



The "SNU"

Volume 8 issue 12

Friday 15 February 2013

Dates For Your Diary

- **Monday 25 February**
- **Saturday 24 February**
- **Monday 25, Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 February**
- **Tuesday 26 February**
- Back to School
- D of E Silver Day Walk
- Staffordshire Regiment and National Arboretum
- Year 11 BTec Event at 1830hrs

Unfair, but not Unlawful

We were very disappointed with the judgement announced this week regarding the English GCSE fiasco. However, the judge did recognise that some students had been treated unfairly:

"I am satisfied that it was indeed the structure of the qualification itself which is the source of such unfairness... and not any unlawful action" (Lord Justice Elias)

The basic structural flaws in the English qualification meant that marks and grades varied depending on when exam papers were taken. The rolling process of accumulating credits had boxed the exam regulators into a tight corner, meaning they had to balance different levels of difficulty in January and June against the requirement to maintain standards.

"Ofqual was engaged in an exercise of damage limitation. Whichever way it chose to resolve the problem, there was going to be an element of unfairness," concluded the judges.

Unfortunately our students have ended up being penalised not because of their ability, but as a result of when they took particular English papers – and that is simply unfair.

It is vital that the Department for Education, Ofqual and the Examining Bodies act to restore confidence in the GCSE qualification and to ensure that future students gain the grades they deserve.

Sixth Form Update

Looking ahead: The year 11 interviews being undertaken by Mr Simmonds (Head of Sixth Form) and Miss Kent (Assistant Head of Sixth Form) started on 28 January and will be running until 14 March. So far, 115 students have applied, more are applying and we expect this to keep on rising.

Exciting news: We are delighted to have launched two further BTec courses for Sixth Form pupils; so even more students are forecast to stay on at Wolgarston. February 26 at 1830hrs is the exclusive event for year 11's to find out more. This will increase the range of vocational qualifications offered by Wolgarston's Sixth Form to five: Business, Art & Design, Construction, Sport and Health, Social Care and Early Years.

Results: The Sixth Form are performing extremely well and we are expecting to convincingly beat A*-C national averages at both AS and A2 with current On Course For grades indicating 81% A*-C grade at A2 (National Average: 76%) and 76% A-C at AS (National Average: 61%) There is no A* awarded at AS level.

Mock examinations for Sixth Form students will be running for three days starting on Monday 15 April. This gives students the best preparation for the forthcoming exams – with less than 25 school days left they need to be studying hard! An exam timetable is displayed in the Sixth Form centre and will be posted on the website.

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Maths Challenge Results

Name	Year	Results
Tom Clemmett	12	77 Gold
James Whitton	12	65 Silver
Calum Grew	12	56 Bronze
Jonas Dieterich	13	55 Bronze
Sam Hilton	12	53 Bronze

Cross Country Championships

Results for the Cross Country Championships that took place on 2 February:

Luke Owen 15th in the Year 9 boys category, with a time of 17 minutes.

Laura Taylor came 16th in the Year 10/11 category with a time of 22 minutes and 4 seconds.

Well done to both!

Year 9 History Projects

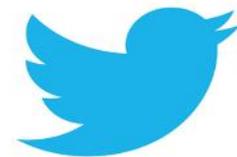
When Year 9 historians were asked 'Why are the Olympics more than just about sport?', the response was incredible! A huge number of paintings, posters, 3D models, film clips and PowerPoints came flooding in, showing fantastic creativity and great historical skills. The Year 9's had to demonstrate their understanding of how the Olympics have been a source of conflict through history, from the racist ideology of Adolf Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics to the terrorist tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The response was overwhelming and the Humanities department arranged to pick one outstanding piece of work from each class with Mr Tapp agreeing to award prizes to each of the winners. Big congratulations to Adams Watts, Patrick Marshall, Emily Hampton, Becky Evans, Chloe Plant, Harry Spruce-Donaldson, Peter Ridgeway-Davies, Sarah Bickford and Mia Plested!



Twitter!

Wolgarston High School now has a Twitter Account! Our Twitter account is @WolgarstonHigh follow us for updates and general school information.



Year 9 Options Evening

We had our Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 7 February which was a great success with attendance for the evening at 90%. If your child has not returned their form, please return it to Student Reception as soon as possible.

PE Updates and News

Dodgeball Leaders

Over twenty boys from Year 10 took part in a Dodgeball Leaders course on Tuesday 22 January. They were taught the full rules and regulations of Dodgeball, given some ideas on practices to improve their gameplay and introduced to some advanced tactics of the game by an official coach from Dodgeball UK. We look forward to the boys representing us at the South Staffs Dodgeball Competition!

Team Manager Training

The PE Department recently selected nine year 10 students for a special training course on Thursday 31 January where they became School Games Team Managers. The students were taken through their leadership paces by Miss Wood from Cheslyn Hay and we look forward to working with them to organise sports competitions in our pyramid of Schools in order to continue with our Olympic Legacy.

Hosting Hi 5 Netball - 5 Feb

On 5 February, Wolgarston hosted the Year 7 High 5 Netball Competition for South Staffordshire. High 5 netball is a simplified game of netball for younger players. Some of our own Netball team helped out with the umpiring and we saw Brewood Middle School victorious. Good luck in the next round Brewood!

Basketball Year 10 - Wolgarston V Walton

A thrilling game took place between Walton and Wolgarston last week with Walton winning by one point by scoring a basket on the buzzer! It was an enthralling encounter and a rematch has been organised for later in the year. Well done boys!

Clubs!

Remember that our extra-curricular clubs are all up and running. Check out the PE noticeboards for what's on!

