

Newsletter



Greetings from the Principal

Week commencing 12th February 2024

Welcome to the final newsletter of this half term. There has been so much activity round the academy since January, I am not sure where to start! We have had year 11s sitting practical components of their GCSEs, a trip to a tapas restaurant by languages students, talks from the local police and crime commissioner, pupils winning awards for fundraising and a vast array of sport successes. This is just the tip of the iceberg, well done to all involved and thank you to parents for supporting these events.

We have made some changes to the dining arrangements in recent weeks, there is more information about this below.

Finally, our new Headteacher Nathaniel Wilson, visited the academy on the 13th February to meet pupils and staff. You will receive a letter related to a parent introduction evening on the 6th March 2024. We do hope you can attend. Finally, I hope you, the staff and pupils have a well-deserved break during half term where possible.

Changes to dining arrangement:

We have made some changes to dining arrangements in recent weeks. This has enabled there to be a less congested dining area, pupils being able to have seating whilst eating their lunches and giving better levels of supervision from staff.

We will be rotating the order pupils have lunch as the terms progress and have already seen the positive impact it has had on pupils' interactions and all queues have been clear by 2.05pm.

Year 11 study leave and Easter sessions:

Some parents have enquired about study leave during the GCSE exam period. We are currently putting together the plans for any additional sessions offered during the Easter holidays and what study leave may look like for pupils during the GCSEs. Year 11 pupils will be expected to be in school full-time until after the May half term.

Academy Values:

We have been working over this half term on the concept of determination and kindness. All the staff at the academy want the best for the pupils. Occasionally, like in all jobs, we make mistakes or get things wrong. However, the staff deserve kindness and politeness from parents. We have had on occasion, some parents who have been confrontational and rude to staff. Please understand we have a zero-tolerance approach to this. No-one should have to be at work and be spoken to aggressively or rudely. Please ensure we all embrace this value we have been working with the children on.

Best wishes,



Chris Stainsby

Interim Principal

Message from the PTA

PTA Update

With a full committee now elected the PTA have been busy over recent weeks.

The school are investing in a lunchtime club to support mental wellbeing. The PTA approached businesses to ask for some resources towards this, we are thankful to [Sensorytoys.co.uk](https://www.sensorytoys.co.uk) and our local Waterstones, Claire Accessorises and Hobbycraft stores who have donated distraction toys and activities to this cause.

In our last newsletter, we set the academy home economics department as our key project for fundraising this year, with a target to raise £1500 towards their total £3250 costs to replace key equipment, including the very used microwaves.

Refreshments at key events last term and the Christmas Raffle raised over £800. Thank you to those who donated prizes or bought raffle tickets!

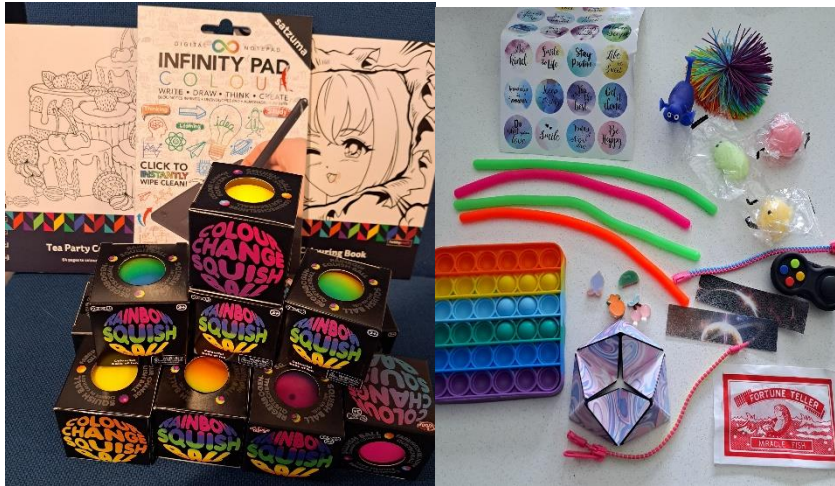
The PTA then decided to focus on grant opportunities. We were successful with three grant providers including the Bedford Educational Association and the Ford Britain Trust, donating a total of £2250. We are so grateful for this grant support and know it will make a big difference to all students accessing this provision.

Including the disco, the raffle, the refreshments and the grants we have raised a whooping £3453, smashing our target and enabling the home economics team to order all the required supplies! We are so pleased with this; but watch this space as we will soon announce our next fundraising project!

The PTA always welcome any help, even if this is only for a specific project or just during the day; so if you can help in any way please email Claire.henry@Wixamsacademypta.co.uk

Thanks for reading


The PTA Team





World Book Day 2024

We're excited to announce this year's World Book Day 2024 competitions. All details can be found on the attached poster and if you'd like to see available £1 books, please follow the link attached. Any questions or queries? Please come and ask me in the library or email me: jwestram@wixamsacademy.co.uk

Changing lives through a love of books and reading








This year's World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March and we'd love you to get involved!

