

## Week Commencing 1st July 2024.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your continued support and engagement with Wixams Academy. Your involvement plays a crucial role in our success, and we appreciate all the feedback and communication we have received.

### Acknowledging Our Staff's Hard Work

This past week has been particularly busy and productive at our academy. We want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of all our staff members. Their dedication ensures that our students receive the best education and support possible.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Pearson for her exceptional work in organising and visiting students on their work experience placements. Her commitment helps our students gain valuable real-world experience that will benefit them in their future careers.

### Thank You to Parents

Thank you to all the parents who attended the evening on Thursday to discuss the change in the school day where prep will be removed on Tuesday and replaced with a homework club. I will write to parents in September to provide full details about the homework club and how families can opt their children into this.

We also discussed other aspects of the school related to the new build, the homework policy, and how we can continue to work together in sharing information related to academics with parents. In the coming weeks, I will provide updates on our staffing for September, including the additional capacity we have added to our Pastoral teams, such as the new Teaching Heads of Year.

### Year 6 and Year 12 Induction Success

We had a successful Year 6 induction, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Turney and her team. It was lovely to welcome the new year 6 students who had a taster day of various lessons taught by our school teachers, it was also nice to see the children making new friends and learning different things about each other during the tutor time session they had. We look forward to welcoming them back to school in September as our new year 7 cohort.

Additionally, we had a fantastic Year 12 induction. It was lovely to see so many of our Year 11 students continuing with us, as well as meeting new students from other schools. Thank you to Mr. Mercel, Ms. Rahman the Sixth Form team, and all staff involved in making this event a success.

## Community News

Last week, our students supported the Sports Day at Wixams Tree Primary School. Interim Headteacher Jenny Peel had this to say: "The Sports Leaders today were amazing and great ambassadors of your school!" Well done to our sports ambassadors for representing Wixams Academy so admirably.

## Looking Forward to Culture Week and Sports Day

We are excited about the upcoming Culture Week and Sports Day next week. These events are wonderful opportunities for our students to engage in diverse cultural experiences and showcase their athletic talents. We look forward to celebrating these events with you and your children.

Your support and feedback are invaluable to us as we strive to provide the best possible education for your children. Thank you once again for your continued partnership and commitment to Wixams Academy.



Nathaniel Wilson

Headteacher

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## This week in assemblies

This week in assembly we have been continuing with our focus on the value of Honesty and have investigated the science behind lying. We explored why people sometimes tell untruths and how this can have an impact on those around us. Students were challenged to reflect on the last time they had told a lie and to consider how they could have approached the situation differently.

***Mrs L Pearson***  
**Assistant Headteacher**

## Year 10 & 12 Work Experience

It has been an absolute delight to visit many of our students who have been out on work experience this week. They have undertaken work in a variety of sectors from Transport to leisure, education to care, with a variety of small local businesses and national businesses such as Easy Jet and Transport for London. We are eternally grateful to all the companies who give up their time to support our young people and inspire their future careers. Without them, it would not be possible.





We do hope that this week will encourage our students to consider their next steps post GCSEs and A levels. We have spent a great deal of time looking into various routes such as A levels, T levels, BTECs/NVQs, Apprenticeships and Degrees and all students in year 10& 12 will access a 1-2-1 meeting with Mrs Bastians our careers advisor. She will be able to guide and advise your children in their next steps and the application process.



October marks the beginning of open evenings for 6th form study, and we encourage all our Year 10s to begin researching courses over the summer.



## SEND Support

Bedford Borough would like parents to be aware of their SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service) team. They are a local statutory service dedicated to supporting parents, carers, young people, and children residing in Bedford Borough.

Their mission is to provide a free, impartial, and confidential service to parents and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They also extend their support to young people with special educational needs or disabilities, helping them access the best possible education.

Their goal is to foster a collaborative partnership between parents, carers, young people, and those responsible for their education and training.

For further information about SENDIASS, please visit their page at: [SENDIASS Information](#). They have also attached several helpful information sheets for your convenience.


Please feel free to share their contact details with any families who may benefit from their services.

They can be reached by telephone at 01234 276267 or via email at [sendiass@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@bedford.gov.uk). They strive to respond to all telephone messages and emails as promptly as possible.

Thank you for helping us support the community.


Best regards,

Bedford Borough SENDIASS Team



Bedford  
**SENDIASS**  
Bedford SEND Information Advice  
Support Service

independent  
support



**Bedford SENDIASS helps with**

- Information on special educational needs and disability
- Someone impartial to talk to in confidence
- A straightforward explanation of education and support services
- Putting your views forward in meetings and reports
- Attending educational meetings with you
- Helping you communicate effectively with your child's school/setting/college and/support services

**Bedford SENDIASS**  
☎ 01234 276 267  
✉ [sendiass@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@bedford.gov.uk)  
For more information about Bedford SENDIASS and other SEND services please see  
🌐 [www.localoffer.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.localoffer.bedford.gov.uk)

14/06/23



*Well done Mable Neighbour! You confidently delivered an assembly to all year groups on Autism. Congratulations!!*

Mrs L Bonforte

Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENDSCO)

## Dance Captains

### **Congratulations to our newly appointed Dance Captain and Dance Co-captain for the 2024-2025 season!**

We are thrilled to announce that **Jasmin Mudhar** has been selected as our new Dance Captain, with **Freya Teji** taking on the role of Dance Co-Captain. This dynamic duo will lead our dance team through the upcoming year.

