredibly excited to go on their first school trip since joining Wixams. The set was cleverly designed and the story was a really sensitive and humorous interpretation from the original novel. The students really enjoyed the show and threw themselves into the audience participation with gusto!

Sporting success continues to come thick and fast for year 7; firstly for our football team - they did not lose a game all season! Congratulations and the very best of luck to Curran for being selected to trial for Aston Villa. The year 7 girls found their way through to the county finals for indoor athletics, beating 8 other teams even though they missed the first event! I cannot wait to see what sporting excitement next term brings.

Students also received a talk on "Online Safety and the Law in a Digital World" this half term from PC Viv Dady, Education and Diversion Officer. The talk outlined the types of online behaviours that are against the law, how students can keep themselves safe online and gave students direction towards the people and services that they can contact if they have any concerns.

Amelie and Emily from 7Y bravely delivered an assembly via Teams on 'Living with Tourettes and Epilepsy'. The girls' openness and honesty about their day-to-day lives was very well received by staff and students across the whole school. They really did themselves proud and in addition to raising awareness, they also raised money for their chosen charities, Action Epilepsy and Action Tourettes.

It's been a very busy term and I know the students are really looking forward to having lots of fun reconnecting with family and friends over the holiday. I wish you all a very well-deserved break and look forward to seeing you all return to us healthy and rested in the New Year.

**Mrs Biddles**

### YEAR 8

Well done to year 8 for a fantastic term. We have had excellent results in sports, wonderful performances in the Christmas show and have been building our academic skills through all lessons. I have also been impressed with the amount of students attending extracurricular clubs. Year 8 have also been awarded the highest amount of house points across the whole school. 8A have been in the lead for a while but it is all still to play for in the New Year.

A big thank you to Ta'miyah D, Alyssa, Nayara and Tamiyah H for delivering a thought provoking assembly to the year group.

Our Values for the term have been Compassion and Respect. The winners of these awards in year 8 are:

**Respect: Camani and Alex M**

**Compassion: Sophia G and Caiden E**

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all manage to celebrate safely with family and friends this year.

**Miss Stacey**



## YEAR 9

Well done year 9 for completing your first full term studying your GCSE options. I am incredibly proud of your hard work and maturity moving from KS3 to KS4.

This term year 9 took part in an Online Safety and, Law in a Digital World talk, presented by our Education and Diversity officer, PC Viv Dady. The talk outlined the types of online behaviours that are against the law and how students can keep themselves safe online. The whole academy also took part in an assembly presented by the charity Q:alliance to raise awareness on LGBTQ+.

Well done to all of those students who have taken part in extra-curricular activities, performances and sporting fixtures throughout this term, you are a credit to the year group.

A huge congratulations to those students who have auditioned and been chosen to perform in the Hairspray Musical at the Bedford Corn Exchange, what a wonderful achievement!

### Values Awards

**Respect: Shimar 9F & Caera 9H**

**Compassion: Zaki 9Y & Freya R 9J**

I hope you all have a well-deserved break and time to enjoy the holidays with your families. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

**Miss Stack**

## YEAR 10

Well done to all of year 10 for a successful first term. I have seen some real maturity amongst year 10 and they are working really hard and are demonstrating real commitment and care towards their education.

A big shout out this term goes to Ellie (10J). Ellie has been fundraising for Leukaemia which is a charity very close to her heart. Not only has she taken on a massive walking challenge to help raise money but she has also successfully organised an amazing cake sale raising £230. Ellie and her family have raised an amazing amount for charity. Well done Ellie.

This term's value awards go to:

**Compassion- Megan (10J).**

**Respect-Ramone (10F)**

I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mrs Mountain**



## YEAR 11

It has been a busy term for year 11 with everyone showing a mature attitude towards learning in preparation for the recent Mock Exams, the results of these will be released in January. I am very proud of your hard work and effort. Well done to you all!

To help prepare for exams, pupils have received weekly focused enrichment sessions to help support their approach to exams. In future months there will be a focus on revision techniques and skills to help and support pupils with preparation for future examinations.

