

Newsletter



Greetings from the Principal

Week commencing 11th December 2023

Last week saw pupils attend the annual Christmas Tree festival, take part in Christmas jumper day and preparing for the school performance. The Christmas tree kindly sponsored by Ginger Cow Estate Agents has also been put up. Please see below for a picture. This week sees our year 11s receive their mock grades, good luck to you all! We had several visitors this week from the West London Free School who are part of the Knowledge Schools Trust. It was great to meet up with them and share ideas on how we can move the academy forward.

PTA Raffle and Christmas Tree:

The PTA have arranged a raffle with some fantastic prizes, please click here for more details and to buy some tickets. Prizes include:

- Hospitality Box at MK Dons for 10 people
- Two tickets to Tottenham vs Everton on 23rd Dec
- Michael Kors bag
- A voucher from T&L Painting

As mentioned above, thank you so much to Ginger Cow Estate Agents for sponsoring this year's Christmas Tree, it looks amazing.



Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Stainsby'.

Chris Stainsby

Interim Principal

A Warm Wixams Welcome to Julie Kavanagh. Co-HOY for Year 7

We are thankful to have Julie Kavanagh joining us as Co-HOY for Year 7. Julie is an experienced pastoral specialist and will bring a lot of great practice and experience to our wider pastoral team. Julie will be working closely with Katie Goodwin and the Year 7 tutor team.



Last week our second ever cohort of Y12 students gave their final presentations for the Harpur trusts' Ready2Lead? Programme. Our 6 students had identified the need to reduce litter and plastic waste in the local area and have designed, led and managed a project to engage Primary age students with "plogging". For those not yet versed in the art of a "plog" this involves combining a walk or hike with a litter pick. The Wixams team have liaised with Wixam's Tree, Great Denham and other local primary schools, Beds Borough Council and other groups, given talks at the primary schools and led "plogs". This has culminated in their presenting on the project alongside groups from other local secondary schools at Kimberely College last Wednesday evening. As you can see from the photographs, they were well prepared, professional and a credit to themselves and the Academy.



Their project and outcomes stood up very well against some very stiff competition from the likes of Bedford School, Bedford Girls School and Mark Rutherford.



More importantly they will be continuing their project throughout the academic year to ensure that the positive impact they have made so far continues and have learnt a great deal of the challenges in leading and organising others.



Alex, Akash, Ayomikun, Amelia, Owen and Hannah have all developed strong leadership skills and are sure to consider roles in the Sixth Form Junior Leadership Team in the new year.

Mr Mercel



Congratulations!!!

Wixams Academy are through to the next round of the English Speaking Union-International Churchill Society's regional heat of the public speaking competition.

Huge congratulations to Erin Gallego, Simona Jelenksa, Eve Thornes and Bella Shelton for their hard work and performance!

Mr B Byatt

Head of Sociology and Politics



Congratulations also goes to:

Willow Bishenden Y7, who won the Centre Parcs staff Christmas card competition. Her card will be printed and distributed to every CP employee with their Christmas hamper.

Foodbank This Christmas

Dear parents/carers,

We are excited to be collecting for the Bedford Foodbank this Christmas. We have been in contact with them and have asked what is needed which we have listed below.



Items needed: Tinned soup, Shampoo, Tinned fruit, Variety tins/ boxes, Rice, Deodorants, Nuts, Coffee, Tea, Jam, cereal, Chocolate, UHT milk, Tin Openers, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Custard, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Chocolate selection Packs and Cup A Soup.

Please bring items into form time for 11th December (students in year 7 can drop off donations on the 12th). We are awarding lots of merits to the forms with the most donations.

We will be dropping off our donations on the 12th December and will let you all know how much we collect.

Kind regards,

Mrs Loynes

11A Form Tutor

Head of RE and PSHCE

Christmas Giving Tree (Running until December 15th) for the charity FACES

Our Christmas Giving Tree will soon be set up in the Assembly Hall for staff and students to donate toys/gifts to families who are in need over the Christmas period. We have supported the Bedford based charity FACES since 2017 and every year the number of gifts we share keeps on growing!

All gifts must be new/unused. Please do not wrap the gifts, as they need to be checked by the Charity before distribution.

Students will be allowed to place their gifts under the tree in the Assembly Hall before tutor time each day. Please note we cannot accept gifts after the 8th December due to FACES needing to distribute them in time for Christmas

Message from our catering provider Dolce



Christmas Menu Throughout December

The Academy kitchen will be offering a Christmas themed menu, each day from Monday 4th December, with a turkey roast dinner available every Wednesday.

Some of the festive food on offer will be:

Festive pizza slice

Giant Pig in blanket dog with sprout slaw

Roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry torpedo

Cranberry glazed festive vegan sausage roll

Turkey sandwiches

Please ensure your child has enough money on their account to make any purchases as we are unable to let account go into debt. Accounts need to be topped up on School Grid.

If there are any queries, please contact finance@wixamsacademy.co.uk

Kind regards

The Finance Team

Dates for your diary:

11 th & 12 th December	Year 12 Criminology NEA
11 th December	Foodbank donations to school
13 th December	Christmas showcase – 6.00-7.30pm
14 th & 15 th December	Year 13 Criminology NEA
14 th December	Year 7 Disco – Time TBC
19 th December	End of Term – Pupils finish at 1pm
3 rd January	Staff training day – school closed to students
4 th January	Students return to school
4 th January	Year 12 and 13 Mocks