



Week commencing 25th March 2024

It has been such a productive term for everyone at the academy and as always, I have been amazed by the fantastic work the pupils have done. In recent weeks there has been creative writing competitions, food assessments, sporting success and employer engagement activities to name a few.

We have joined a new trust which opens up huge opportunities for pupils and staff. There will be more information shared soon on what this will look like.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome the new Headteacher, Nathaniel Wilson to the Academy from the 15th April. He is very much looking forward to working with all members of the community and will be arranging events to get to know parents more. I am sure you will welcome him and share your ideas on how we can make the academy even better for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '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

Sixth Form EPQ

Year 12 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Presentation Event

On the evening of Wednesday 20th March, the Year 12 EPQ students delivered their assessed presentations on the projects that they had spent the past 6 months constructing.

As a part of the EPQ process, students must reflect on their journey in realising a final polished product, typically in the form of a 5,000 word essay. They courageously presented in front of an audience of parents, staff, peers, and the EPQ team consisting of Mr. Mercel and Mr. Byatt. Once the students were finished and the applause subdued, they were asked questions by the audience and EPQ team.

It was a delight to see the maturity of the students and how passionate they were about their topics. Students spoke with confidence and answered questions honestly and sensibly, even incorporating humour as a presenting skill. If they had succumbed to the stresses of the process, or had any shred of regret, it was still clear that they were still proud of how far they had come and the skills they had learned. All students were genuinely reflective of their strengths and weaknesses and sophisticatedly conveyed them, which are both core traits that are developed in our students at Wixams Academy.

Mr. Mercel and Mr. Byatt are very proud of each student. Congratulations and well done! We look forward to receiving the full and finalised projects by Wednesday 27th March.

Below are the names of our EPQ students and their project titles:

- Aishwarya Polakulath, essay: Is Art a Window to the Soul? Investigating the Connection Between Art and the Human Mind
- Akash Chambers, essay: Can climate change be prevented by the utilisation of space mining and or space manufacturing?
- Alex Morris, essay: what is the main factor influencing Disney's economic performance?
- Amelia Deane, artefact: Can I create a 1950s influenced evening dress?

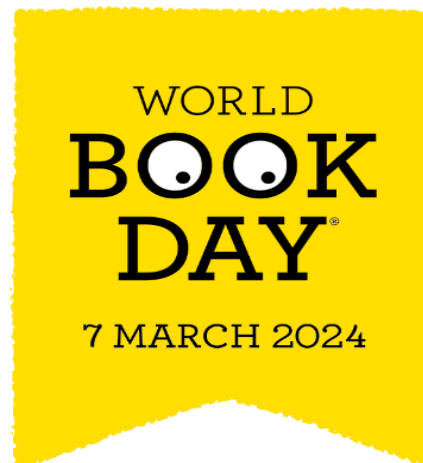
- Emily Milnthorpe, essay: How are male serial killers represented in televised media?
- Iza Bah, essay: Are Conservative government policy and appointment of minister positions influenced by nepotism?
- Layla Sturgeon, essay: Are companies taking advantage of the cost-of-living crisis in England since the end of lockdown?
- Ophelia Miller-Jones, essay: Has metal music evolved instrumentally over the past 70 years?

Library News

World Book Day 2024

We had some excellent competition entries this year, from cupcakes to amazing story writing. We had 6 winners from 6 categories:

Jacob Burke, 7A: Category 1 (Design)



Eleanor created some brilliant cupcakes inspired by her favourite book. Mrs Thompson, our Bake Off! judge said:

I have chosen the Hetty Feather entry as it has decoration linked to the book and the characters which fits the overall brief. It is well thought out. Well done!

Tawhida Ahmed, 7A: Category 6 (Media)

Tawhida created a brilliant trailer for her favourite book, Tom Gates and you can view it here:

[Tom Gates custom trailer: World book day MEDIA](#) (youtube.com)



Well done to all of our winners. They each receive 50 merits, a winner certificate and a small gift! Students who didn't win, but took part, receive 25 merits each.

We want students to become successful, lifelong readers.

In order for us to successfully launch our new Scholastic Reading Program, we require as many of our on-loan books to be returned at the earliest convenience, so that they can be correctly labelled to be used in the scheme.

