

# WIXAMS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021



Wixams  
Academy

# WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As we approach the first half term, we can look back on a busy and successful seven weeks.

I have been enormously proud of how our new students have settled in this term and it is always a pleasure to see how hard all of your children work each day at the Academy. In many respects the term has felt reasonably 'normal' after almost two years of COVID-19, but I am aware that the pandemic continues to affect families and staff alike and I thank all of you for your continued support during this difficult time.

It has been a great pleasure to see many clubs starting up again this term with many students trying their hand at something new. Whether it is through one of our successful sports teams, textiles club or rocket club, I would strongly recommend students consider our extracurricular offer of 50+ clubs this year.

<https://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/learning/extra-curricular-activities/>

During this academic year, we will see our first GCSE exams taking place. Year 11 students are working extremely hard to achieve the very best results possible. Mrs Hepburn has written to all Year 11 families with details of the November mock exams and the revision and support activities we have available. GCSE dance and drama students have already completed some of their practical exams this term and their dedication and focus was wonderful to behold.

Finally, I have been very excited to share the plans for our new Sixth Form opening in September 2022 with you. Further information will be released on our website soon:

<https://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/about-us/sixth-form/>

We will also be holding a Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 16 November 2021 from 6.00pm till 8.00pm.

Have a restful half term.

**Paul Spyropoulos**  
Principal



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

## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates	Information
Monday 25 October 2021 - Friday 29 October 2021	Half-term
Wednesday 10 November	School photographer
W/C 22 November	Year 11 mock exams
Thursday 9 December	Progress review evening for years 8, 9, 10 and 11 (all students finish at 2.00pm)
Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December	Wixams Academy Christmas Show (TBC)
Monday 20 December - Tuesday 4 January 2022	Christmas break

## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

### YEAR 7

I am delighted with the start made by year 7 students to their Wixams journey. The students that attended summer school in August really did set the standard high and the return of the full year group in September was hugely successful. Given the challenges of the previous eighteen months, starting secondary school on top was no mean feat and the students responded admirably, showing their determination and resilience.

I am proud to report that I have been inundated with golden tickets over the last four weeks. Well done to those students who have been successfully drawn out during our assemblies so far. To be in-keeping with our English lessons, "may the odds be ever in your favour!" It has been a pleasure to see year 7s so actively engaged in their lessons and demonstrating their love of learning as I have been dropping in to lessons.

We have also had lots of sporting success to celebrate with our boys and girls dodgeball teams who both became district champions. Boys football has also been hugely successful with two straight wins to date. Congratulations to William and Isobel (7J) for being selected to attend training for the competitive squad diving program at Luton Diving Club. We wish you the best of luck with your training.

Keep up the great work year 7!

**Mrs Biddles**

### YEAR 8

Well done to everyone for transitioning into year 8 smoothly.

We are hoping for a fun filled year ahead where we get to experience more of the 'normal' Wixams Academy way of life. I have already seen some excellent work completed in class and over the summer, including an amazing geography project complete with Lego characters and chopped wood to represent deforestation. I have also been excited to hear about the sports clubs and achievements of the teams so far.

Please do keep up the determination and continue building that sense of community.

**Miss Stacey**

### YEAR 9

Welcome back year 9!

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year and year 9's GCSE journey. I am really proud of how they have settled into their option and enrichment subjects and the role models they have become for the younger year groups.

I would like to share some of the brilliant achievements that have happened within the year group over the last few weeks:

- Talulla has been selected to play netball for the county and has shown the value of responsibility by leading her team as Captain.
- Elizabeth has come 1st place in the EA BMX competition.
- Orla will be showcasing her talent in drama and will be performing in West End Live at a Theatre in London.

I look forward to seeing what the students will accomplish throughout the next term of year 9!

