



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL
Staffordshire



The "SNU"

Volume 8 Issue 10

Friday 25 January 2013

Dates For Your Diary

- **Thursday 31 January**
- **Tuesday 5 February**
- **Thursday 7 February**
- **Friday 15 February**
- **Monday 25 February**
- The Big Read 1045hrs - 1055hrs
- Educational Visit to Birmingham Science Lectures (Sixth Form)
- Year 9 Options Evening 1800hrs - 2000hrs
- School closes for Half Term
- Back to School

A*/A Grades Matter

Our current Year 11 are on track to smash all previous records when it comes to A*/As. There is no doubt at all, even at this early stage, in predicting a 'best ever' for the school. We are also likely to far exceed our previous best in terms of numbers of students achieving straight A*/As across all their subjects. These students are ambitious and are aiming for top universities – and rightly so. For these universities, achieving top GCSE grades really does matter.

This is very exciting and bodes very well for the Sixth Form. Keep up the good work Year 11!

The Wolgarston Collaboration

Since the Autumn Term 2012, all eleven schools across Penkridge, Brewood and the villages of Coven, Bishop's Wood, Wheaton Aston and Dunston have joined together to form "The Wolgarston Collaboration". This new arrangement provides an opportunity for all schools involved to share their expertise, good practice and purchasing power in order to facilitate the best possible outcomes for all students. An action plan has been drawn up which all schools are committed to, and, as parents, you will notice more joint policies being released, as well as a greater emphasis on working together. You will notice, too, that all schools will begin to phase in the use of the Collaboration's logo. This is an exciting opportunity which will help us to continue in further enhancing school improvement and budgeting during challenging economic times. Watch out for the logo and future Collaboration events!



The Big Read

On Thursday 31 January all schools in the Wolgarston Collaboration will be taking part in "The Big Read". All students and staff across the 11 member schools will take part in a simultaneous reading event for 10 minutes from 1045hrs to 1055hrs. That will mean well over 2000 of us taking part.

Sixth Formers from Wolgarston will be attending the first schools to help them launch The Big Read.

If you have the time to take a ten minute break at this time for a quick read, please send us your picture and help us to promote this community event.

UK Youth Parliament Elections 2013

Luke McCormack, Year 10, is one of four candidates running for the UK Youth Parliament for Stafford and South Staffordshire. Luke needs over 1500 votes to gain his place and so would appreciate all of our votes. If elected, Luke will be representing students at a regional and national level. Visit www.youthbox.info/ukyp to see Luke's video. Voting is from 2 February until 15 February 2013. Good Luck Luke!

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eDofE Sessions

For students who have received their Bronze packs and logins, the ICT suite is available to manage your account, upload word document evidence, transfer images from your email account etc. Mrs Russell will be there every day from 1320hrs to help students navigate their account and print off any documents they may need when undertaking their sections.

For the Bronze participants who have their 14th birthday after 1 April 2013, their account will be processed by County on the 1 April 2013 and will have a start date of 1 April 2013.



Bronze 2011

Bronze participants who completed their expedition last year are also welcome to pop into the ICT suite to finalise their Award. Should you have any questions about completion please see Mrs Russell as soon as possible as the County Presentation deadline for this year is the end of February.

Bronze 2012-2013 Meetings

There are information and computer session at 1530hrs - 1630hrs in A11 (all participants to attend please), on Wednesday 6 February 2013. After school session dates for expedition training and lunchtime ICT suite up-date sessions will be released at this session.

Update on Enrolments

Should you have missed the enrolment deadlines for Bronze and Silver, there will be an opportunity to enrol in July 2013. If you are thinking of joining the Award, then please remember that you can backdate one section by 3 months from the enrolment date. In literal terms, if the new enrolment was on 1 July 2013, you could start your Award on 1 April. This would actually mean that the Expedition in 2014 would be the last element you would complete rather than the first! For more information, come and see Mrs Russell or look on <http://www.dofe.org/> There are 36 Bronze places and 36 Silver places available for 2013-2014.

