

WIXAMS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I cannot tell you how lovely it has been to have had our students back with us for the past few weeks. Their maturity and enthusiasm has made us very proud and you should be proud of your children too.

I would like to thank all of the staff for making the lockdown and return to school so productive and supportive for our students. I would also like to give a very special thank you to our volunteers who carried out thousands of COVID tests over the last term. Special thanks go to Gemma, Gary, Amelia, Stuart, Donna, Nicola, Geraldine, Silke, Michael, Kerri, Nicole, Jennifer, Claudia, Jodie, Nirmala, Amber, Kelly, Gemma and to Claire for organising the whole operation!

We have a busy and exciting summer term ahead of us. I am pleased to say that we are just beginning to book some of our popular trips and visits for students to make their learning as enjoyable and engaging as possible.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and a peaceful break with your families.

Paul Spyropoulos
Principal



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

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates	Information
Friday 2 April 2021 & Monday 5 April 2021	Bank Holidays
Tuesday 13 April 2021 - Thursday 22 July 2021	Summer Term 2021
Tuesday 1 June 2021 - Friday 4 June 2021	Half-Term
Monday 12th April	Training Day
Monday 3 May 2021 & Monday 31 May 2021	Bank Holidays

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

TOPICS FOR THIS TERM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Year 7** Growing up and risks - this includes peer influences, the risks of alcohol, tobacco and other substances, managing puberty and the issues of unwanted contact and FGM.
- Year 8** Careers unit - looking at their GCSE option choices.
- Year 9** Managing relationships - friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation.
- Year 10** Relationships and sex expectations, myths, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography. This unit was meant to be explored last half term, however we were unable to complete this online.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact: nloynes@wixamsacademy.co.uk

YEAR 7

A big well done from me for the amazing effort you have all put into the online learning. I am really looking forward to seeing you all and having you back in school.

Congratulations to Ame in 7A for being one of the youngest entrants to the Bedford youth cabinet.

Camani in 7F was one of the overall winners of the Wixams Academy Bake Off across the school with her beautifully decorated hidden sweets cake. The entries from year 7 were fantastic and I hope you enjoyed making (and eating) your creations.

- Year 7**
1st Prize - Kera and Lukas
2nd Prize - Joel
3rd Prize - Poppy A
Miss Stacey



YEAR 8

Congratulations to Martina 8F who has been elected as Publicity and Events Officer for the Youth Cabinet. The Bedford Borough Youth Cabinet is made up of young people from every school, community groups and settings who come together to influence decisions and change things for young people in their area and across Bedford Borough. Martina's role is to promote and publicise the Youth Cabinet and to create new ideas and ways for young people to get involved. We are all very proud of you Martina!



Congratulations to Daisy 8A who was the overall academy winner for the Wixams Academy Bake Off alongside a Year 7 Ame in Year 7.

1st Place: Martina 8F and Leo 8T

2nd Place: Freya 8J

3rd Place: Orla 8Y

I am really glad to have welcomed you all back to the Academy, I have missed you.

Miss Stack

YEAR 9

I would like to say a massive well done to all of Year 9, you have persevered and worked so hard during this lockdown, you truly are amazing and I am so proud of you all.

Congratulations to the following:

An amazing achievement by Daisy for being elected as chair for the youth cabinet. Well done.

A big well done to everyone who entered the Wixams Academy Bake Off we had loads of brilliant entries. Cameron and Holly were awarded the overall year 9 winners with Caitie and Aaron as runners up. Well done to you all.

I am glad to have you all back at the Academy!

Ms Mountain



YEAR 10

Well done to all of Year 10 for the hard work, effort and perseverance that you have shown over the past few months of remote learning, you have all developed invaluable skills that will serve you well in your future years. I am extremely proud of you, each and every one of you are a credit to the Academy. I would also like to thank your parents and carers who have supported you and us during this unprecedented time; your support has been overwhelming.

Year 10 pupils have continued to work hard not only with lessons and with submitting work, but also with enrichment activities and house competitions. I received lots of creative entries in the Wixams Academy Bake Off competition; well done to the following pupils for their winning entries, I am sure they tasted as good as they looked!