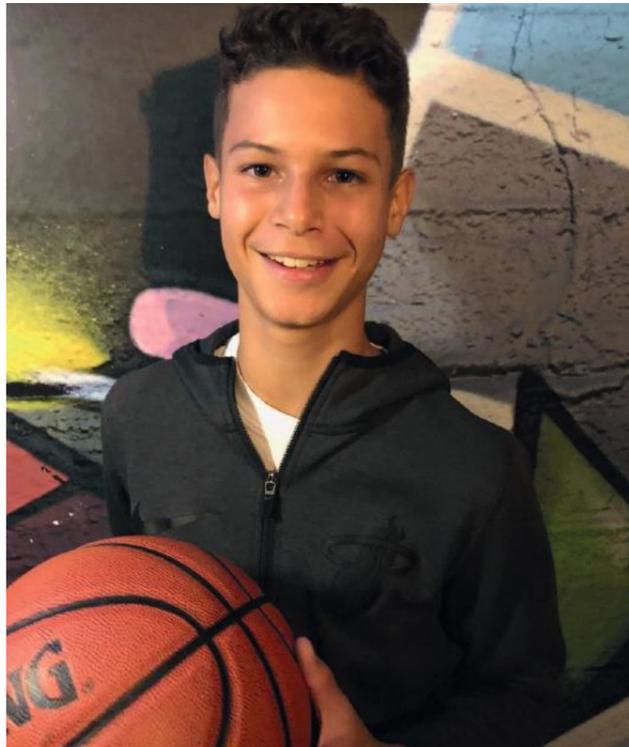
**Miss Stack**

## YEAR 10

Welcome back year 10!

I hope everyone managed to enjoy the summer holidays. Year 10 have come back with a great attitude and are all working hard and are really focused. During Year 10, students will cover a lot of GCSE content so this positive attitude is great to see.

I would like to give a big shout out to Eddie who has worked extremely hard and I am sure dedicated many hours to training and has just been selected to play Basketball for the Wales U15 National Team. This is an amazing achievement, well done Eddie!



If any parents/carers have any success stories from outside of school, please do let us know so we can celebrate them at the Academy.

If you have any concerns or questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me by email  
[cmountain@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:cmountain@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Finally thank you to everyone who wished me good luck, congratulations and sponsored me for my London Marathon challenge. It really is appreciated and so lovely to have your support.

Keep up the hard work year 10!

**Mrs Mountain**

## YEAR 11

Well done to all of Year 11 for the excellent start back to the year! All students have shown a mature, positive attitude to learning and I am extremely proud as they have all been a credit to the Academy.

The year has got off to a great start with the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition taking place. It was a tough two days but students all showed such dedication, determination and resilience. It was great to see everyone working together, overcoming challenges, achieving success and having fun; even if it didn't feel like it at the time. Well done to all involved!

Year 11 students have also been able to finally enjoy going out on trips again. The GCSE Drama group visited the theatre to watch a production of Blood Brothers to support curriculum knowledge. Students have also been out on two Geography field trips; one trip with the focus of data collection, the second was to carry out the urban element of the essential fieldwork for their compulsory fieldwork paper. All students represented the Academy in an exemplary manner and we received positive feedback from facilitators.

Save the date! We have now confirmed a date and venue for the Year 11 Prom. Prom will take place on Friday 24 June 2021 at Amberleigh Gardens, Cotton End. Prom committees have now been set up and we are looking forward to planning this very special occasion. Please look out for further communications and fundraising events.

Over the coming months there will be a focus on supporting your child academically and emotionally with preparing for their GCSE's examinations. We understand that this may be a stressful time for Year 11's, please be reassured that they will be supported every step of the way.

I look forward to seeing the continued successes over the next few months.

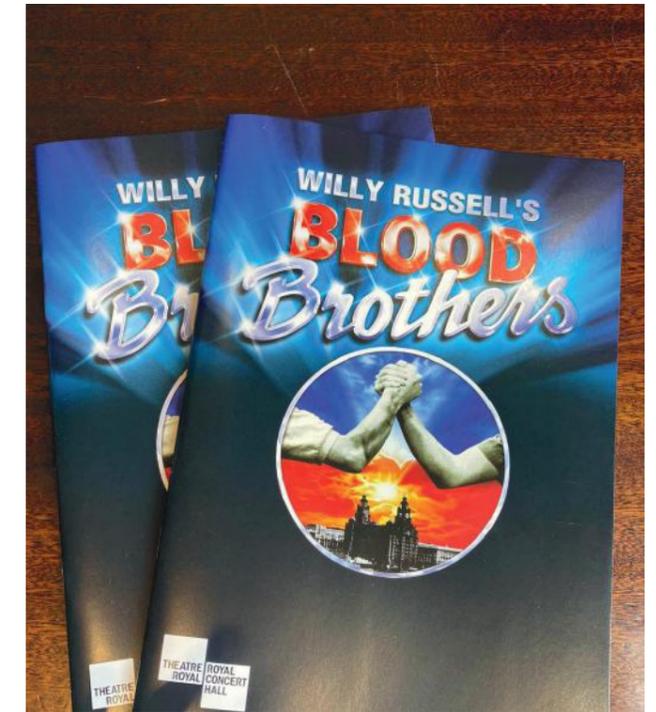
**Mrs Maddox**

# DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

## GCSE DRAMA

On Thursday 16 September 2021, the GCSE drama group were treated to a trip to the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to see a live production of the musical Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. This trip was highly anticipated due to the closure of theatres over the last 18 months. As soon as the band struck up, staff and students were captured by the enthralling music and captivating storyline. This trip supported GCSE Drama students with understanding the text that they are studying for the written element of their exam. Mrs Pearson said, "It was a wonderful performance and the cast really brought to life the story of the fateful lives of the twins. All the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained a great deal from this experience".

