

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

# Wixams Academy



# Newsletter

## Greetings from the Principal

Dear Families,

I am an immensely proud Principal at the end of this term. I would like to thank all of our students and staff for working so hard and to all families for their amazing support.

Special congratulations to the Matilda cast and team. I watched the show last night and was blown away. It was a stellar performance and sets the standard for many more Academy productions in the future!

We say 'goodbye' this term to two amazing teachers: Mrs M Adcock (English) leaves us for pastures new, after 5 years as and brilliant English teacher and tutor. Mrs L Rathod (Geography) is also off for a new challenge and we will miss her as an excellent Geography teacher and tutor.

I have written to you separately to ask you to complete a survey. I have included the links below also. This is our annual 'Parent Survey', which allows us to evaluate how we are doing and how we can improve the quality of what we deliver for your children. Your responses are anonymous and are analysed for us by Keele University. Thank you in advance.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WixamsParentSurvey2023>



Students will notice two changes when they return. The Academy site will have some fenced off areas as we welcome builders for our £30M expansion works. This will also coincide with our new supervised movement around corridors. Further details about both of these topics are included in this Newsletter.

Finally, I wish you a peaceful and restful Easter and break with your families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul' followed by a stylized surname.

Paul Spyropoulos  
**Principal**

## Upcoming Dates



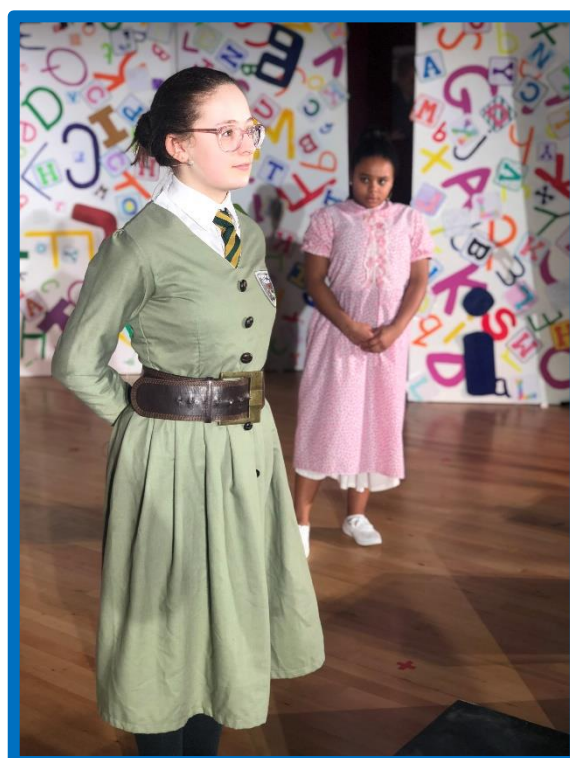
3-17 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS. Year 11 Revision sessions in first week
18 April	Students return for Summer Term 8.40am start
18 April	Year 10 and 11 Study Skills Workshops
19 April (Evening)	Yr 10 & 11 Parent & Child Student Skills Workshops (see article towards end of newsletter)
26 April	Media Studies Harry Potter Trip
28 April	Wixams Academy Culture Day 2023 (please look at the post in your child's Edulink to see if you can support them/us)

## Matilda the Musical Jnr

They did it!

We are incredibly proud of our Matilda the Musical Jnr Cast and behind the scenes team. This term they performed a matinee performance to 120 Wixams Tree Year 4 and 6 students and two sell out evening shows to around 140 people. This is Wixams Academy's first school musical and I think you will all agree that they have set the bar high for future productions. We have received amazing feedback from staff, students and parents about how professional the production was and how much they enjoyed the show. Unlike other schools, this show was pretty much run by our students; with two Year 7 boys Nathan and Corey manning the lights, our sixth form helpers supporting backstage and our cast moving set and props during the show. The talent on stage was just as incredible with the character of Matilda being played by a Year 7 student, Bonnie, who had the audience in tears with her vocals. To the scary Ms Trunchbull, played by our Year 11 student, Ella, whose acting skills were phenomenal.