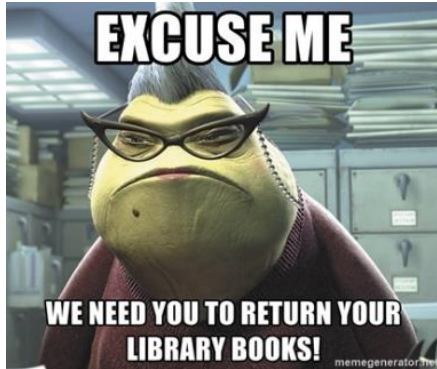
Please can you, therefore, encourage students to check for any books they may have at home and return overdue books ASAP! We currently have over 400 books overdue/missing!

Current loans are not required to be returned at this time, unless finished. This is an amnesty to encourage students to return the books they have borrowed which are now overdue from previous months/years and no longer reading.

It has also come to our attention that some of our library titles may not be suitable for all readers, due to their content. We endeavour to provide a wide variety of literature for all students. Along with Scholastic labelling, I have started labelling titles with a recommended age and genre sticker. Students may not be aware of these changes and sadly, some books are already on loan with age restricted stickers on them. Please encourage your child to return books above their age range as the title may contain subjects not appropriate for their age.

If you are happy for your child to read books of all ages, please simply send in a signed note, stating your permission and ages allowed or email me direct: jwestram@wixamsacademy.co.uk

Speaking to your children about different genres and content is a wonderful way of encouraging them to read more!



WIXAMS ACADEMY

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 Westman) or your Head of Year. Thanks

Olly Russell, 7B from category 3 (performing arts)

Feedback from Mrs Blessing, Head of Music said:

Love this entry! It's very clever and very rocky! So suits a scene where drums are being played.

I really like the way the parts come in separately and then move in and out while the drums are there all the time. I really like the key riffs, they are catchy and work well with the solo guitar style part. I am also impressed at how it then layers up towards the end and changes the feel of the drums with the original drum theme coming back towards the end.

Fantastic effort, with clearly lots of time having gone into this! I'm looking forward to you choosing GCSE Music, as clearly you are going to do well!



If you would like to hear Olly's music piece, please click here:

<https://youtu.be/o3ftSbGFZ9A?si=GTAoGLPkYuhZ9rvC>

Poppy Burke, 9Y: Category 4 (Story Writing)



Poppy wrote a brilliant short story, which explored the idea of parallel universes and Déjà vu. You can read Poppy's story at the end of this section.

Poppy Burke - World Book Day short story competition winner

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always been fascinated by the idea of parallel universes. The thought that there could be endless versions of myself living different lives in different worlds was both thrilling and overwhelming. I would often find myself daydreaming about what my parallel selves would be doing at that very moment.

My fascination only grew stronger when I learned about the theory of Déjà vu. It was mind-boggling to think that the unsettling feeling of having lived a moment before could be explained by a crossover with a parallel universe. According to believers of this theory, every time we experience Déjà vu, it is because our parallel selves in another universe are also living the exact same moment. This made me wonder, what if I could somehow meet one of my parallel selves?

My name is Ava and I am a 13-year-old girl living with my parents and younger brother in a small town. I have always been an introvert and loved spending my time reading books and daydreaming. But my love for parallel universes and Déjà vu often made me feel like I was different from others my age.

One night, I had a dream that changed everything. In my dream, I was in a strange place, but it felt familiar. Then, I saw a girl who looked exactly like me, except she had a red streak in her hair. We were both shocked to see each other and could not believe that we were the same person. The girl introduced herself as Ava from a parallel universe and explained that she had found a way to travel between universes.

Ava told me that she had been observing me for a long time and knew about my fascination with parallel universes and Déjà vu. She invited me to her world and promised to show me everything. I was hesitant at first, but the curious side of me couldn't resist the opportunity to explore a different universe.

The next thing I knew, I was standing in a strange laboratory with Ava. She showed me her invention, a device that could open a portal to different universes. She explained that it was her life's work and she had spent years perfecting it. It was amazing to see that all my dreams were coming true.

Ava and I spent hours exploring different worlds, each one more fascinating than the last. We even visited a universe where humans had superpowers, and another where animals could speak. It was like living in a fantasy world come to life. But amidst all the excitement, Ava reminded me that we needed to be careful and not disrupt the balance of the universes.

As the night passed, I learned more about Ava's life. She lived in a world where everything was different, the people, the culture, even the history. It was fascinating to see how different circumstances could shape a person's life. Ava also confided in me that she had always felt like an outcast in her world, just like I did in mine. But meeting me, another version of herself, made her feel less alone.