The drama department hope to run further trips to the theatre for other groups of students now that restrictions have lifted.



## CAREERS CHAMPIONS

The Wixams Academy Careers Champions, with the invaluable assistance of Miss. Smith (DT), designed and created this sign within 3 weeks. During prep, the group met and spent time looking at the design, what materials should be used and how it will should be displayed.

The Careers Champions accepted the challenge and we are all delighted with the end product. We aim to continue to build the Academies resources and fill these shelves with lots of up to date careers related material.

Don't forget to look out for more work from the careers team, supported by the Careers Champions: Sophia, Maddie, Alliyah, Ame, Zuzanna and Layla-Sue.



## PE

We've had a great start to the year in PE. All students have returned with enthusiasm and a positive attitude to learning. Fixtures have finally returned and we are back to our winning ways. All year groups have been representing the Academy at Dodgeball and we are proud to say our year 7 boys and girls are District Champions! All year groups were fantastic and almost all of our teams finished in the top three.

Boy's Football is well underway and Wixams have already put their mark on the league. Both year 7 and Year 8 boys are currently undefeated securing some convincing wins. The year 9 girls Netball team are back out competing and are putting all of their hard work from last year's training sessions to good use.



Picture shows Year 7 Girls District Champions.

Our club timetable is up and running and we would love to see as many students at these clubs as possible.

Finally, a massive well done must go to Talulla in year 9 for being selected to represent the county in Netball as well as Rihanna in Year 11 for being selected for the U17s Saracens Mavericks Netball Team.

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**

## ONLINE SAFETY TIP

Treat online activities as you would offline. Have supportive and open conversations around what your children are accessing online.

If you are unsure what an app or website is about see [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) for guides to all the latest apps, games and social media sites.

## WELLBEING TIP FOR STUDENTS

Get plenty of sleep! Make sure your room is dark enough, not too hot, and quiet and you have turned screens off a short while before bed. Lack of sleep affects our eating, mood and concentration.

## GEOGRAPHY

What an exciting start to the term!

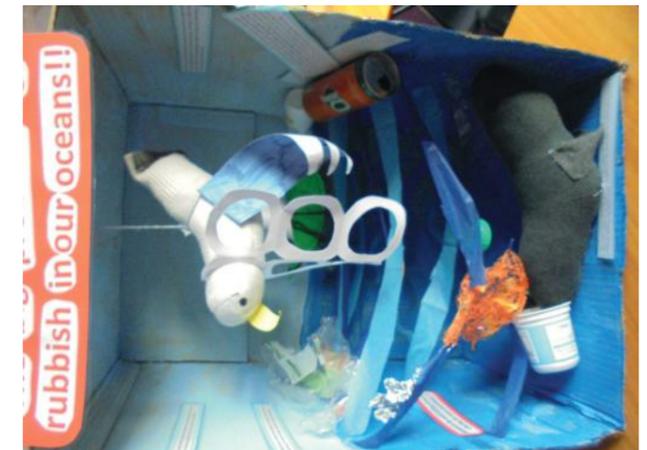
Year 11 finally got to go out on their GCSE fieldtrips and they were amazing; praised by both the field studies centre in Amersham and the Discovery Centre in Milton Keynes for their outstanding behaviour and mature attitude to learning. Amersham field studies staff said: 'It was like having an A-level group visit for the day'.

We spent one whole day learning how to measure river channel change and another collecting evidence on the quality of life in Milton Keynes. Students will now examine the best methods to present and analyse their data in order to help them prepare for the mock examination in November.



Year 7 have settled in well and have started challenging themselves in their new topic 'Africa'. Well done to Daniel who managed to successfully remember and locate 32 of the 54 countries in Africa on his first attempt.

Year 8 blew us away with their summer projects. During their summer holidays they designed models/posters to show how humans can both directly and indirectly affect the biosphere and what returned to the Academy this September was outstanding. Well done Year 8!



Year 9 have made a mature start to their GCSE geography course by applying their Key Stage 3 knowledge of biomes and climate change to their Key Stage 4 course and learning lots of new theories and key vocabulary.

Year 10 continue to amaze us with their approach to learning. They have been focusing on the challenges facing the Megacities of the world and how they can be managed. Huge shout out to Ramone and Cameron in 10A for their outstanding revision which led to outstanding results in their Geography this term.





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