1st Place - Rihanna (10F) and Wiktor (10J)



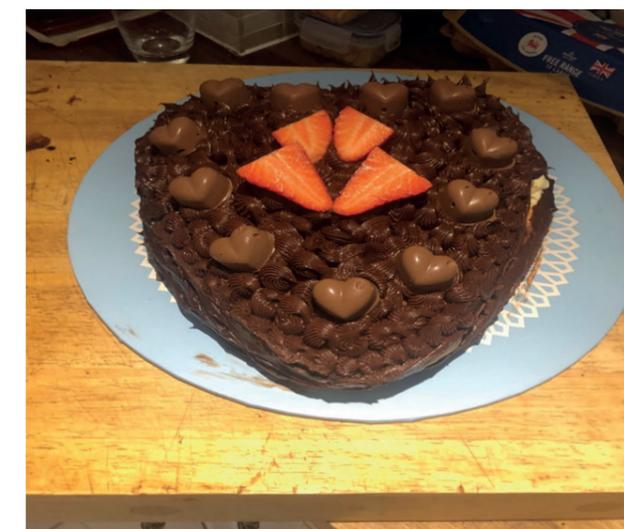
2nd Place - Sofia (10T)



3rd Place - Ollie (10H)



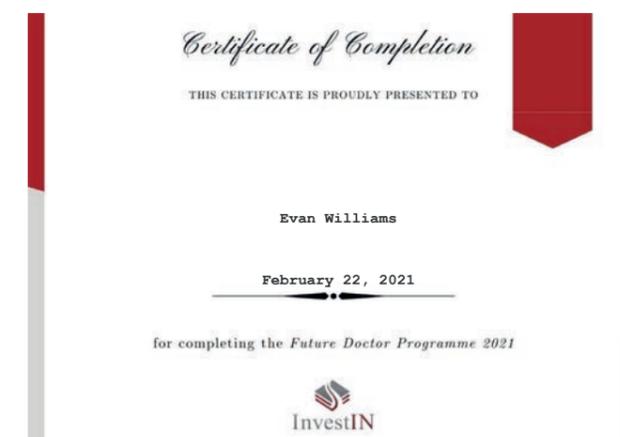
Special Mention - Tru (10T)



In addition to the above, Priya C and Annalise have also worked hard on a presentation on Fair Trade and Consumerism that was included in a whole school assembly. Well done to all of you for your amazing achievements!

Pupils have also recently taken part in the alternative no screen day challenges and I have received fantastic entries in to this competition, it was a welcome break from screens!

Well done to Evan in Year 10 who achieved his certificate for "The Future Doctor Programme". He completed the programme that gives an insight into becoming a doctor, with the chance to meet top Doctors. Evan was part of exciting simulations, including dealing with major medical incidences. We are very proud of your aspirations and interests.



I am looking forward to the next few weeks, having you all back in school and continuing with the amazing hard work and effort!

Mrs Maddox



GEOGRAPHY:

I'm so proud of all the hard work these students have been doing this half term and how much they have embraced home learning.



Chloe 7Y

Year 7 have finished their topic on Rivers and some students even got creative when it snowed producing river basins out of snow.



Daisy 8A

Year 8 have finished studying Tectonics and produced some outstanding revision activities. Huge shout out to Daisy 8A who created a composite volcano cake. Year 9 have started their GCSEs in such a mature way they have blown us away and year 10 continue to be committed to their studies.

Can't wait to have you all back in the classroom

Ms Miles, Head of Humanities

SEND UPDATE

Our Year 10 ASDAN Group are raising money for Autism Bedfordshire by organising a 'Bring and Buy Sale'. If families have any items they wish to donate, please bring into the Academy by Friday 26th March. The virtual event will take place on Tuesday 20th April. If you would like to find out more, please email: lbonforte@wixamsacademy.co.uk or call 01234 608950.

We'd also like to welcome our new Education Psychologist, Andrew Lewis.

A few of the learning support department decided to dress up for World Book Day and here are a couple of photos.



