

15th September 2023

Wixams Academy



Newsletter

Greetings from the Principal

Dear Families,

Students have enjoyed a good, hardworking first full week in school.

I would like to dedicate my section this week to share in more detail with you: changes around our site and dining this year; the advantages these bring; and how we are managing the change.

Dining

Our catering providers, Dolce have introduced a new till and payment system. This will streamline the service once embedded. We also have a new outdoor outlet and canopy with seating for 150. An additional dining hall will open in September 2025.

As with any new system, this has taken some time for staff and pupils to become more proficient in its use. In the first week we gave pupils additional time to learn the system and to see how it worked. We will continue to monitor and review this system in the early stages and will be meeting regularly with Dolce to look at how it can be made even better. Please be assured that all pupils will be given time and opportunity to purchase and eat lunch. The lunch queue has finished by 2.05pm all of this week, giving students a minimum of 15 minutes to eat. Some students prefer to play first and get food at 2pm, to avoid queuing.

We also serve 'Tuck' snacks during our 15 minutes breaktime, from our dining room and our canopy outlet. This is not students' main meal, nevertheless, we are getting more and more students served each breaktime.

Moving Around The School

We have reverted to a single break and single lunchtime this year. This means that students can use facilities which were last year being used by lessons. These include: the library (we will be increasing the number of passes per day); the sports hall; the assembly hall; the MUGAs (one per year group); and lunchtime clubs. All of these were impossible with last year's staggered breaks.

To improve circulation with all students moving at the same time, we now have 15 adults supervising our 'keep left' system at every movement time. Our main central stairway still gets very busy at times, but more students are learning to use the alternative staircases and we have relaxed our one-way system to allow for more distributed movement at busy times. I can assure you that movement is very well supervised and orderly.

A number of you have written to me directly with questions about these issues. I do hope this section answers many of your questions, but my new Vice Principal, Chris Stainsby and I will continue to respond to your concerns individually too.

Yours sincerely,

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

Paul Spyropoulos
Principal

Upcoming Dates

18 – 22 September	Year 11 English Speeches
26 September	Year 12 Parents' Meeting 6-7pm
10 October	Progress Review and subject consultation day – students at home
17 October	Year 6 into 7 Open Evening (students home at 2.20pm, some back to volunteer)
18 & 19 October	GCSE Dance Performances
20 October	Last Day of Half Term

Expansion Weekly Update

Weekly Progress Pictures



1st floor slab pour in progress.



2nd floor slab first section poured.



Metal decking and shear studs complete to 2nd floor.

Dance

Dear Wixams Academy students, both new and returning, get ready to move because this September, we're bringing you an exciting array of dance clubs that cater to all styles and skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just looking to have some fun, there's something here for everyone. No auditions required! Join us throughout the week.

On Mondays, we've got the Musical Theatre Dance team in the studio. Tuesdays is for Contemporary Dance team. Wednesdays, we have with Commercial Dance in the studio and GCSE Choreography project in the main hall. This is a dance program where younger students and Yr11 students get to work together to create choreography for their final Yr11 exam, in any style they'd like. And for something completely new at Wixams Academy, join us on Thursdays for Main Cheer, coached by the incredible DanceStarz Coach Sam. Finally, round off your week with the Pom Team on Fridays.



For those who have not heard of Main Cheer and Pom Dance, they are exciting forms of dance. Main Cheer combines dance moves, jumps, stunts, and chants to support and energize sports teams, especially during games and competitions. You'll learn how to synchronize your movements with your teammates and perform eye-catching stunts. It's not just about the dance; it's about building team camaraderie and boosting school spirit. The first session of Main cheer is free; however, this is the only club where there will be a charge for the sessions that follow. This ensures that all members have personalised cheer uniforms and are fully committed to the team. Pom Dance, on the other hand involves routines performed with pom-poms. Imagine a combination of dance styles like jazz and hip-hop with the added visual flair of pom-poms.



For those of you who are experienced dancers and seeking a challenge, consider auditioning to be part of Wixams Dance Company. Our Company creates performances in all styles and participates in shows and competitions around Bedford, showcasing the incredible talent here at Wixams Academy.

Exciting news for the 2023-2024 academic year! We're thrilled to introduce our co-choreographers, familiar faces that have dazzled us with their exceptional skills and unwavering dedication. These outstanding students will now play a pivotal role in crafting choreography for our upcoming competitions and shows. What's even more thrilling is that we'll be selecting new co-choreographers each term, giving everyone a chance to shine and contribute their creative flair.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Co-Choreographers:

- Jazz Team Co-Choreographer – Elini Mudar
- Contemporary Team Co-Choreographer – Alexi Groh
- Commercial Team Co-Choreographer – Maisie Bright and Raylene Johnston
- Pom Team Co-Choreographer – Amelie Parisi and Zara Mckell
- Wixams Dance Company Co-Choreographer – Eve Thorne and Jasmin Mudar