

WIXAMS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022



Wixams
Academy

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we move into a well-deserved Easter Spring break. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few key areas of Academy life:

Staffing We have a brilliant and dedicated staff team here at the Academy, but it has been hit very hard with absences this year. COVID and other reasons have often seen us operating with 10-15 staff absent each day. Some areas including Drama, Media, Computing and Art have unfortunately been hit the hardest. The situation is steadily improving as we welcome a new Head of Computing, Mr Ali, after Easter and a new Art teacher Ms Correya.

This issue is a national one, but we know these absences have been difficult for students and we are doing everything in our power to bring in high quality staff as quickly as possible. I thank you and your children for your patience as these improvements take effect.

Trust Plans Our Trust BCAT recently announced the appointment of a new CEO, Hywel Jones, starting in June. Hywel brings a wealth of experience and I look forward to working with him to optimise our aims of ensuring all students receive an excellent and challenging education, the highest standards of behaviour and conduct and a personalised and holistic approach to their development.

Building We are creating 10 more classrooms for September 2022. Six of these will be from internal reconfiguration and four of these will be a new block, which will be the forerunner of a much larger expansion over the next 2 years. The building work taking place over the summer will provide students with (amongst others) new rooms for Art, Science and Food, as well as re-location Learning Support to a suite of rooms, leaving the space on the top floor for our specialist Sixth Form Common Room and Sixth Form Study Centre.

Sixth Form We have now interviewed all of our 110 applicants and very much look forward to them joining us in September. We can still accept new applications, so please spread the word! Sixth formers will have 25 subjects to choose from, Academic mentoring, Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold and specialist programmes to prepare them for Oxbridge and Medicine.

We are currently advertising for our new Head of Sixth Form, who will be a pivotal figure in the running and development of the new sixth form.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of our students and staff. Accomplishments are too numerous to mention fully, but include our Young Carers; our brilliant County and District sports winners; our Ukraine charity coordinators and our amazing Year 11s who are working so hard towards their GCSEs this summer.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Easter and Spring break,



Paul Spyropoulos
Principal



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

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term 2022	Easter Break: Monday 4 April – Tuesday 19 April
	Training Day: Tuesday 19 April
	Bank Holidays: Friday 15 April, Monday 18 April
Don't forget...	Friday 1 April - Last day of term
	Easter Break: Monday 4 April - Tuesday 19 April
	Students return to school on Wednesday 20 April - 8.40am

CONTACT DETAILS

Main Office email	info@wixamsacademy.co.uk
Head of year 7 (Mrs N Biddles)	nbiddles@wixamsacademy.co.uk
Head of year 8 (Ms C Stacey)	cstacey@wixamsacademy.co.uk
Head of year 9 (Miss H Stack)	hstack@wixamsacademy.co.uk
Head of year 10 (Mrs C Mountain)	cmountain@wixamsacademy.co.uk
Head of year 11 (Mrs A Maddox)	amaddox@wixamsacademy.co.uk
School Office hours are 8.00am – 4.00pm. Please inform the school office if you have changed any home or emergency contact numbers.	

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7

The end of another term approaches and Year 7 students have been busy! Over the last couple of weeks, I have had the privilege of going in to lots of different lessons and observed the Year 7 students working on: identifying language devices in poetry; designing, practising and evaluating dance duets; experimenting with forces; simplifying algebraic expressions and learning the future tense in French! It is no wonder they are ready for a rest!

Sporting success just keeps coming for us - more to come on that later in the newsletter! Suffice to say, I am one very proud (if slightly competitive) head of year. Thank you and congratulations to all of the students that have represented the Academy in sporting fixtures over the last few weeks. I know the PE department have been really impressed with your drive and determination, even when results haven't quite gone our way.

Year 7s have shown their community spirit and compassion by actively supporting the charity work going on in the Academy this term. A huge thank you to all of our families that have supported the collection of items for the Ukraine, made donations to Comic Relief, the Year 11 Prom cake sale and the Year 8 charity bake off. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated.

