

13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

# Wixams Academy



# Newsletter

## Greetings from the Principal

Dear Families,

We are midway through January and the days are getting brighter!

You will have heard that one of the teaching unions, the NEU is planning to take strike action on 1 February and 1 March this year. I would like to assure you that our BCAT Trust and Academy Leadership are working on plans to deal with any strike action and mitigate the effects on the Academy. I will write to you next week with further details.

We say goodbye and thank you to two valuable members of staff today. Lizanne Keith has worked with us in Learning Support and Exams and Hannah has looked after us very well in the kitchen. We wish them both well.

Last night saw our second Parent Forum and our second PTA meeting. The forum focussed on Teaching and Learning and I will share notes and suggestions with all of you shortly. The PTA finished electing its committee and has decided on two fundraising activities for this academic year. Thanks to everyone who attended these events and look out for announcements and updates in future newsletters.

Finally, I would like to recognise the PE department and students for the amazing results they are achieving in local and regional competitions. Mr Dummett, Head of PE, will be summarising the host of County and District Champion awards we hold and a special 'well done' to the boys' Year 7 Futsal team who won the County Finals last night against Year 8 opposition!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Spyropoulos'.

Paul Spyropoulos  
Principal

## DT Matters...

Thank you to Mr Smith for donating some Engineering magazines to the DT department. Thank you!

Look out for more engineering announcements soon.

Regards

**Joanne Taylor**

**Head of Design and Technology**



## Upcoming Dates

31 Jan	Year 12 Reports Home
1 Feb	Date of first planned NEU Strike
6 Feb	Photographer for Years 7, 11, 12
8-12 Feb	Iceland Trip Overseas
10 Feb	Last Day of Half Term

## Family Help This Winter

Dear Families,

Times are hard, especially with the effects of rising bills and cost of living, so we wanted to remind families that if you are struggling and need support with sourcing food for your family, we are here to help.

The Heads of Year have access to the Food bank and can issue families with food bank vouchers for a number of locations across Bedford.

If you do need to access a food bank voucher please contact your Head of Year. Full confidentiality is observed.

**Mrs Davies & the Head of Year Team**

On Wednesday, Wixam's Year 12 Finance and Economics students made a visit to the UK's financial hub in the City of London.

It was a perfect clear winter day to visit the historic and modern landmarks in The Square Mile. We heard about how London itself had developed from this area and saw the locations of the first banks and stock exchange (in a coffee shop!), before looking at the stunning iconic modern landmarks such as the Lloyds Building, the 'Cheese grater', the 'Scalpel' and the 'Gherkin'. Then at the London Institute of Banking and Finance the students discussed careers in Finance and University applications. At the Bank of England museum we handled a bar of gold bullion, of which the bank holds 400,000 bars in its vaults. To round off the day, we visited Leadenhall covered market for supper. Maybe we have some aspiring future City bankers and financiers amongst our students.

Well done to all the Year 12's who attended!

***Mr Mercel, Head of Sixth Form***



We would like to give families as much notice as possible to inform you of our intention to make a permanent change to an aspect of our uniform this coming September.

Black trainers, such as Nike Air Force One's and similar, are often advertised as school shoes. We have historically allowed them to pass as school shoes.

Many students do choose to wear these type of trainers for school shoes and this is something we will change in September 2023.

We feel that making this change at short notice would be an expensive and unrealistic change for many and that doing it now would cause many families to have to spend money they haven't budgeted for.

We feel that this permanent change as of September 2023 is a realistic and reasonable expectation.

Please take this notice as a clear indication that this change is coming and the next time you need to purchase new school shoes for your child(ren), they should not be air force ones/trainer style 'shoes' but proper school shoes.

We appreciate your cooperation. **\*The images below are all advertised as school shoes however they are clearly trainers and as of September 2023 will be not accepted as school shoes at Wixams Academy.**



## Geography news:

This week 10 year 8 students got to visit the University of Bedfordshire, to take part in a STEM day focused on the Future of our planet.





### **Year 11 and 12**

We are fast approach our foreign fieldtrip to Iceland and we are so excited. Our luggage tags have arrived and our tour guide Geoff Billington has got in touch to send us over some pictures of what it is like in Iceland at the moment. He will be with us the whole time and has a wealth of experience/knowledge about Iceland. In these final few weeks please remember to.

1. Check the kit list and make sure you have everything you need. (contact Ms Miles if there is anything you are struggling to get hold of)
2. Order you money or travelcard in advance as Icelandic Krona often has to be ordered in.
3. You no longer need to have an EITAs in place but make sure you have your passport, Visas and medicines up to date and ready.

Students have a meeting on **Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Assembly hall in prep** to go over the final briefing before the trip, here they will get another copy of the itinerary and given emergency contact details. Parents will be sent out the school emergency contact details via parent mail in the next few weeks.



