



Week Commencing 17th June 2024.

I would like to extend my thanks to all who attended the afternoon session to discuss our new build plan.

During the visit, we had the opportunity to explore areas of the current building that are scheduled for renovation, including the music room, SEND facilities, dance studio, drama area, and the second servery. It was great to see your interest and hear your valuable feedback on these critical aspects of our school's development. A reminder that the renovations work on the main building starts this week on Monday 24th June. Some classes have been re-roomed to other parts of the main school building to minimise disruption to learning.

I also appreciated the chance to show you an outward view of the new build and the planned outdoor spaces. Your input is crucial as we strive to enhance the school environment for our students, making it a more vibrant and supportive place for learning and growth.

Furthermore, I would like to remind you that last week, a parent consultation was sent out informing you about the upcoming changes to the school day on Tuesday. Please check Parent Mail and share your feedback via the Microsoft Form provided. I will be hosting a parents' evening related to this on Thursday, 4th July. I look forward to seeing you there and continuing our discussions.

Thank you once again for your time and contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nathaniel Wilson' is written over a thin horizontal line.

Nathaniel Wilson

Headteacher

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This week in assemblies

We have been learning about National Refugee week and focusing on the plight of those forced to leave their homes. 50% of refugees are children, and this shocking statistic helped us to reflect on the significance of showing empathy and understanding and why we should help those in need. We watched a video showing what it might look like if we were forced to flee from the UK and this reminded us that Just because it's not happening here, doesn't mean it isn't happening! We are fortunate to have opened the Academy doors to children who have fled their homes and are pleased that they have found safety within our community.

Half of year 9 & 10 received a fantastic presentation from Cairo from The St Giles Trust this week, which tackled the incredibly important topic of knife crime. Sadly, incidents of knife crime continue to increase in Bedfordshire and as an Academy we feel it is important to teach our young people to be able to keep themselves safe; we also want to educate them about the reasons why carrying a knife is not the way to resolve conflict nor to protect themselves.

The presentation was very engaging balancing Cairo's personal experience with facts and myth busting. We have invited Cairo to come back to speak to the remainder of the year group during the next academic year.

[Home - St Giles \(stgilestrust.org.uk\)](http://stgilestrust.org.uk)

We have also partnered with the Idris Elba Foundation and local Bedfordshire charity Dynamic Decisions in order to continue our work around knife crime. These organisations are working together to produce a video to be shared with MPs which will outline how our young people in Bedfordshire feel about Knife Crime, and what they want parliament to do to tackle it. If your child would like to be interviewed for this project, please complete the consent form attached to the Parentmail I sent at the beginning of the week; we cannot interview any students without completion of the consent form. Interviews will take place in July.

Mrs L Pearson
Assistant Headteacher

Sports Day 2024 at Bedford International Athletics Stadium – Friday 12th July

This is our second Sports Day held at this prestigious location and we look forward to another fantastic event.

Following the letter about Sports Day that was sent to all parents of students in year 7-10 earlier this week, please find the key points of the letter below:

If you have not already completed the Sports Day survey that was on the letter sent earlier this week, then please could parents/carers complete the survey using the link below (this is the same survey that was on the letter so please only complete the survey once):

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/e/WNrhu16efB>



The school day will **finish earlier on this day**. To support dismissing our students and preventing congestion in the car park, we will have a staggered finish to the day whereby parents should come to **collect their children at the following times:**

- **Year 7 & 8: 14:30pm**
- **Year 9 & 10 15:00pm**
- **Siblings and students that are car sharing will be allowed to go home at the same time**

Students are required to bring:

- Lunch and plenty of water (unless they normally get a free school meal – this lunch will still be provided)
- Any medication that may be needed on the day even if this is normally stored at school
- Wear full PE kit or sports clothing in the colour representing their 'House'
 - Full PE kit includes: Wixams' navy polo top, navy shorts and trainers
- Hats, sun cream and clothes to keep warm
-

Attenborough	Bronte	Franklin	Hawking	Johnson	Turing	Yousafzai
Orange	Pink	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Purple

To ensure we support parents in getting students to the athletics stadium I have outlined transport provision below. The survey above will help us to ensure all students have transport arranged.

My child normally gets a school bus to get to school:

Students who normally get a school bus will be collected/dropped off at their bus stop as usual and will also be taken to and from the athletics stadium via school bus. Buses will leave the stadium at approximately 14:40pm to take students home going via Wixams Academy before completing the usual bus journey slightly earlier than usual (approx. 10 minutes earlier).

