



Week commencing 11th March 2024

Dear parents,

It's quite hard to comprehend that we are now over halfway through this short half term and rapidly approaching the Easter break. With the many activities, mock examinations and recent Ofsted visit, staff and students would be forgiven for feeling that we should be there already!

Please take time to read through the important messages below and to celebrate the recent Headstudent election process, we are often gifted with an embarrassment of riches when it comes to student achievement and good news stories, however the Headstudent elections stand out.

I would like to say a personal well done to all the candidates for their maturity, courage and engagement in a process that was as gruelling as it was fair. We now have a very strong Headstudent and Junior Leadership Team (JLT) team at Sixth Form who will be instrumental in moving the Academy and whole school JLT forward

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the springlike weather

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Stainsby'.

Chris Stainsby

Interim Principal

Communication for Detention

Notice for parents/carers re: daily detention notifications – communication to parents.

Our daily notifications have switched from SMS text messages to emails. Please be aware of this change as this will remain our primary method of communicating this daily notification for the foreseeable future.

We will always endeavour to notify parents by 15:20 on Tuesday and 15:00 every other day at the latest.

Mr A O'Rourke

Assistant Headteacher

Careers at Wixams Academy

Live at Lunch careers sessions taking place next week in the LRC at 1:45 - 2:10 with Mrs. Bastians:


Monday 18th March - Leon Barnett Football Academy

Please do encourage your child to pop along to the session if they are interested in football careers for the future/joining Leon's academy programme. Live at Lunch provides a great opportunity for students to find out more, ask questions and build networks with employers and training providers in the sectors they are interested in.

Thanks

Mrs Katie Bastians
Independent Careers Adviser





Library Rules



Library Book Borrowing Rules

If you borrow books from the library, please ensure they do not become overdue.

Please do one of the following:

- **Renew!** You can renew a book any time, upon request. I will need to see the book after the second renew to check that you still have it. Other students may have the book on reserve, so I will ask for the book to be returned after the third renew.
- **Return!** Please return your book ASAP! Although we won't fine you for late returns, we do ask that books are returned when finished with, so others can enjoy them too!
- **Replace!** If you can no longer find the book you borrowed, please buy a replacement copy. You can buy this from anywhere as long as it is in good condition!
- **Reimburse!** As a last resort, an email will be sent to your parent/guardian to pay the reimbursed cost of the book, via Parentmail

Please note: if you have lost your book and you are not in a position to replace or reimburse it, please come and talk to myself (Mrs Westram) or your Head of Year. Thanks

Junior Leadership Elections 202



Over the past 7 weeks, Wixams Academy Sixth Form has conducted our yearly Junior Leadership Team (JLT) Elections. Students could either apply for the role of Student Ambassador or Head Student, both of which are incredibly important roles of responsibility within the school. In total we had seven applicants for Head Student, five of which made it through to the campaign stage.

The process began with a rigorous interview stage, where candidates were invited to prepare a 10-minute presentation or speech outlining their vision and policy ideas, as well as marketing themselves for the role. We then began a 10-minute Q&A session with a panel consisting of Mr. Mercel, Miss. Rahman, Mr. Byatt, and the current Head Students, Alex Murisi and Jess Mooney.

Congratulations to Billy Shah and Iza Bah for being elected Head Students, and Isabelle Marsh and Alex Morris as Deputy Head Students. Congratulations also to Aishwarya Polakulath, Assia Lahmari, Layla Sturgeon, Ayo Oduwole and Hephzibah Akinkuebi for being selected as Student Ambassadors.

Notably, the Head Student candidates worked collaboratively and there was a sense of healthy competition amongst them. They supported each other, shared advice and strategy, and maturely campaigned in the same space.

We are incredibly proud of every applicant, especially the Head Student candidates that ran amazing campaigns.

Campaign workshops

Mr. Byatt organised a week of campaign workshops and tutorials, with the crux of the sessions being taken by Miss. Collins from the English department. The workshops aimed at developing their skills in canvassing and public speaking. Candidates participated with great confidence and a willingness to learn from mistakes. They started their journey by drafting their speeches and creating engaging and effective campaign materials. In the sessions with Miss. Collins, they delivered their drafted speeches in front of each other and engaged in expert feedback. In another session, candidates practiced projecting their voice in preparation for their hustings speeches.

Hustings

The long-awaited event that we held for the JLT process was the candidate hustings. Candidates showcased their vision, policies, and personality in 5-minute speeches and later took a group Q&A. The audience was filled with the whole sixth form and approximately 30 students from years 7-11 - one representative from each tutor group.

The five candidates took turns delivering their speeches to the audience. Holding their nerves, they were brave and eloquent in the face of a packed common room! They confidently outlined their experience, vision for the school and the policies they want to deliver to the school and wider community. The audience was respectful and inquisitive, asking mature and attentive questions.

Our outstanding students were showcased in an amazing show of courage and planning. The sixth form team are incredibly proud of every candidate for the hard work and determination.

Once the hustings came to a close, candidates had the rest of the week to canvass the school and campaign for votes.

The tutor representatives from years 7-11 gave feedback from the hustings to their tutor groups the following day. This aided their overall decision on who to vote for on Friday 1st March.

It was a wonderful event organised and hosted by Miss. Rahman and Mr. Byatt!



Canvassing

Candidates engaged in a lengthy canvassing stage, using a range of strategies to get votes. Primarily these included speaking to voters, handing out flyers and putting up posters. However, the ingenuity of the sixth formers cannot be downplayed! One candidate made traybake brownies and cupcakes with their name on the icing, with a slip of their policies in the cardboard holder. They set up two stalls in the school giving out delicious homemade treats! Another candidate had a 'sweets-for-ideas' stall where for every policy idea sixth formers had they could get a sweet.



Voting

On Friday 1st March, sixth formers arrived in their tutor groups staggered across tutor time, whilst years 7-11 voted by form. As there were two Head Student roles, students had two votes to cast. We even had students vote by proxy, which goes to show how engaged our cohort of students were in the election!

The JLT represent the best of our sixth form students. The election process in particular showed that we have a diverse range of students that are eager to make a change in their school, local community and the wider world. Their desire for change and participation in a democratic process contributes to the project that Wixams Academy sixth form have worked to achieve since its opening – to mould mature, engaged, collaborative and critical students that actively push themselves outside of their comfort zones.



Finally, a farewell to our exiting Head Students – Jess Mooney, Alex Murisi, Kushi Ladher and Harman Singh! Thank you for the work you have done, and gracefully passing on the baton.

Dates for your diary:

18 th March	PTA Spring Fayre Planning Meeting – 6.15pm at WA
22 nd March	Year 13 Reports go home
26 th March	Drama Practical Exam
27 th March	Year 11 Reports go home
28 th March	Last day of term – school closes at 1.00pm
29 th March – 12 th April	Easter Break
15 th April	Inset day for Staff – school closed
16 th April	Students back to school