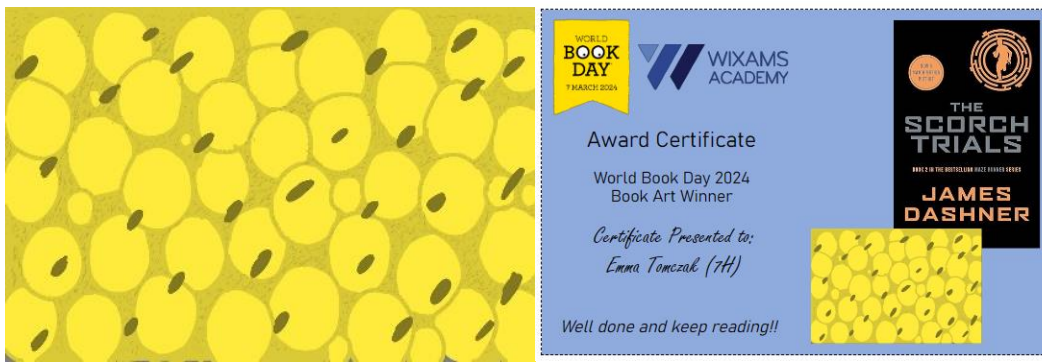
When it was time for me to go back to my universe, I didn't want to leave.

Ava and I had become close friends, and I knew I was going to miss her. We promised to keep in touch, and I went back to my bed, waking up to a new day in my world. Although it all felt like a dream, the device that Ava had given me as a souvenir was proof that it wasn't.

From that day on, I made it my mission to perfect the device and be able to travel between universes on my own. With Ava's guidance and my determination, I was able to achieve it in a few years. Now, I can visit Ava and my other parallel selves whenever I want. It's like having a whole new family spread across different worlds.

My fascination with parallel universes and Déjà vu never faded, but now I have a deeper understanding of it. I no longer feel like an outcast because I have found a world where I belong, a world of endless possibilities and infinite versions of myself. And I have Ava, my friend from another universe, to thank for it all.

Emma Tomczak, 7H: Category 5 (Art)



Emma created a fantastic and abstract piece of art inspired by her favourite book, James Dashner's 'The Scorch Trials'

She named this piece 'The Scorch' which I think is apt. Well done!

Message from the school office

Please notify the school office as soon as possible if you have changed your contact details. This is to ensure our records are as up to date as possible.

If your child requires medication to be administered in school, please complete a medication form that can be downloaded from our website under the information tab, or call in to the school office and collect one there.

With the warm weather and hay fever season swiftly approaching, can we advise that students remember to bring in a water bottle with them to drink during the day. Hay fever medication if required, should be taken before school if possible. This should enable your child to remain in class and comfortable throughout the day.

Headlice

We have been advised that there has been a reported case of headlice in the school.

This would be an ideal time to check your child's hair at home and treat accordingly with one of the many products available at your local pharmacy.

We wish you all a very happy Easter Break!

Kind regards

School office

Careers

We have had a very busy term in the careers department with a number of events happening to support our young people in their understanding of their choices post compulsory education.

We were delighted to welcome Bedford College and Ask Apprenticeships into school to talk to Year 10,11,12 & 13 about apprenticeship routes. Our live@lunch talks continued with a variety of employers coming in to speak about the routes into their sector.

The term culminated in our Future Focus Day Careers fair in which we had 30 local and national exhibitors all inspiring our young people (and giving away a lot of free gifts!!)

Work experience gets underway next term for year 10 &12. Please ensure all placements are completed by the deadline of April 26th!!

A huge thank you as always to Mrs Bastians and our fabulous careers ambassadors who work so hard to ensure these amazing opportunities run smoothly.

Mrs Pearson

Mrs L Pearson

Assistant Headteacher





Values Awards

Our students have yet again been demonstrating our Academy values in their interactions with one another and within the local community. It has been a pleasure to recognise some of the individuals who demonstrate this ½ terms value on a regular basis. Huge congratulations to our very worthy winners Oasis Emenalor, Scarlet Zinonos, Jorja Blake, Elspeth Winn and Iza Iwaniec.

Mrs L Pearson
Assistant Headteacher





Dates for your diary:

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
18 th April	Year 11 Maths/English revision day P1-4 Lakeview village hall
19 th April	GCSE Japanese Speaking Exam
22 nd April	GCSE PE Trip to St Georges Park
26 th April	A level trip to Bedford (Geography)