Picture taken by Geoff Billington, Discover the World.



# GEOGGLEBOX!

What can I watch to improve my Geography knowledge & understanding?

Week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The show	The channel	The day/time	The lowdown	Catch up?
Great British Railway Journeys		Monday - Thursday 19:00 - 19:30	Michael Portillo leaves Manchester to visit Oldham, Edale and a private colliery line.	BBC iPlayer
This Farming Life		Monday 16th 20:00 - 21:00	The Frasers experience teething problems with their new farm shop. In Fife, Mike and Pete work on their new joint venture. Emma and Ewan get back to training sheepdogs.	BBC iPlayer
The Real Phoenix Nights: What Happened Next - We Are England		Monday 16th 20:30 - 21:00	We catch up with regulars at Clacton Railway Club to see what's changed in the past year.	BBC iPlayer
This Farming Life		Tuesday - Thursday 19:00 - 20:00	Emma and Ewan earn their first pay cheque for the new farm, while Joanna and Donald press ahead with plans for their farm shop, and Sean returns home to the family farm.	BBC iPlayer
Iain Robertson Rambles - The Hebridean Way		Tuesday 17th 19:00 - 19:30	Heading towards the halfway point of his journey, Iain is joined by River City co-star Karl Corbett for a visit to the beautiful West Beach.	BBC iPlayer
Winterwatch		Tuesday - Friday 20:00 - 21:00	Winterwatch is back to showcase the very best of the season's wildlife across the UK.	BBC iPlayer
India: The Modi Question		Tuesday 17th 21:00 - 22:00	<b>[Post-watershed]</b> A look at the tensions between Indian PM Narendra Modi and India's Muslim minority, investigating claims about his role in 2002 riots that left over a thousand dead.	BBC iPlayer
Fish Town		Wednesday 18th 19:30 - 20:00	Series about the UK's biggest fishing port. In the remote Norwegian sector of the North Sea, the pair trawler Rosebloom gets a visit from a Norwegian coastguard boat.	BBC iPlayer
My Cornwall with Fern Britton		Wednesday 18th 20:00 - 21:00	Fern visits an ancient farming village with its curious "fuggy holes" and Cornish hedges, before travelling to dramatic Lizard Point, the southernmost tip of mainland Britain.	My 5
Michael Palin's New Europe		Wednesday 18th 20:00 - 21:00	Michael Palin explores eastern Europe. He takes a trek up the Rila Mountains in Bulgaria, where he joins the summer solstice celebrations of the White Brotherhood sect.	BBC iPlayer
No Place Like Home		Wednesday 18th 21:00 - 22:00	<b>[Post-watershed]</b> Actor and author Ben Miller returns home to Nantwich in Cheshire, where he explores the historic town centre, learns about the salt industry and uncovers uncomfortable Cold War secrets.	My 5
Nick Knowles' New Year Clearout		Thursday 19th 19:00 - 20:00	On Mersea Island in Essex, Nick comes to the rescue of a family of six who are drowning in clutter, having hoarded 82 boxes of clothes, 92 pillowcases and 613 cuddly toys.	My 5
Iain Robertson Rambles - The Hebridean Way		Thursday 19th 20:30 - 21:00	Iain climbs up through the mists on Clisham Hill, before taking the 44-mile boat trip west towards St Kilda.	BBC iPlayer
A Lake District Farm Shop		Saturday 21st 17:05 - 18:05	The food buyers at Tebay Service Station sample some unique Cumbrian honey and a new gelato dessert. And farm manager Bob takes a long look at regenerative farming.	All4
Waterhole: Africa's Animal Oasis		Saturday 21st 19:00 - 20:00	It is the hottest time of year, and the waterhole becomes busier in the cool of the night.	BBC iPlayer
Arctic with Bruce Parry		Saturday 21st 19:00 - 20:00	Bruce Parry journeys to the far north of Greenland, home to the last traditional Inuit hunters, and learns how climate change is threatening their ancient way of life.	BBC iPlayer
Sicily: The Wonder of the Mediterranean		Saturday 21st 20:00 - 21:00	Michael Scott traces Sicily's history from the first arrival of ancient Greek settlers.	BBC iPlayer
Countryfile		Sunday 22nd 18:00 - 19:00	Anita Rani and Joe Crowley are in Flash, the UK's highest village, to hear about the Big Freeze of 1962/63, one of the coldest winters on record, when even the sea froze over.	BBC iPlayer

# Wixams Academy

Presents



Book by

**DENNIS KELLY**

Music & Lyrics by

**TIM MINCHIN**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

6pm

Adults £5

Concessions, Staff and Students £4

Please email [amcardle@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:amcardle@wixamsacademy.co.uk) to purchase

**Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.*** is presented through special arrangement with

and all authorized materials are supplied by

Music Theatre International, New York, NY

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