PSHE/ PD UPDATE:

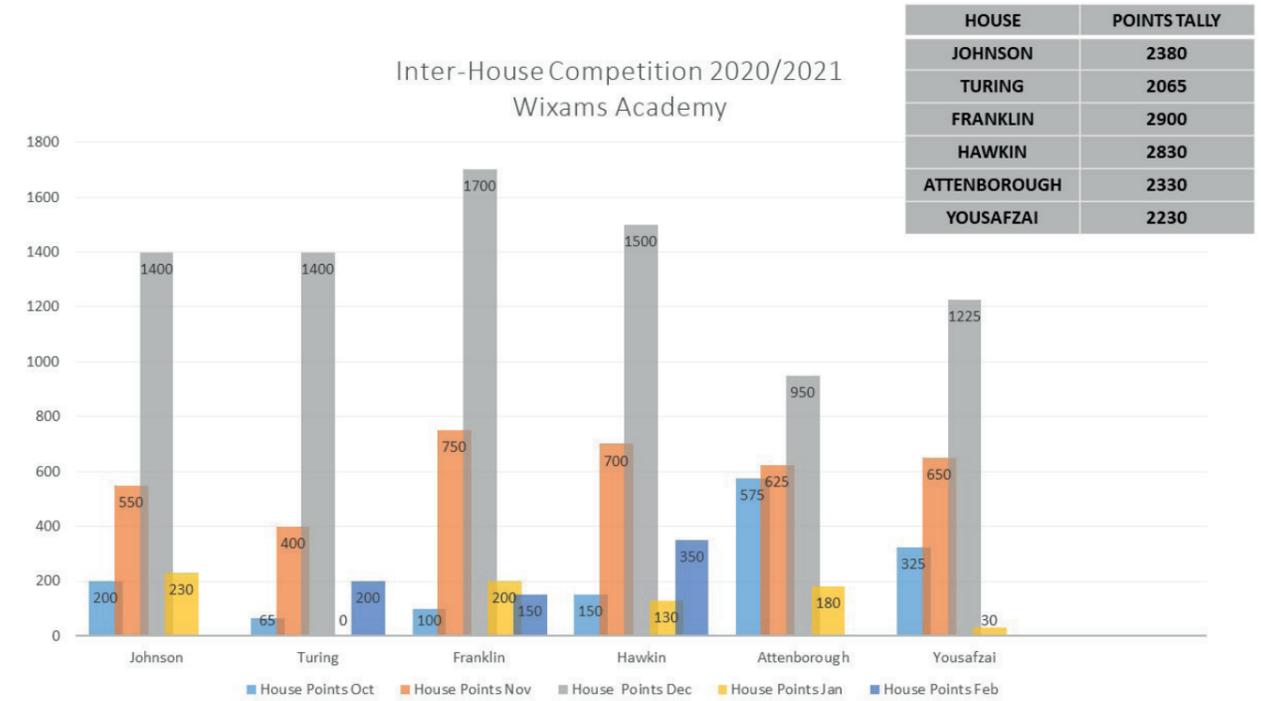
Thank you to all those who have responded to our parental survey on the new Relationships and Sex Education Policy. You are still able to respond at: <https://forms.gle/3HegirefN6WnRep4A>

If you struggled to open the policy attached to the parent email, we have now uploaded it to: www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/about-us/our-policies-and-procedures

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

More than 100 of our students from Years 9 and 10 took part in this national competition online on 1st February, and the results were sent to school this week. 13 students were awarded Bronze Certificates and have earned points for their houses. In addition, Annie (Year 9), Hadeel and Oliver (both Year 10)

were awarded Silver Certificates. We're very pleased with everyone who took part, and especially these certificates gained through excellent mathematical knowledge and problem solving skills.



INTER-HOUSE UPDATE AND RUNNING TOTALS.



Inter-House Results

October 2020 – February 2021



INTER-HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY

In mid-February we launched a photography competition as part of a series of wellbeing opportunities that we shared with all students via afternoon registration.

This proved incredibly popular and our judges (Mrs Smith and Miss Prettyman) had a really tough yet enjoyable task in deciding who our outstanding candidates and subsequent winners were.

After much deliberation, they decided on the following students;

Overall winner = Aaron Hawthorne 9H

1st = Flynn 8H

2nd = Olivia 10F

3rd = Emily 10T

4th = Heather 10T

All prize winners have received a '30 day Photography Challenge' book which we hope will inspire them to continue getting out with their cameras and learning about this fantastic art form.



NEW WIXAMS VILLAGE SIGN

William from our Academy is proud to see his design for the Wixams village sign now in place at the main entrances off the A6.