We have a number of optional activities that you could choose to get involved with

All students in years 7-13 are welcome to take part

Please choose from the activity grid below. Students can enter a maximum of **two** competitions from the grid

<p>1. Design Design and build a structure, using every day materials, that can withstand the weight of 5 paperback books! e.g.</p> 	<p>2. WBD Bake Off— Bake a creation inspired by your favourite book. It could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> muffins inspired by your favourite author Gingerbread characters from a story A book cover produced in cake A cake decorated in the theme of your favourite book
<p>3. Performing Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a song inspired by your favourite author, book or character <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and perform a speech by your favourite fiction character 	<p>4. Short Story- Write a short story. It can be about any topic you wish. It must be a maximum of 1000 words long</p> <p>You could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a story of your own Re-write a scene from your favourite story but with a crazy twist! Write a modern version of an old tale.
<p>5. Art—Produce a piece of art inspired by the setting/world of your favourite story</p> <p>You can use any materials to produce the art piece and it can be in any style that you wish to use.</p>	<p>6. Media—Create a 2 minute book trailer for your favourite book</p> <p>Imagine that the trailer will play on television to advertise the book and try to get people to read it</p>

Submit your entries no later than 2.20pm on Thursday 7th March. Winners will be announced in form on Monday 11th March. Send them to Mrs Westram: jwestram@wixamsacademy.co.uk.

You can send recordings, pictures or word documents. If you're taking part in the Bake Off, you do not need to bring the creation in. Simply photograph your bake and submit the photos.

Please make sure you include your name, form and the category you have chosen to take part in. If entering more than one competition, please send each entry separately. A prize will be given to one winner in each category. Good Luck!

Your digital WBD token can be accessed here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/digital-tokens/>

If you would prefer a printed copy, this can be collected from the library on request.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

Thanks, Mrs Westram

Wixams Academy Librarian

Congratulations from the PE Department

A really successful couple of weeks at the academy with so many students getting involved in sport, both at clubs and in fixtures. Our Y8 girls got through to the next round of their cup competition with a 2-1 win over Knights Templar as well as winning the district futsal tournament for the second year in a row!

More success came from our Year 9 boys who have now played two of their league fixtures coming away with two wins, one over Bedford Academy (5-0) and Samuel Whitbread (4-1). Year 10 displayed some excellent performances also bringing home 6 points against Bedford Free School (5-0) and Henlow Academy (13-0).

Year 7 had their first netball game of the academic year, stepping out onto the court with so much confidence and learning along the way! Year 8 also played Sharnbrook and came away with a 9-1 win! Some fantastic performances on display!

Finally, some students took to the cross country track last week, with 3 of our students getting through to the county competition and further qualifying for English Schools. A huge well done to all involved!

Year 8 Girls have progressed to the 3rd round of the U13s Schools Cup.

Year 8 Girls are district champions in futsal



Year 11 - Luca



Year 8 – Jaxon



Year 7 - Luigi all competed in the county cross country.



Luca qualified for English schools and Jaxon is a reserve for English Schools.

Year 7/8 girls netball teams competed against Sharnbrook last night.



Charlotte

Miss C Hindmarch

Teacher of Physical Education

Wixams Academy

Dance and Drama Department

I wanted to take a moment to congratulate your child on successfully completing all of the practical components of their GCSE Dance course. Not only have they excelled in their efforts to achieve a well-deserved grade, but they have also demonstrated true determination and dedication throughout the process, particularly when attending the intervention sessions. I am very proud of their accomplishments and am looking forward to seeing their smiles on results day.

As we move forward, it is important to prioritize revision for the paper in the upcoming March and summer exams. Students will continue to participate in practical lessons every Wednesday during period 3 to further develop their skill set and passion for the subject. I kindly ask that you ensure they are organized for these sessions.

I appreciate all of your support throughout this academic year.

If your child requires any additional resources or revision materials for the paper, please do not hesitate to let me know, and I will be more than happy to organize that for you.

Thank you once again, and I look forward to the continued success of your child in their studies.

CLUBS will start the second week back for dance!

Best regards,

Miss Pereira

Head of Dance

Vacancies at Wixams Academy

We currently have several vacancies within the Academy. The vacancies are:-

Non Teaching

Office Manager

Invigilators

Further details can be found on MyNewTerm.

Dates for your diary:

19 th February	Half Term
26 th February	Year 11 Spanish Speaking Mocks
27 th February	Year 11-13 Jason Martin apprenticeship talk Food Practical GCSE TBC
27 th February	Year 10 reports go home
28 th February	Careers Fair
29 th February	Year 10 reports go home
4 th March – 14 th March	Year 11 & 13 Mocks
5 th March	Year 10 Subject meetings – In person on site Early closure for all students – 1.35pm finish
6 th March	Parent Introduction Evening – Meet Nathaniel Wilson
11 th March – 15 th March	Year 10 Spanish Trip
28 th March	Last day of term – school closes at 1.00pm
15 th April	Staff training day – school closed
16 th April	Students back to school