We look forward to sharing future performances with you!



*The Performing Arts Team*

## Maths Ambassadors



### Maths Challenge at Primary Schools



Maths Ambassadors supporting groups in the Challenge!

***Thank you, Thomas, Amy, Vanathy, Naya, Emma and Phoebe, for coming to our school to help us with our Maths. We are excited to come to the Academy next year so we might see you there! (From the Mouldy Cheese's at Wixams Tree) NB: They chose their own names!***

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, six of our Year 10 Maths Ambassadors visited Wixams Tree Primary and Lakeview primary school to deliver a fun and exciting Maths Challenge to the whole of Year 6.

The Maths Ambassadors have spent their own time over the last 9 weeks devising a competition made up of 5 challenges that focus on mathematical problems solving and working collaboratively to achieve success. They presented and ran the entire challenge themselves and were a credit to the Maths Department and the school as a whole.

Well done!

***Mrs L. Becker***

## Academy Expansion Plans

I shared the architect's drawings with you last week. Builders arrive on site over the Easter holidays and students will notice parts of the site fenced off when they return. All students will have assemblies on their first day back (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 8.40am), where we will explain these site changes to them.

## Year 8 Globe Junk modelling competition

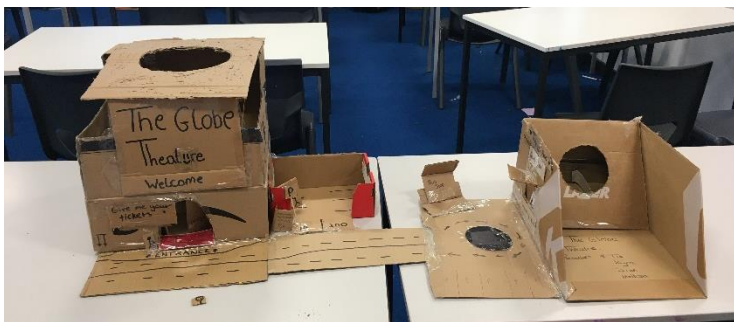
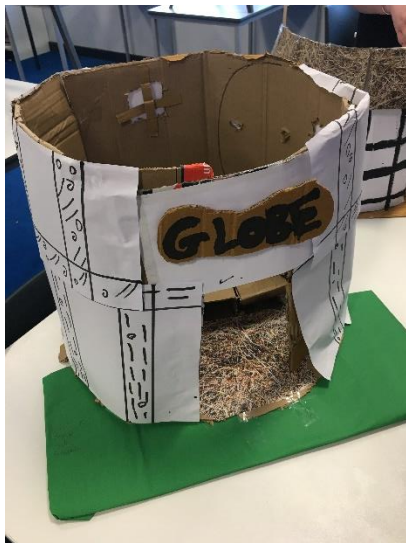
To complete our year 8 Shakespeare model year 8 students have been turning their trash into treasure; they have been in competition to create the best junk model of the Globe Theatre.

Thank you to year 8 for some brilliantly creative entries and thank you to families for helping students collect materials.

The competition was tough with some students displaying brilliant attention to detail. Fantastic entries even featured: miniature ticket booths, audience members, performances and car parking facilities! It seems we have some future town planners in our midst!

The class winners and the year group winners have now been given a small prize in recognition.

Well done to our overall winners: Esteja, Holly and Zuzanna. Your contribution showed a true commitment to accuracy and detail.



## **A Few Gentle Reminders from the School Office**

### **Contact Details:**

Please ensure you inform the school office if you have changed your address or contact details so that we have the most up to date information on our system

### **Medication:**

As spring is well under way and hay fever season is now upon us, we appreciate how uncomfortable this can be for our students – can we advise parents to medicate children at home before coming into school. Antihistamine tablets typically start to work within 30 minutes and may reach their maximum effect in about 2 hours. Medicating before school will also help aid discomfort and limit interruptions during lesson time.