My child does not normally get a school bus to school:

To ensure all students can get to the athletics stadium, the survey will help us to see if parents are able to either drive their child to the stadium or arrange with another parent for car sharing to occur. There is an option for you to let us know if you are unable to arrange transport. Last year, it worked very well where car shares took place due to the capacity of the car park at the stadium as well as capacity of seats on our school buses.

We do ask that as many students who do not get a school bus can find a safe way of travelling to and from the stadium, however we understand that this may not be possible for all.

Sports Day Events:

We have lots of events as outlined below which include both traditional track and field as well as other inclusive events. Students will be signing up during tutor time to events they would like to do:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| -100m | -200m | -300/400m | -800m |
| -Long Jump | -Shot put | -Javelin | -Relay |
| -Welly Wang | -Space hopper race | -Tug of war | -Tennis ball throw |

We look forward to another great Sports Day and thank you for your support in completing the survey in preparation for this event.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Dean Dummett

Assistant Headteacher

Head of PE

Subject Focus: Art and Photography

This month has seen the culmination of the GCSE, A level Art and Photography Courses. This is a very busy, but also very rewarding time of year for the department, with frenetic activity as staff and students alike, work hard to ensure that the gallery exhibitions are completed to the highest standard. It was particularly important this year as it was the first that both the GCSE and A level work had been externally moderated.

We were very proud to open the doors for the Wixams Art exhibition on Thursday 13th June and to share the outstanding work that Wixams students have produced. Parents and peers were very complimentary, a new high standard has been set for our Y10 and 12 students to aim for next year.

Well done, to all the students and a particular thank you to Ms Correya, Mrs Bowling and Mr Wright for putting on such a good show!

Mr Mercel – Assistant Headteacher

Sixth Form UCAS Exhibition

Year 12 - UCAS Discovery Exhibition at the University of Bedfordshire

On Monday, Year 12 students visited the University of Bedfordshire for the annual UCAS Discovery Exhibition.

Students had the opportunity to meet over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers face-to-face.

The students were outstanding and got involved straight away! They engaged in several activities including listening to live expert talks, attending subject-specific workshops and seminars as well as speaking to university representatives.

Students found the event insightful and felt confident that they received the latest advice and information on different career choices. They were also very pleased with the number of freebies they walked away with!

Ms S Rahman

Deputy Head of Sixth Form



DofE Expedition

Well done to all students who have completed their DofE Bronze or Silver expedition this year.

In Year 9, the DofE Bronze participants had some good weather, getting to walk in the lovely countryside of Bedfordshire, before arriving at their campsite in Bromham. They had many adventures, but I'm fairly sure that the one they will all remember is some people getting stuck in the mud, quite literally. They did themselves proud on the expedition.

They needed to carry all of their equipment which they would need for the two days, as well as cooking their own food. We certainly had a variety of foods chosen by the groups this year!

Meanwhile, in Year 10 and year 12, we had two groups. A group of Bronze participants, who successfully passed their expedition walking to Great Barford from Wixams and for their second day, around the Great Barford area. They all completed this very well and it was great hearing their views in the de-brief. Unfortunately, for them whilst the second day was a lot drier and sunnier than the first, they spent the first walking in quite a bit of rain!

With our Silver groups, they had a third day on their practice expedition. This third day, started off with a challenge to really test their map-reading abilities, with lots of challenges thrown in to see if they really could read their map and follow the instructions which they had been given. For their qualifying expedition, we headed off to the Chiltern Hills for three days, where the weather was very kind to us and all groups just finished before the rain came down on the Friday. This group have really pushed up the standards for future years! The expedition was completed by all groups to a very high standard and is definitely a challenge. They were definitely great ambassadors to the school and the wider community! They did themselves proud.

A massive thank you to all staff who have joined us on the expeditions this year. Thank you to all parents who have helped encourage your children to complete the sections – this is the last push for some of them to get there awards this year. The deadline for all sections for awards to be presented this year is the 1st July. For a number of students, they just need to get the assessors report in.

