

# Newsletter



## Greetings from the Principal

### **Week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The academy has been full of activities over the past two weeks. It was amazing to see the year 11s receive their mock results. This experience seemed positive we are looking forward to a similar experience in the summer. Thank you to Mrs Hepburn for arranging this.

The Christmas performance was held last week and the standard of singing, dancing and performing was breathtaking. Well done to everyone involved.

### **Headteacher appointment:**

The interviews for the role of headteacher happened on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December. Details of the appointment will be sent out to parents and pupils in the first week back in January.

### **Uniform:**

You will have received a reminder of the uniform and equipment for learning expectations from Mr Dummett last week. Details can be found on the document attached.

We will be focusing on this when pupils arrive back on the 4<sup>th</sup> January. Please support us by ensuring your child is wearing the correct uniform and is equipped to learn. Where this is not the case you will receive a call from a member of the year team or SLT to see how we can support your child in wearing the correct uniform.

### **Teaching appointments:**

We are currently recruiting staff to support some gaps in staffing. This is a national picture where some subjects are difficult to recruit in. We look to minimise the use of agency staff by using our own staff who know our pupils better and the systems we use. Occasionally when we have to use short term agency staff, we look to use subject specialists. Once we successfully recruit in the vacancies we have, there may be some alterations to your child's timetable.

Finally, I hope all staff, pupils and their families have a fantastic break.

Best wishes,

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

Chris Stainsby

Interim Principal

### **Dance Club Cancelled**

Dear Parents/carer

Please be informed that all dance clubs will be cancelled until February half term.

### **Performing Arts Department**

What a fantastic end of term we have had in the Performing Arts Departments!

We had our annual visit to the Christmas tree festival, where we took 40 students to perform to the public in order to raise money for Bedford Hospital and St Paul's Church. We had some amazing acts, with dancers, singers and instrumentalists taking part.

Our second event was our Christmas Show, where we had 50 wonderful students performing for our audience. The students did an amazing job and were very professional in the way they managed the pressure of being on stage and waiting for their turn. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication, some of which have been working with us most lunchtimes and after school to get them ready.

We would like to thank you for the support you have given the students, whether that is collecting them from rehearsals, giving permission, funding lessons, or attending the performances. It is much appreciated, by us and the students.

Have a wonderful Christmas break, and we will see you in the new year for more Dance, Drama and Music.

*Chloe Blessing*

Head of Music

### **Maths Department**

#### **Well Done!!**



Well done to Harry Alexander, Dan Cooper, Josh Pestell and Adria Wilson for being fantastic Maths Peer Mentors to the Year 8 students.

You have been supportive in moving their learning forward.

You are all amazing!!

Mrs Charlie Kaler –Maths Teacher

### **Foodbank Donations**

Thank you to all everyone who donated to the foodbank! We raised 173kg of food which will feed 411 people across Bedford this Christmas. The Foodbank were very grateful for everything that was given.

Mrs Loynes



### **Values awards**

We are delighted to have returned to awarding a familiar favourite at Wixams Academy – our Values Champions of the half term.

The first two half terms have seen awards given for Responsibility and Community and each recipient has demonstrated these values in abundance.

Our Responsibility winners were:

Harry Grantham, Diana Drew, Ace Armstrong, Caiden O'Brien, Shalom Osibote. Huge congratulations to each winner, and we look forward to reporting on the remaining winners as the school year progresses.



## **Charity events**

### **Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children & the Giving Tree**

As always, the community spirit within Wixams has been clearly seen as we collected money for Save the Children and local charity FACES. Thank you so much for your generosity, both charities were very grateful.

We raised £260 for Save the Children and gave numerous Christmas gifts to FACES for children who would otherwise go without.





## **Careers Corner!**

### Year 10/12 Work Experience 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

We have already launched Work Experience for our students and are looking forward to seeing the vast array of placements that they have secured. Please remember to follow the guidance shared in the Work Experience pack (electronic and paper copies have been sent home for Year 10), and get those places logged as soon as possible.

If any local business owner could support a Wixams Academy student by hosting a 1-week placement in July, please do get in touch with Mrs Pearson.

### Future Focus Day February 28th 2024

Our annual careers fair is fast approaching, and we are still interested in adding an even larger variety of stalls to our event. If you own/work for a company who would be able to commit to a day on site discussing your company/roles with our students (Year 7-13) then please get in touch with Mrs Pearson.

### Live @ Lunch

A huge thank you to all the companies who have been in to visit our students during the academic year (and to those lined up for 2024) during our Live @ Lunch sessions in the library. Students have really benefitted from your expertise and guidance and have asked some really excellent questions about entering a variety of different careers. If you can offer 20 mins one lunch time to speak to a small group of students, please get in touch with Mrs Pearson.

**Dates for your diary:**

19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term – Pupils finish at 1pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Staff training day – school closed to students
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Students return to school
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12 and 13 Mocks
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Reports with invitation
9 <sup>th</sup> January	LIBF Unit 1 Part A exam
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12 Health and Social Care U2 exam
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 13 Health and Social Care U3 exam
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Food Exam Year 11 Subject Meeting for targeted students
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Vaccinations Year 9 ACWY DTPM
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Frontline Living History event
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12/13 Reports go home