Jasmin and Freya have consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and leadership qualities throughout their time with our dance program. Their passion for dance and ability to inspire others make them ideal choices for these important positions.



As Dance Captain, Jasmin will take on the primary leadership role, coordinating routines, leading practices, and serving as a liaison between dancers and coaches. Freya, as Co-Captain, will provide crucial support and assist in managing team activities and morale.

We have full confidence that Jasmin and Freya will excel in their new roles, elevating our dance program to new heights in the coming season. Their appointment reflects not only their individual talents but also their commitment to teamwork and the growth of our dance community.

Please join us in congratulating Jasmin Mudhar and Freya Teji on their well-deserved promotions. We look forward to an exciting and successful 2024-2025 dance season under their leadership!

Dance Co. Captain



Dance Captain



## Wixams Academy

### Cheerleading club to be held at Wixams Academy

Come along to try stunts, pom dance,  
Tumbles and cheers!

Squad is held every Thursday 3.20-4.20





## Food Taster Session

Some of our students enjoyed a taster session with the catering provider Dolce to sample new recipes for the next academic year.



## General Elections at Wixams Academy

On Friday the 28th June, Wixams Academy hosted a mock polling day, where the assembly hall was temporarily used as a polling station and students could pick the candidate which they deemed as suitable. They had a choice of picking the candidates of Mid-Bedfordshire, which were from a range of parties such as Labour, the Green Party, Reform UK, Conservative or the Liberal Democrats and many more. This was an exciting way of ensuring that all students, who are the future of our country, had a chance to have a say in this monumental political event. With the General Election incoming on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, it was very important to give students and staff this opportunity.



The day commenced in sequence with the younger year groups, with the year 7's having a chance to vote first and ending with the year 10's. We as a community believe that it is significant for our students to know the means by which their parents and carers vote. Additionally, through this students may also have knowledge of how to vote when they are of the age. Again, this is important as decisions made by politicians impact them.



Our sixth formers volunteers had various roles in maintaining the organisation and smoothness of the day. Myself and Alex Morris, my deputy, brought the students in the assembly hall and situating them to the tables to collect their ballot paper. Whilst others registered the students and administered the ballot papers. Some others told the students where to go and ensured that the room ran smoothly. Lastly, some of our sixth formers stood at the doors ensuring that the children got in and out without any issues. Some took their roles seriously so much so that they even came into school dressed as bodyguards!

As a result, Wixams Academy mock General Election 2024 event was successful. I want to give a huge thanks to our sixth form volunteers, who helped manage this event and Mr Byatt, Mrs. Pearson and the Site

Team manager Nino for organising it. Without their huge efforts and participation, we wouldn't have been able to run this event as smoothly as it did or even get the election to happen in the first place.

With over 500 votes cast, Wixams Academy elects...

**Maahwish Mirza of the Labour Party, with 30.6% of the vote.**

Iza Bah  
Head Girl



## Start of Term Plans (Uniform and Equipment)

### Reminder: Start of Term Plans

As a reminder, the start of term plans are as follows:

- **Monday, 2nd September:** Staff return for INSET days on the 2nd and 3rd of September.
- **Wednesday, 4th September:** Year 7 and Year 12 return to school.
- **Thursday, 5th September:** Year 11 and Year 13 return to school.
- **Friday, 6th September:** Year 8, Year 9, and Year 10 return to school.

As we prepare for the return to school in September, we would like to remind all parents about the essential equipment and uniform requirements for our students. Ensuring your child has the necessary items is crucial for their success in the classroom. We advise that parents purchase these items as soon as possible during the summer holidays so that your child is fully prepared for the new school year. We will be carrying out equipment and uniform checks when students return to the academy.

### Essential Equipment:

- Black Pen
- Blue Pen

- Purple Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator
- Reading Book
- Highlighter
- Eraser
- Pencil Case

In relation to uniform, we still need to improve on ensuring students wear their uniforms correctly. Our school website has full details of the uniform items students need to wear daily. Please visit the uniform page for more information. Uniform can be purchased at Uniform Direct.

## Dates for your diary:

### Upcoming week

Date	Activity
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff briefing in the main hall</li> <li>• Year 7 assembly</li> <li>• Culture Week</li> <li>• Arbor staff training</li> <li>• Year 12 reports go home</li> </ul>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8 assembly</li> <li>• Culture Week</li> <li>• Year 12 Subject meetings –In person 4.30-7.30pm</li> </ul>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 9 assembly</li> <li>• Year 9 onsite Careers Event</li> </ul>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture Week –Food stalls in assembly hall at lunchtime</li> </ul>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole school Sports day at Bedford Athletics Club</li> </ul>

### Looking further ahead

15 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Showcase – 6.00-7.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term School closure at <b>1:00pm</b>