Mr Ashdown

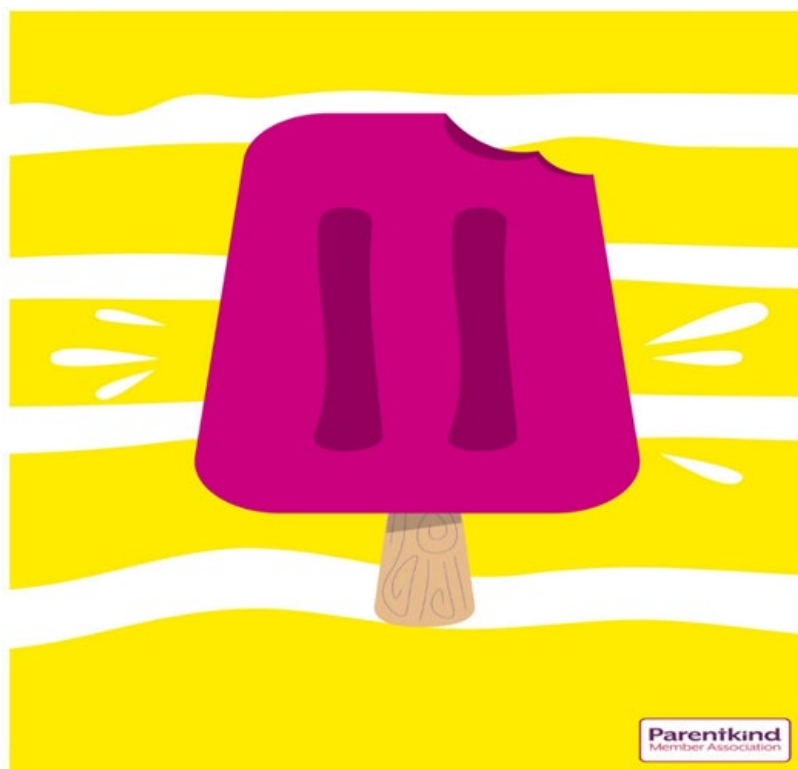
DofE Coordinator



PTA Fundraising at Lunchtime

WIXAMS ACADEMY

PTA



Ice Creams @ Lunchtime on Thursdays

£1 (Cash Only)

PTA VACANCY

As we approach the end of the academic year, the PTA are looking 👀 for a new Secretary to join the team

This role will mainly involve taking minutes at meetings (Routinely held termly on a Thursday evening) as well as participating in Committee decision making throughout the course of the year.

So far this year the PTA have been involved in a number of successful events raising funds for the school but we require the support of a secretary to continue this into next year.

If interested in this voluntary role please contact info@wixamsacademypta.co.uk for more information!

Many Thanks

The PTA Team

Library News

Library News....

Save the dates! I'm really excited to share this event with you. To Be Continued... is a new event for 2024. Please see poster for details. I will send further updates when they become available.

In other news, it's been an excellent year of reading with some of our students exceeding expectations for books borrowed. Well done all of you!

I have been working on a project this year to ensure all of our library books are stickered correctly with a genre and age rating. It's true what they say, "you can't judge a book by its cover" and sadly I've discovered many titles have a cover appeal for our students, but in fact, have content unsuitable for them. It's an on-going project, so I apologise if there are still books coming home that are unsuitable. If you have any concerns, please email me direct: jwestram@wixamsacademy.co.uk.

Thank you for your patience whilst I continue with the project.

Mrs Westram, WA Librarian

TO BE CONTINUED...
COMICS | SERIAL FICTION | MANGA

SAT 14TH & SUN 15TH
SEPTEMBER 2024

CORN EXCHANGE
13 ST PAULS SQUARE
BEDFORD MK40 1SL

OVER 30 PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS, WRITERS AND ANIMATORS

LIVE ART SKETCHING

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COMIC CREATORS

SCI-FI & FANTASY AUTHORS

MEET THE CREATORS OF SPIDER-MAN NOIR, JUDGE DREDD AND MORE!

SCAN FOR MORE INFO!

A CONVENTION CELEBRATING STORYTELLING, ART AND CREATIVITY

BEDFORD Borough Council Culture & Heritage

closeencounters

Bedford BID

PANEL GALLERY

Dates for your diary:

27 th June	Year 7 Subject meetings 2.30-7.30 School closes at 1.45pm
28 th June	Year 11 Prom at Amberly Gardens
1 st July	Work Experience week – year 10 Year 12 work experience
2 nd July	Year 6 – year 7 transfer day New Intake Headteacher talks 4.30 & 5.15pm
3 rd July	Sixth Form Induction Day 1
4 th July	Sixth Form Induction Day 2 Year 8 HPV vaccination catch up Parent consultation on school day 4.30-5.15pm
5 th July	Year 13 Prom at Woodland Manor
9 th July	Year 12 Subject consultations
10 th July	Year 9 Onsite Careers Event
12 th July	Sports Day – Athletics stadium
15 th July	Summer Showcase – 6.00-7.30pm
17 th July	Last day of term