Keeping hydrated in school is very important – please encourage your children to bring in a bottle of water to replenish throughout the day.

Please remind students medication (except epi pen and asthmatic inhalers) are not to be carried on student's person. All medications must come to the front office to be logged and stored away safely in our medical room. If your child requires any medication throughout the day that cannot be left until they return home, please complete the consent form (from the office) and return it to the school office on the first day that the medication is brought into school.

### **Lost Property:**

May I please remind all parents how important it is to name all uniform including coats and bags. This will help re-unite any lost items to their rightful owners and help to alleviate any unnecessary upset when items cannot be found.

Please encourage your child to be super organised before they leave for school in the morning so that they have all the items they need for the day including lunches.

Thank you for your continued support

***School Office Team***



## The Art Tate Britain Trip

Last week the Art department took year 11 and 12 students to the Tate Britain, London. It was the perfect place to be inspired and feel passionate about art.

The students arrived by coach and were eager to walk around the collections. They spotted many classic pieces and they were amazed to actually see artists' work which they have been researching for their GCSE's and A Level courses.

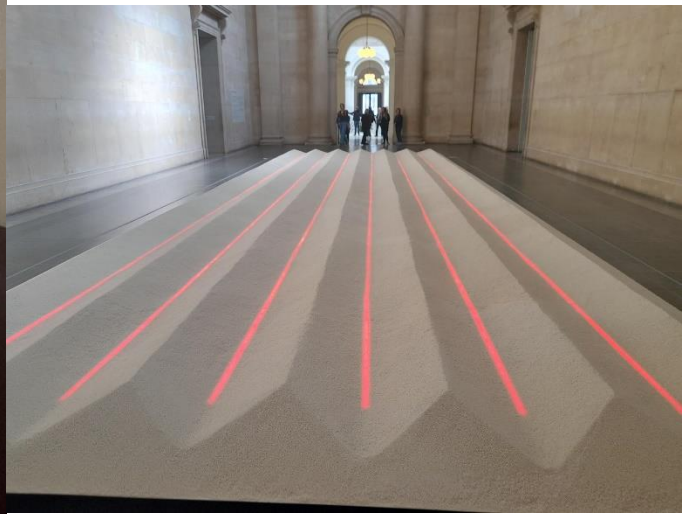
It was great to see all the students so engaged, asking questions and even sitting down to sketch a few ideas.

All the students represented Wixams Academy wonderfully and were a credit to us. Thank you to all the supporting families and the students in making this amazing day happen.

Ms Smith Head of Art











## Year 12

The Tate trip has directly influenced the current art work of our year 12 oil portraits project. We hope you enjoy looking at their developing work. We will share their completed pieces in a future newsletter.



### Cambridge University – Year 12 Visit Day



Last week, our 'Competitive Universities Programme' cohort visited Pembroke College to take part in a variety of workshops to support them with university applications.

The students engaged in several activities including a student panel with current Cambridge University students, a tour of the college grounds, an overview of Student Finance, a personal statement workshop as well as a Q&A session with a member of the admissions team.

The students were outstanding and got involved straight away. They networked with students from other schools, showed brilliant team work skills and were inquisitive throughout. Students felt inspired and motivated to start preparing for the application process and felt they gained a lot of knowledge to support them with this.

***Ms Rahman***



## Study Skills Workshops at Wixams Academy – 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.



### 18<sup>th</sup> April.

On our first day back from the Easter break, year 11 and year 10 students will be involved in a series of study skills and memory techniques workshop with some guest speakers from Learning Performance.

Year 11 will work with our guest throughout period 1 – period 3. Year 10 will work with our guest throughout period 4 – period 5.