The absolute highlight for me at the end of term is delivering the celebration assembly. It was really lovely to publicly recognise the hard work and achievements of Year 7 students this term. It was a delight to see so many of you getting recognition via subject shout outs and achievement points certificates. Congratulations again to all of the winners of the tutor, values and Head of Year awards. Keep up the egg-cellent work!

Finally, I wish you all a fun-filled Easter break and some very much deserved down time.

Mrs Biddles



YEAR 8

Congratulations to Year 8 for some amazing sporting achievements over this term. It has been great to see so many of you getting involved and becoming champions.

We have also had some wonderful students showing the Wixams Value of community by raising funds for various charities.

The concerns for Ukraine have been shown by Zuza and her friends creating blue and yellow ribbons and donating the funds raised to the Ukraine appeal.



On Monday 28th March year 8 students Alliyah, Ame, Chloe and Zuza created an Easter Bake off competition and cake sale to raise money for JDRF and WWF. The cakes looked amazing and tasted delicious so well done to all who entered. The winners are: Mrs Xue, Ryan K and Beth C. Congratulations!

YEAR 9

Well done to all of Year 9 for working so hard during the Spring Term! Year 9 are over half way through their first year of their GCSE options and we have been impressed with how well they have settled into their KS4 curriculum.

Year Group Achievements:

Elizabeth 9Y: Elizabeth competed in two BMX races, competing against those a year older than her. Elizabeth did fantastically coming 3rd in one race and 1st place in the other. Congratulations Elizabeth!

Emily 9J: Emily who is a keen dance student and continues this passion outside of the academy, has achieved Grade 4 Ballet Merit and a Grade 5



The links for donations were sent out via parentmail and on show my homework. You can also donate here:

Wixams Academy Yeight is fundraising for WWF-UK (justgiving.com)

Wixams Academy Yeight is fundraising for JDRF (justgiving.com)

The Year 8's have continued to impress staff gaining lots of achievement points and rewards again being the year with the highest house point totals. And now **Our Values Awards:**

Community: Zuza and Damola

Determination: Elliot and Evelyn

Head Of Year Award: Joel and Hannah

Miss Stacey

Modern Merit in Dance. Congratulations Emily!

Amy 9Y: Amy, who is strong advocate for Young Carers, was interviewed by ITV Anglia and Look East to help raise awareness for Young Carers. You can catch her on the news!

Options Evening: Thank you to all the Year 9 volunteers for helping out at the Year 8 Options evening.

Our Values Awards:

Community: Isabella 9J & Likhith 9H

Determination: Sophie 9A & Max 9Y

Have a wonderful break over the Easter holidays!

Miss Stack

YEAR 10

Well done to all of year 10 on a brilliant term. A big shout out to the year 10's who have this term completed coursework that will go towards their final GCSE grade at the end of year 11, they have shown real determination and hard work. As we start the final term of year 10 and coursework deadlines are given along with mock exams please encourage your son/daughter to speak with staff if they are feeling overwhelmed and please don't hesitate to contact me. We will continue to remind them of this in school too.

YEAR 11

Well done to all of Year 11 for their recent Mock Exams, I am immensely proud of their conduct, hard work and effort, well done to you all!

The countdown to GCSE's is now on and Year 11 have been busy preparing for their upcoming exams. The following has taken place in school to help pupils prepare, including, external provider sessions on revision techniques and skills, interventions, subject specific revision sessions (including half term sessions) and support around managing exam stress. Revision timetables/schedules should be in place and pupils should now be maximising revision sessions and interventions as well as revising at home.

In addition to all their hard work Year 11 have been busy preparing for their next steps Post-16. Pupils have continued to prepare for their next steps by attending Sixth Form and College interviews and discussing career paths with our careers advisor.

Well done to the Year 11 boys who successfully got to the semi-finals after winning against Sharnbrook 2-1, I am very proud of how well you have played and your achievements. Good luck in the next stages!



Year 10 have had some great sporting success this term with both the boys and girls Handball team becoming county champions and the girl's futsal team taking second place in the county! A big well done to all involved.