Silver 2012-2013

Silver expedition training meeting and brief for the day walk on the 24 February 2013 is to be held in the D of E office at 1530hrs - 1630hrs 3:30-4:30 on Wednesday 13 February 2013.

Expedition Dates Reminder for 2013



Silver (7 students) (Year 11)

- Day walks: 24 February and 10 March in the local area, and on Cannock Chase (0930hrs - 1400hrs)
- Practice Expedition subject to weather: eve camp 22 March, 23-24 March
- Final Expedition: 26- 28 April (Friday off school)



Bronze (36 students) (Year 10 and 9)

- Day walk (2 dates – 18 or 19 May 2013)
- Practice expedition 15 - 16 June 2013
- Final expedition 6 - 7 July 2013



Year 11 Prom 2013

The deadline for payment of the Year 11 Prom deposit is Friday 1 February. Ticket price is still to be confirmed, but will be no more than £35. If Year 11 students would like to book a ticket, please send a £10 non-refundable deposit (cash only) in an envelope with your name, address and tutor group to Mrs Wynn in Family and Student Services.

The Prom is being organised by students, so if you have any queries, please see one of the committee members.



Charity News

Generous Wolgarston students helped to raise over £1000 for charity last term.

We brought back the 'Penny Wars' event that was so popular last year and yet again our students didn't disappoint, with £113 being raised. This money will be given to St Giles Hospice which is a registered charity that offers specialist care in a variety of settings for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses, as well as providing support for their families and helpers.

We also held a 'Red, White and Blue day'. Students were offered the opportunity to come to school wearing the 3 colours if they made a charitable donation. There were some interesting combinations of clothes that day, and we raised £629.75 which went to 'ABF: The Soldier's Charity' which gives lifetime support to serving and retired soldiers and their families.

To raise money for Children in Need we gave each tutor group the challenge of devising a way to raise £10. We have 32 tutor groups and many of them rose to the challenge superbly and exceeded the £10. Together, the tutor groups raised £439.21.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the charities we raise money for, to say a massive thank you to all the students that have donated either their money or their time. We will be holding more charitable events as the year goes on. This half term we will focus on the British Heart Foundation. Students that want to get involved with organising an event should speak to Miss Lodge.

The Weather!

The weather has certainly been a hot topic of conversation over the past couple of weeks!

Over the past five or six years we have only needed to close Wolgarston for reasons beyond our control such as the occasion when our heating system broke down. Therefore it was very frustrating to have to close during last Friday but we did so on the advice of our transport companies. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.



On Sunday 20 January we cleared the site ahead of our Sunday revision sessions here in school and have remained open all week. As a result of being able to open we have been able to continue with vital year 11 revision lessons prior to external examinations.

We would encourage parents and students to consider that we will on all occasions make every effort to open; this will enable everyone to plan accordingly when bad weather does hit the region or country.

However, we do want to stress that we have students who access this school from very diverse areas ranging from those extremely close to the school and comfortably within walking distance to those who travel from much further afield and along less well maintained roads where transport is difficult.

We would advise all our parents to make a decision which is in their child's best interest and safety before sending them to school. When parents do not feel that to send their child to school is safe please contact the school attendance officer on 01785 788404.

Should we find weather conditions are so bad that we cannot clear our site or that it is not possible to access us either by walking or transport we will update our website, send text messages to those parents who have provided us with mobile phone details and inform our local radio stations. We will aim to have this process completed by 0715hrs.

We would like to thank our staff for their valiant efforts to attend over the trickiest days (Friday to Tuesday). Our snow related absence over that period was below 0.5% (just 1 absence in 3 days) - well done team!

Finally, we would like to thank our students for their excellent behaviour. A site full of snow is very tempting and we have had very few incidents of any concern. Indeed, there have been some wonderful snowball fights for those who wished to take part on our snow covered fields!

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

The next issue of the SNU due..... 8 February 2013