To further support preparation for examinations we recently held successful parent workshops on exam techniques and revision and also around supporting mental health and exam stress.

In addition to all of their hard work, year 11 have been busy preparing for their next steps Post-16. Pupils have been supported in a number of ways including 1:1 careers appointments, Personal Development sessions focused on careers, presentations from Post-16 providers and our own Sixth Form Open evening.

I am extremely proud of Meeyah, Tatenda and Hayley who, as part of Black History Month, produced and delivered excellent informative assemblies and workshops to peers addressing race equality as part of their role in our Humankind Group.

This half term our values continued to focus on Respect and Compassion and I would like to award the following students for always displaying these values:

**Respect: Heather P, Billy C**

**Compassion: Ollie FW, Charlotte T**

Well done to all of year 11! You have all worked extremely hard and I am proud of you all!

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and get to spend some well-deserved time with your families. I look forward to another successful term after the holidays!

**Mrs Maddox**



# DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

## PE

Here at Wixams we are so pleased with the amount of students that come along to our extra-curricular sports clubs and who represent our school at fixtures every week. We are extremely proud to have so many girls taking part in fixtures and clubs every week and to be excelling at all of our fixtures! Before half term, we took 60 girls from year 7-10 to a district rugby tournament. The girls played some fantastic rugby throughout the day, bringing home 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each year group! Wixams took the largest amount of girls across the district to this tournament!

Another fantastic term for the PE Department with lots of success at fixtures!

Success so far...

- Year 8 Boys Football:

**St Thomas Moore: 11-0 WIN!**

Bedford Academy:

- Year 7 Boys District Dodgeball Champions and Runners up
- Year 7 Girls District Dodgeball Champions
- Year 7 Boys Football undefeated league champions!

**Lincroft Academy: 8-1 WIN!**

**Castle Newnham:**

**Bedford Greenacre: 2-0 WIN!**

**Goldington: 3-2 WIN!**

**Bedford Free School: 4-1 WIN!**

**Bedford Academy: 3-2 WIN!**

- Year 8 Girls Basketball League Winners
- Year 7,8,9,10 Girls District Rugby Champions
- Year 7 Netball 2nd at District Tournament
- Year 9 Girls Basketball 3rd in the District

Look out for the new club timetable coming out after Christmas!

Year 11 GCSE PE: please check ParentMail for a letter regarding a trip to St Georges Park in February.

Sporting Excellence:

Isla Baker 9H has been selected for Wasps U15 Netball team! Alongside playing for the regional squad! An excellent achievement!

Ashton Broome Alexander 10T and Artur Slowinski 10H have been selected for County Football!

We love to hear about all of your successes, please do send us pictures, emails or come and speak to us so we can celebrate with you!

For regular updates please follow us on twitter @WixamsPE

## GEOGRAPHY

**Wixams Academy: COP26.**

November was climate change month at Wixams Academy and students were super busy engaging in lots of activities.

It started with a week of tutor based activities. Each morning students tuned into the daily updates from COP26 and discussed them in their tutor groups. This was combined with tutor based activities including looking at their eco-footprints, assemblies, looking at careers in climate change and some students starting their Green Blue Peter badge. Huge shout out to Jasmine Basra and Emily Sweet in year 11 who made some of the presentations for the week.

All students also took part in the WWF Wild Wisdom Global challenge between November 8 and November 19. This involved studying a range of climate issues and taking part in quizzes to test their knowledge on these issues. Wixams academy successfully came 11th in the UK and competed in the live international final on December 2.

We also launched our very own Earthshot Prize after seeing the amazing work that His and Her Royal Highnesses' William and Kate have been doing. Our well-deserved winners are Amelia Collings, Zuzanna Dankowska and Chloe Crighton in 8A who put forward a very interesting idea on how we could generate energy in the future. All three students will receive a copy of William and Kate's Earth shot book as their prize.

Finally, we are taking 15 year 8 students to a student summit on Climate Change at the University of Bedfordshire in January 2022 to explore the issues facing the world and the importance of investing in a sustainable future.

**Kelly Miles**



# CATERING DEPARTMENT

Dear Parents and Carers

From the New Year please be aware that we will be changing our till/debt procedure.

Currently, if your child doesn't have enough money on their account to pay for their food, the sale is entered into a debt file and the money is then taken from the account when funds are available. We are aware that this isn't an ideal system as you may not always be aware that your child owes any money.

By 24 December, all balances will be updated on the system to show any current debts. This will be shown as a minus figure and work as an overdraft on your child's account.

All transactions will be visible so you will be able to see exactly what your child is purchasing. We will never refuse a child a meal at lunchtimes but if we are aware of a large debt, we will refuse to serve drinks, snacks or food at break. Please note we will also refuse service at break and at the snack trolley at lunch, if your child doesn't have their card with them at the time.

To view the menus, visit: [www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/parent-information/catering/](http://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/parent-information/catering/)

If you have any queries regarding your balance, please email [hanthony@bedfordcollegeservices.co.uk](mailto:hanthony@bedfordcollegeservices.co.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Mrs A Anthony**  
**Catering Manager**



# WOOD GREEN - THE ANIMALS CHARITY. CAKE SALE MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER & FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

Wixams students organised an incredibly popular cake sale over two days to raise money for Karen Chamberlain (Parent and all round superstar) who ran the London Marathon to raise money for Wood Green Animal Charity.

A massive thank you to all students and staff who contributed to this brilliant effort. A total of £101 was raised to support this very worthwhile charity.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021

Armistice Day gave us an opportunity to collectively remember the sacrifices of all those who have fought in conflicts to preserve our rights and freedom. All students took part in a collective act of remembrance outside together for the first time as a school of over 700 students. This collective act was incredibly respectful and we are proud of how our students conducted themselves throughout. Mrs Kettlewell and a group of students have created a wonderful poppy display along the side fence to mark this year's Remembrance event.



## CHILDREN IN NEED FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Wixams students fully supported Children in Need by participating in a mufti day. A special mention must go out to our amazing Asdan students who organised a brilliant tombola and cake sale to raise additional money for Children in Need.

Total money raised is still to be confirmed but we are sure it was great effort as always.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – SAVE THE CHILDREN – FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER

Friday 10th December was Christmas Jumper Day at Wixams, with students and staff donning their finest Christmas Jumpers all in the name of an extremely worthwhile charity.

This is an annual Save the Children event. Our inter-house Christmas Jumper Bingo competition has helped ensure a wide variety of jumpers were on show and great fun was had by all.





## STUDENTS WHO CYCLED TO SCHOOL, HAD THEIR JOURNEY “BRIGHTENED UP”

Wixams Academy are working with Bedford Borough Council to try and encourage more walking and cycling to school. The council fitted 50 sets of lights to students' bikes, free of charge, on Monday 29th November. Each of the front lights fitted had a QR code which provides a link to road safety information.

Students were also offered a free bike safety check from 'Dr Bike' (Ethan from local mobile bike mechanics EMC), who spent two days meticulously checking, repairing and servicing a total of 46 bikes ensuring they were roadworthy and offering advice and suggestions for further work if it was needed.

This project was funded with the support of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.



## WELLBEING UPDATE

Now the days are shorter it can make us feel lower in mood. Make sure you get outside for natural daylight no matter the weather. If you are struggling with your mental health or wellbeing over the Christmas break then please do contact Kooth.com. This is a free, safe and anonymous online support network for young people.



## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

While we all enjoy our Christmas break, there are still people you can contact if you are concerned for a person's welfare.

**IFD - Bedford Borough 01234 718700 during office hours - 0300 300 8123 out of hours**

**CAMHS Crisis - 01234 893300**

**Childline - 0800 1111**





# Merry CHRISTMAS

FROM

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Academies Trust



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