Well done to the following students who have been awarded this term **Our Value Awards:**
Community: Daisy N
Determination: Robert R

I hope you all have a lovely Easter and enjoy the break.

Mrs Mountain

Preparation for Prom continues, and the fundraising committee have been actively fundraising to help make the event a memorable occasion. So far we have managed to raise £911! This is a fantastic amount and I would like to thank all of the Prom committee for their hard work, I would also like to thank parents and pupils who have generously donated and supported the cause, it is very much appreciated! The final fundraising event will be a Year 7 Disco which will be held on Friday 6th May in the evening. Further details will follow!



This half term our values continued to focus on Community and Determination and I would like to award the following students for always displaying these **Values:**

Community: Reece Matthews, Louis Brady
Determination: Lashante Joseph, Georgia Scott

I hope you all have a restful Easter Break and I look forward to another successful half term after the holiday!

Mrs Maddox



DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

ART

Year 9 art enrichment had a professional artist, Susan Erskine-Jones from The Harpur Trust, come in to work with them on a competition last 18th March. They were given printing materials and used a printing press and asked to respond to the idea of a Future Bedford. Many of them wrote a sentence on how they would like Bedford to change. You can see the ones that have been submitted for the competition.



PE

COUNTY HANDBALL CHAMPIONS! Once again, we have brought home the gold medal to Wixams. Our Year 8 boys, Year 9/10 girls and Year 10 boys teams took to the county stage against schools representing Bedford, Luton, Redbourne and surrounding areas. Each team were outstanding and worked so hard to claim the gold. We could not be prouder of all of you!



Futsal: 2nd in the county! Our Year 10 girl's futsal team represented Bedford in the County Futsal Tournament held at Redbourne last week and claimed silver! Only missing out on first place due to goal difference! This is an amazing achievement! Well done to you all!

Year 7 girls represented Bedford at the County Basketball Tournament, for the girls this was the first time in 4 months since they had played basketball! Our final game had us playing for Bronze and unfortunately, we lost out by 1 basket! The girls still remain District Champions!

Finally, our Year 8 girls will be representing Bedford at the County Basketball Tournament in a couple of weeks! Good luck to the girls! We know you will make us all very proud!

GCSE PE

Well done to our GCSE PE students who recently underwent their final practical assessment. You all performed fantastically and should be proud of yourselves. Grades have now been sent off and we now await moderation day!!



Year 7&8



Year 9&10



Year 9&10

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (DT)

During this term pupils have been doing a variety of projects. The Year 7s have made bird houses, Year 8s have made desk tidies, Yr9 have completed Technical drawings and now moving on to producing a project for a client using the materials of timber and board. The Year 10s have completed their Headphone holders and now moved onto working with metals. The Year 11s are coming to hand in their NEA (coursework).



ROUND UP FOR NEWS

WELLBEING

Now spring is finally here we can all get outside more and enjoy the weather. It is also a great time to build social connections which boost our wellbeing. Why not try a new local club or activity.



HELPING UKRAINE

A big shout out to our students that have supported with the donations for Ukraine. We were overwhelmed with items however all donations have now gone either directly to Ukraine, to neighbouring countries or to be distributed via Central Beds to families relocating to the area from Ukraine. Mrs Valverde and myself would like to thank the Wixams Academy and wider community for their generous help and support in this time. **Lorraine**



SAFEGUARDING

The Drug and Alcohol Public Health team are running a campaign for four weeks around raising awareness of Cannabis Edibles. This started on 21st March and uses many social media platforms to target young people in this area with information. If you would like further information on Edibles then you can head to **Aquarius, Support for under 18s effected by Substance Misuse in Bedfordshire** (aquarius.org.uk) or keep an eye on social media.

COMIC RELIEF 2022

Thank you everyone who have contributed to this cause. We can confirm that Comic Relief fundraising ended up on £439 - (139 donations). Amazing! Thank you for your support!





Tel: **01234 608950**

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

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