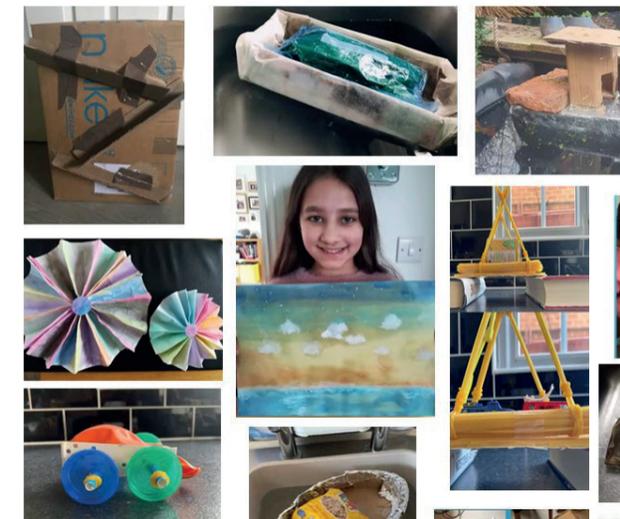
He entered a competition two years ago and won an iPad, but Covid caused a delay in the creation and installation of the metal sign as a 'Welcome to Wixams; - but it is now in place.

Well done William!



WIXAMS ACADEMY ALTERNATIVE 'NO SCREENS' DAY - FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 2021.

To support our students' wellbeing and to give everyone a rest from the computer screens, we arranged for all students to have either a series of five engineering challenges to complete from home or they could choose from an alternative menu of 60 opportunities, ideas and activities. These alternative options were all put forward by teachers as we felt students may benefit from and enjoy them. Students and families were encouraged to work together to create and achieve something wonderful throughout the day. This day was an overwhelming success, with over 130 entries submitted in to the Academy by the end of the day. These achievements were shared and celebrated at the end of the school day.



THE BIG BUSINESS IDEA CHALLENGE

The Big Business Idea Challenge for Wixams Academy Interhouse competitions took place in Feb 2021.

The first round saw many students from years 7-10 submit interesting and original business ideas, whether these were to generate profit or to improve and help the local communities/charities. Out of the many business ideas, the top 8 with most potential to succeed were selected for a second round.

These were:

- Zuzanna (Year 7) - 'Z and You - Eco Energy Generator'
- Theo (Year 10) - 'Chatter Box - Translator services'
- Siella (Year 8) - 'Good things come to those who help - Essential items for keyworkers'
- Bella and Freya (Year 7) - 'Free Spirit Safety - hygiene pack'
- Mia and Neveah (Year 7) - 'Mia and Neveah's Photography'
- Naima (Year 8)- 'Cosy Keeper - one for you one for someone in need'
- Eddie (Year 9) - 'Absorb - All-encompassing Virtual Education'
- Ellis (Year 8) - 'Dyslexia Live'

The second round saw the short listed candidates battle it out with each other by pitching their ideas to local business entrepreneur and teacher Mr Alex Stark (Owner of Active Time School Kids) and Miss Akhtar (Enterprise Faculty Leader). All finalists entered the virtual pitch in professional attire and presented their ideas, one by one. Each pitch ended with tough questions from both Miss Akhtar and Mr Stark as well as from the other finalists on how realistic and doable the business ideas were! All in all, this competition was fantastic, simply due to the quality of business ideas and professionalism shown in presenting these by the amazing finalists!

After taking votes from all parties and a tough discussion between the judges the following decisions were made:

1st place: Eddie - outstanding preparation and pitching skills, able to answer all questions confidently, how do we subscribe to Absorb?!!

2nd place: Ellis - excellent, realistic and very doable business idea, pitched with heart and soul, Ellis we are sold!

3rd place: Mia - excellent and realistic business idea, confident pitch, all questions taken and answered gracefully - well done girls!

All other finalists were also exceptional and it truly was tough to choose only three! A huge well done to all those involved! A special thanks to Mr Stark who doesn't work at Wixams Academy anymore, but still gave us the time to judge the pitches





Tel: **01234 608950**

Email: **info@wixamsacademy.co.uk**

Web: **www.wixamsacademy.co.uk**

 [wixamsacademy](https://www.facebook.com/wixamsacademy) |  [wixamsacademy](https://twitter.com/wixamsacademy)