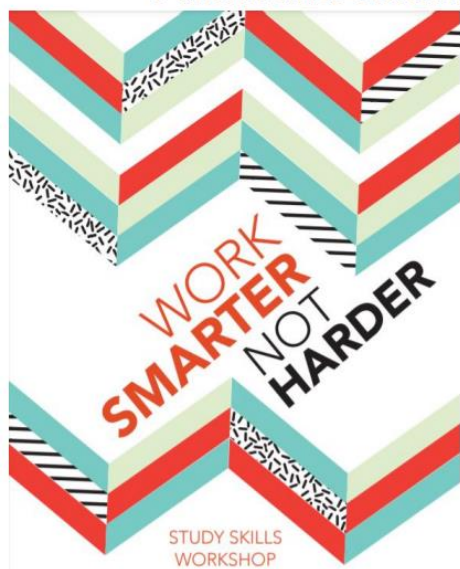
### 19<sup>th</sup> April.

All year 10 and year 11 students and families are invited to attend an evening workshop with guest speaker Adrian Fear from Learning Performance. Adrian will deliver a workshop that outlines and explains a series of clever techniques that will help students revise and remember information in preparation for the forthcoming exams. We highly recommend students and families attend this workshop together. The workshop will be in our main hall starting at 6pm and will run until 8pm.

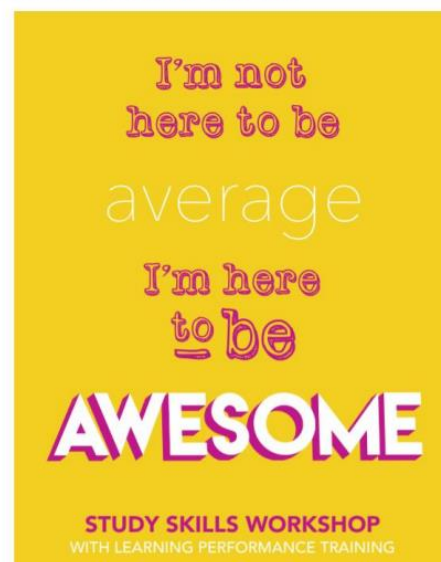
**Andy O'Rourke**

**Assistant Principal**

### Parent and Student Study Skills Workshop - Year 10 and Year 11



**Learning Performance**



**WORKSHOP:** Parent and Student Study Skills Workshop  
**DATE:** Year 10 and Year 11  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
**TIME:** 18:00 – 20:00 in the Main Hall

## Mrs Hill's Fundraiser

On the 28<sup>th</sup> March, I donated my hair to 'The Little Princess Trust'. It was in memory of my sister, Sarah, who died after a three week battle with an undiagnosed cancer on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The hair donation was a success and I managed to donate 8 inches of hair to make a personal wig for a young cancer patient. Sponsorship donations raised £647 for Sue Ryder Hospice in Moggerhanger.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of the staff and families in the Wixams Academy community that made donations to the page. (The link of the page is included below in case anyone else would like to donate.) I'd also like to thank everyone who has offered kind words of encouragement.

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-keeping-fundraiser](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-keeping-fundraiser)



**Mrs Hill**

## Heads of Year

### Year 7

Year 7 have had another fantastic term with so many achievements both academically and in extra curricular activities. We have continued to have excellent results in sports from both the girls and the boys teams, all who all represent the Academy impeccably well and always make me proud!

Year 7 continue to excel and as a result have earned the highest amount of house points across the whole school, this has been celebrated this week with a variety of rewards. A particular special mention to 7A who have 18 pupils who have received over 1000 achievement points so far, this is an amazing achievement and testament to all their hard work and commitment.

We have finished the term with an amazing performance of Matilda and a number of Year 7 pupils took part. Well done to Bonnie B, Jayden K, Amelia L, Joseph O, Daniella A, Elini M, Kade C, Dorotea T, Sienna V, Amelia O, Nathan, Corey & Mia F, your performances were fantastic and enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents. I feel we have some superstars in the making!

The Library team have been working hard, in particular Ella W and Kimberley C (7F) are excellent role models to the student librarian team. A special shout out to Elijah MM for being 'Caught Reading' 30 times!!! Well done, you are a true reading hero!