Year 12 Btec Sport Students Get Into The Community

The Year 12 Btec Sport group have recently been braving the snowy conditions to lead some Multi Skills Sports Competitions in our family of First Schools. First at St Michaels First School, then at Marshbrook First School, then at Princefield First School, all in Penkridge and also at St Leonards First School, Dunston. The First School students have loved taking part in the competitions that have been planned by Year 12 and the Btec students have been superb in their delivery. Well done!



Business at Wolgarston

Our Business BTEC Level 2 Quick Start program was launched on 1 February and 64 students in Year 10 started to create their own 'businesses'!

Representatives from 'Young Enterprise', the provider for the Quick Start Program, organised the launch event, which was also attended by Charlie Hutton, Managing Director of Hutchinson Web Design.

The students were asked to choose which role they would like to play in the business, ranging from Managing Director to Finance Director. Once chosen, the students were placed into four teams to allow them time to think about a business idea.

Some of the ideas so far are mobile phone covers, tie dye products and jam!

This process is just beginning, and the students still have to face the Dragon's Den and the general public when they sell their goods at Penkrudge market. Look out for them!

The Big Read

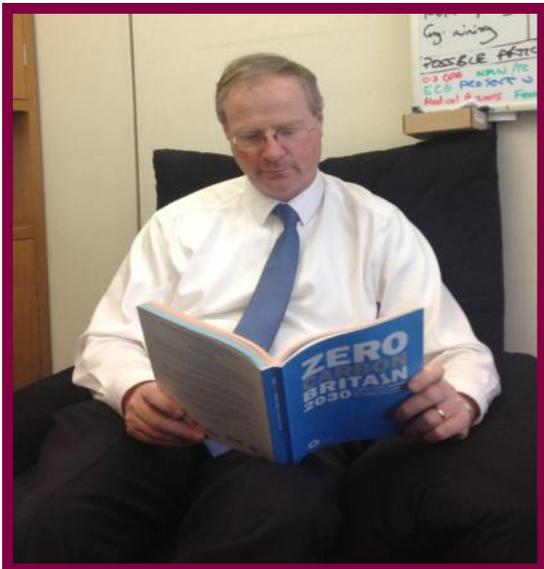
On the 31 January Wolgarston and the collaborating schools took part in "The Big Read". Many of our Sixth Form students headed over to St Michaels and Princefield First Schools to read amongst the younger students, encouraging children and adults alike to read.

Nicola Richards, Josh Richardson, Eloise Durham, Simon Gater, Megan Painter, Tom Clemmett, Laura Pugh, Kate Howlett, Cassie Gunn, Peter Jones, Adam Leroux, Charlotte Burgess
Kelly Burgess went over to Princefield First School and Lauren Cross, Ben Hayes, Ben Roche, Tom Lane, Tegan Blackhurst, Heather Roebuck, Emma Hartley went to St Michael's.

Futhermore we contacted local libraries and MPs to get them involved in the event.

The Big Read at Wolgarston was a definite hit! As I walked around school all I could hear was a pall of silence and the crisp sound of pages turning; staff and students sat down for twenty minutes for some well-earned reading, is there a better way to spend your morning than with a good book? What book are you reading? Please share with us— Miss Walker, Head of Alps.

Here are some photos that have been sent in.



Local MP, Jeremy Lefroy enjoying a 10 minute read in support of The Big Read.



**We've even got the parents taking part whilst at work!
-Parent of a Year 9 student, Heidi Bayliss.**

The Big Readers...

Below are the photos taken from Wolgarston and St Michaels First school, needless to say The Big Read was a big success.



Food Hygiene Rating

We are delighted to announce that following an inspection carried out on Thursday 14th February, our Food Hygiene Rating has been awarded at the highest level (Grade 5)

This highlights the fantastic work carried out over the last 12 months by our in house catering team.

Wolgarston seeks assurance on Food Supplies

We are aware that parents, students and staff are concerned relating to the recent news items in connection with the contamination of horse meat within certain branded products.

We have sought assurances from our suppliers that neither they nor their own suppliers, buy beef products from those companies implicated in recent reports. However, we will continue to see a cast iron guarantee on the quality and origin of the food we buy.

Science goes to Hollywood!

How plausible is the Science in Hollywood blockbusters? Could James Bond stay underwater by breathing in air from a car tyre as he did in 'A View to a Kill'? Could a bus really jump across a gap in a motorway bridge like the one in 'Speed'? Just how many Helium balloons would it take to lift an American house like the one in 'Up'? All these questions and more were answered at Wolgarston on 4 February by the BBC 'Rough Science' presenter, Dr Jonathan Hare (there are some really interesting Youtube clips and information on Dr Hare via Google).

Simon Groom, a mechanical engineer who works on Virgin Trains at Wolverhampton and is a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, arranged for Dr Hare to visit Wolgarston to inspire students to take Science A levels in order to pursue a degree and subsequent career in science and engineering.

Close to 200 students from Brewwood and Penkrigde Middle Schools made the trip to Wolgarston in the morning for a talk on science in the movies by Dr Hare, followed by a more technical version in the afternoon for 150 prospective A level science students from years 10 and 11.

Simon started the ball rolling by talking about the importance of science for his career in engineering that included being on the record breaking TGVR train as it sped through the French countryside. All students agreed that the talks were fascinating – it's not often that we have a TV star delivering our lessons! Hopefully a new generation of scientists and engineers was born. The Local press were in attendance, and the event made it into the Express and Star and Stafford Chronicle.



ALSO AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT - PLEASE CONTACT:

office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

Or take a look at our website at www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk