



The "SNU"



Dates For Your Diary

- **Tuesday 18 December**
- **Friday 21 December**
- **Monday 7 January**
- **Tuesday 8 January**
- **Tuesday 15 January**
- Educational Visit to National Portrait Gallery (Sixth Form Art Students)
- School Closes for Christmas at 1245hrs
- INSET Day—school closed to students
- School reopens
- Educational Visit to Birmingham Science Lectures (Sixth Form)

A Christmas message from the Chair of Governors



As we come to the end of the first term in this academic year it is time to reflect on everything that has been achieved. Each of our year groups faces the challenge to perform to the very best of their ability and I wish them all every success and mention that there is no substitute for hard work! I also remember that a number of members of staff were new to our school in September and some members of staff have had changed roles; I trust that you have all settled well into the life of Wolgarston.

On behalf of the governing body may I wish you all, students, their families, the school's staff and colleague governors a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Howard Stemp
Chair of Governors

Chemistry Lectures

Sixth form chemistry students have enjoyed attending a series of lectures at Birmingham University that are sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry. In October, Dr Tom Smith gave a lecture on fireworks and demonstrated how noise and colour are added to the rockets that he uses in his displays, he designs the London New Year's Eve fireworks!

Appropriately for Olympic year, the next lecture was about drugs and sport. Dr Simon Cotton explained how drugs can enhance the performance of cyclists and athletes, how these drugs can be detected and the unfortunate side effects that they have.

The Christmas lecture was 'Chemical Magic' when Dr Plevy and his wife demonstrated many moving memorable magical momentous magnificent masquerades. Year 12 students were asking, 'How did he do that?' whilst the year 13 students smiled and knew how it was done!

Join the 'A' level chemistry team next year for epic trips by train to the University for topics such as 'The Elements and Chemical engineering' and 'Nanotechnology.'

Mrs D Jones, Science Teacher



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Christmas Festivities at Wolgarston



What a wonderful start to the festive season we have had at Wolgarston. On Wednesday 5 December we welcomed students and parents from Penkridge Middle and Brewood Middle to join Wolgarston students for an evening of pure delight!

The evening started with the audience and choirs joining together to sing "Once in Royal David's City". This was followed by the different choirs singing some of our festive favourites.

We also had a new "Fusion Ensemble" from Wolgarston treating us to an instrumental version of Walking in the Air and Merry Christmas Everybody. Clara Lowe (Year 11) played a couple of solo tunes on the flute and our guest foreign student Jolanda Muller played a beautiful rendition of Winter and Troika on her clarinet. Later students from all of the schools joined together to sing a beautiful version of Away in a Manger.

A special mention must go to the "Boyz!" choir from Penkridge - they did a superb version of Wham's Last Christmas with loud voices and actions as well. An absolute credit to Mrs Pickles, the Music teacher.

The following evening we had the Sixth Form students hosting a Christmas Party for eighty-five of our local senior citizens. The students organised drink, food and entertainment to the delight of all of those present. Mr Ball, our new Music teacher, performed alongside the Spark Choir and Fusion Ensemble and accompanied our solo singers on the piano. Santa also put in a guest appearance - a fun night was had by all.

Our next event to look forward to is Tuesday 18 December when we are hosting our Performing Arts Evening, with musicians, singers, dancers and actors from Wolgarston performing in the Lecture Theatre.

School finishes for the Christmas break on Friday 21 December at 1245hrs, with the buses leaving school premises at 1300hrs.



Maths Advent Competition

Well done to Year 9 students Gracie Toon and Lucy Woodhouse (both PY/KA) who entered the Inter-House Maths competition to design a Mathematical Advent Calendar. The girls had the winning design (left) and received a large chocolate advent calendar as a prize!





Year 11 Prom 2013

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Tuesday 25 June 2013 at the Moat House Hotel, Acton Trussell. The Prom will include a buffet, disco, Prom King and Queen and Oscar awards. 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 deadline for receipt of deposits is Tuesday 18 December.

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

Committee: Amelia Arnold, Alice Barrett, Beth Cooper, Charlotte Fern, Paige Gollick, Ellie Melbourne, Sophie Price and Verity Went.



Guides Gain Top Award

Charlotte Cooper, Becki Fisher, Nicole Kelly and Immee LeRue from 2nd Penkridge Guides were presented with their Baden Powell Challenge Award in November night by Jackie Davies. The girls all started in Jackie's Rainbow group when they were about 5 or 6 years old, they progressed through Brownies and went on to Guides.

To complete the award they had to complete ten challenges each ranging from ice-skating to a Chinese New Year evening organised for the whole guide unit. They created recipe books for Brownies and welcome packs for new Guides. Their ultimate achievement was to attend a BP challenge weekend. Congratulations to all four guides!

Immee and Nicole now attend Rangers, Charlotte is a young leader with the Brownies and Becky still attends Guides meetings.



Movember Fund Raising

Well done to the gents of Wolgarston for taking part in the international "Movember" event. This annual event raises vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate and testicular cancer.

The gentlemen of Wolgarston, led by Mr Leonard, Science teacher, raised a fabulous £921.90 for "Movember". Thank you to everyone who showed their support.

Mobile numbers and Email Addresses

Please ensure that school have your up-to-date mobile numbers and email addresses. We are using the texting and emailing system more and more and we are sure you will be finding this as a valuable method of communication as we are. It is essential that we have correct details, so that we can contact parents in cases of emergency, or to keep you informed regarding your child's progress. We would also advise you should we need to close the school due to bad weather or if there is a free dress day.

Attendance

Look out for attendance letters coming home next week, with up-to-date information on your child's attendance for the autumn term.

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..... January 2013