The following pupils also took part in the World Book Day competitions and produce some amazing cakes based on reading/book themes. Well done to Anjani, Nadine, Layla, Serina, Kade & Mandi (7A) and Brooke (7T).

In recognition of their hard work and achievements, for being great representatives of the Academy and displaying an excellent attitude towards behaviour and learning, this term's Head of Year Awards were awarded to Bonnie B & George S. Enjoy your chocolate it is well deserved!

Well done to all students for your hard work and efforts, you are a credit to the Academy and I am extremely proud!

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

***Mrs Maddox***

### Year 8

As we finish another term, it has been a pleasure celebrating success with year 8 students. I am proud to say that a high number of students have been involved in the rewards happening this week and they have been very well deserved. We also had our very lively end of term celebration assembly which is always a highlight for me personally. A big congratulations again to all of our winners and to all of the students receiving 'shout outs' from the different subject areas.

It has been a busy month for year 8 as we prepared for the options process. A big thank you to all parents and students that attended the progress review and the options evening. Thank you also for all of your support in ensuring we have students on the right pathways and getting the options forms in to us. Confirmation of options choices will follow in the Summer term.

Sporting fixtures continue to be successful with year 8 boys and girls coming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county for handball and netball respectively. Great work everyone, keep it coming!

Congratulations to all of the year 8 "revolting children" in the Matilda cast! You all did yourselves, your families, your teachers and I extremely proud with such a high quality performance. You can take a well-earned break now!

I wish you all a safe and restful holiday and look forward to seeing you in the Summer term.

**Mrs Biddles**

**Year 9**

Well done on another successful term Year 9. It is lovely to see so much hard work going into your GCSE option choices and hearing all about the exciting opportunities coming up. There have been further sporting successes, trips to university, students taking part in the JLT and an autism project among other things.

As we move into the final term of the year we can look forward to our end of year trip, to be announced very soon.

There have been many rewards this week, earned through achieving House Points. Students have enjoyed hot chocolate, time out of class socialising and non-uniform days. As always, we have a celebration assembly at the end of the term where teachers and form tutors can shout out the amazing work completed. This term's Head of Year award goes to two students who are always putting in their best effort, are polite and considerate of others in all their communications and have put extra effort into their enrichment options.

Well done to Raymond and Erin

Have a fantastic Easter break, and enjoy some time off with your family and friends.

**Miss Stacey**

**Year 10 – Mrs Davies is currently in Spain, but wishes you all a lovely break!**

**Year 11**

After Easter will be on our final stretch for year 11 and exams will be here and completed before we know it. Over the next couple of months please continue to work closely with your child to not only ensure they are studying but to also keep a close eye on their wellbeing. A few key things from me to support with revision/learning and wellbeing-

-There are lots of lunchtime and after school interventions running please encourage your child to attend these sessions, they really are very valuable.

-A parent and student study skills workshop is running on the evening of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 6pm-8pm this will be a good session to attend to be able to support your child with revision skills. This session will give you some great ideas on how to work with your child.

-Whilst studying and revision is very important over the next few months please make sure your child is taking regular breaks, eating and sleeping properly and still doing activities they really enjoy. These things will also enhance their studying and prevent them becoming overwhelmed. Little and often for most people is better than hours and hours of back to back studying.

-As always please do not ever hesitate to contact me or subject teachers should you have any concerns or questions.

Prom is confirmed for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Amberleigh Gardens and I am currently discussing with students colour themes and any extra bits that are not already booked that they might like to see at their prom. I think we will need to do one more fundraiser but I will confirm this after Easter. Physical tickets for Prom will be handed out during May.

I am in the process of also arranging leavers' hoodies and information will be out shortly on how to order these. The turnaround time will be quite tight so please do keep an eye out for this information.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter and thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs Mountain**

*Clare Mountain*

**Key Information for families.**

Wixams Academy is modifying its behaviour strategies this academic year.

‘Phase 1’ (September 2022) focussed on ‘in-class’ behaviour and implementing a more effective system of rewards and sanctions.

‘Phase 2’ (April 2023) will focus on safe and supervised movement in corridors.

This new system will begin on 18<sup>th</sup> April when students and staff return from the Easter holiday.

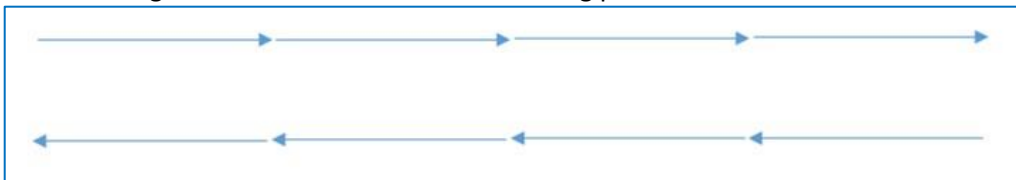
**Why is this next phase necessary?**

1. To ensure movement around a busy Academy is calm and safe.
2. To build on to our existing lesson ‘Entry Routines’ which start lessons in a calm and purposeful way.

**What will change and how will we do this?**

There will be directional ‘pathways’ in all corridors and stairwells throughout the building. Students must walk on these lines in single file at all times during transition periods. See an example of a two-way corridor below.

Students will be taught how to move around the building prior to the Easter break.

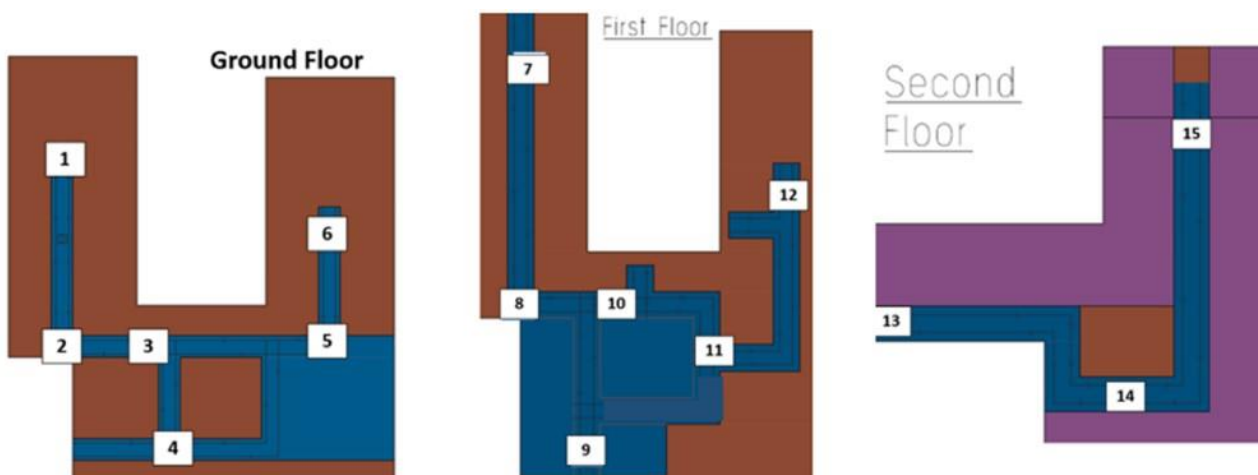


**Supervised Transition.**

There will be fifteen key locations that will always be staffed at transition points.

Staff will be pro-active, firm and friendly about the expectations at these times.

The expectations for students will be very simple. Students must walk in straight single file lines. Failure to adhere to what is expected will result in a same day sanction.



We have implemented vastly improved classroom behaviour management systems. We must now focus on maintaining these improvements and doing the same for our transition periods. We thank all families for their continued support as we work through this period of growth and change.



# Wixams

## Academy's

## First Ever

## Culture Day

**Culture Day is a day to embrace and explore other cultures, have fun with others but more importantly feel connected.**

### What's on:

- Food stalls at breaktime and lunchtime
- Student's will be able to come in cultural clothing
- An extended form time for completing activities focused on inclusivity

**Date - 28th of April 2023**

