



The "SNU"



Dates For Your Diary

- **Tuesday 15 January**
- **Thursday 24 January**
- **Tuesday 5 February**
- **Thursday 7 February**
- **Friday 15 February**
- **Monday 25 February**
- Educational Visit to Birmingham Science Lectures (Sixth Form)
- Year 9 Parents' Evening 1630hrs - 1930hrs
- Educational Visit to Birmingham Science Lectures (Sixth Form)
- Year 9 Options Evening 1800hrs - 2000hrs
- School closes for Half Term
- Back to School

Fond Farewells...

At Christmas we said goodbye to Mr Clark and Mrs Hastings Smith, both Assistant Headteachers who led key departments for us (Maths and Modern Foreign Languages respectively) before becoming members of the school's Senior Leadership Team. We would like to thank them both for their huge contributions to the school in supporting parents, pupils, staff and educational initiatives. Mrs Hill (History and Sociology) has emigrated to Australia which had been a long term ambition for her. Finally Mrs Stockdale (Science Technician) was successful in gaining a promotion at a large secondary school.

...And Warm Welcomes

We are pleased to welcome new staff to our team this term. We have Mr Mitchell joining us as second in Maths, Mrs Whiteford joining the Modern Foreign Languages team and Miss Sillett working alongside the Science Technicians. She will also be working part-time at Penkridge Middle School. You will hear more from them once they have settled into Wolgarston.

What do we do on INSET Days?

We now update the grades for every student in every subject each half term. This means that we can carefully track each student's individual progress and make decisions about what interventions may be necessary. It's one thing to collect lots of data; it is another to make good use of it. Each of our departments are using a substantial amount of our INSET time to carefully go through the data for their subjects, and are using the information to help shape their planning and their targeted interventions.

Students are updated on their new grades each half term which supports them in understanding how they are progressing towards their target grade for each subject. The added bonus is also that we can issue reports more frequently to parents therefore keeping you well informed of your child's progress.

Does it make a difference? We are on track for another significant improvement in results this year, so yes, it certainly does.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Wolgarston High School, Cannock Road, Penkridge, STAFFORD ST19 5RX
01785 788 400 (Main Reception) 01785 788 414 (Family and Student Services) 01785 788 404 (Attendance Line)
FAX: 01785 788 418 EMAIL: office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

Community Food Boxes

Before Christmas, students were collecting long life food to create food boxes for The Signpost Centre in Stafford. Students created some beautiful cards and proved they know the true meaning of Christmas. Miss Walker and Mrs Williams loaded their cars up to deliver the boxes. The



staff who received the gifts were impressed with our boxes and wanted to thank our students for their generosity; *'they will go to a good cause, we will deliver them before Christmas and it will probably make the festive period for them. We are so reliant on charity and without your support we couldn't do what we do'.*

The best card was from Miss Pearce's tutor group and the finest presented box was Mr Brickley's tutor group. Finally, thank-you and well done to both staff and students for their hard work, it is much appreciated.

Miss Walker, Head of Alps.



Signposts

At the centre of your community

Bad Weather Procedures

With bad weather promised in the near future, this is an opportune time to remind you of our school closure procedures should we have severe cold weather conditions.

A decision regarding school not opening would be made as early as possible in the day and parents / carers would be sent a text message and an email to inform them of the situation. Sixth Formers would also receive a message directly to them. We therefore remind all parents, carers and Sixth Formers that it is imperative that we have your correct and up-to-date details. Please inform us immediately should your details have changed or if we do not already hold this information on file.

A message would also be on the front page of our website and details would be on Heart FM radio station.

Should we feel the need to close school during the course of the day, parents/carers would be informed in the same manner. Bus companies would be alerted and school would not close until all students were off the premises.

We can assure you that Wolgarston will only close in the most severe of circumstances and due to circumstances beyond our control.

During times of bad weather, may we also remind you to take extra care on the school car park.

Car Parking at Wolgarston

If you collect your child from school at the end of the day please use the overflow carpark on the playground and try and arrive before 1530hrs (or after 1540hrs) and plan to remain until 1540hrs. For obvious safety reasons we seek to restrict traffic movement during the 10 minutes when students are leaving school. For the same reason the area marked by yellow markings **MUST NOT** be used for parking or loading **AT ANY TIME**. For the safety of all at Wolgarston please support these simple measures.

We would also remind you that the disabled space near the front of school should not be used as a general parking space. We have students and parents who need to use this facility on a regular basis.

Additional Awards Update from Mrs Russell

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Please could all students who completed their expedition last summer log on to their edofe account and send their expedition section for approval. They should also get their other sections which have been completed signed off by their assessor and send those sections to Mrs Russell for authorisation completion. The presentation date is looming and we need completion.



There are some Sixth Formers who finished their expedition in 2011, they should also think about uploading information on completed sections.



Any login problems see Mrs Russell straight-away.

New Bronze 2012-13 students, keep checking your email for your login details. There will be a list of dates and meeting in the next SNU.

Community News

St Mary's and St Chad's Church in Brewood are looking for new people interested in learning the skill of church bellringing. This is open to everyone over 11 years old. Students and adults are invited - everyone is welcome. You don't have to be musical or mega-strong! Contact Mrs Russell for contact details or Mr Short or Mrs Wheatley directly.

Portrait Award Competition

The Portrait Award, now in its thirty-fourth year, at the National Portrait Gallery and twenty-fourth year of sponsorship by BP, is the most prestigious portrait painting competition in the world. With a first prize of £30,000 the Award is aimed at encouraging artists to focus upon and develop portraiture in their work.

The BP Portrait Award 2013 exhibition will run at the National Portrait Gallery, London, from 20 June to 15 September 2013.

The competition is open to everyone aged 18 and over in recognition of the outstanding and innovative work currently being produced by artists of all ages working in portraiture.

Closing date is 11 February 2013.

For more information, follow this link:

<http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/exhibitions/bp-portrait-award-2013/the-exhibition.php>

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 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.



Student Council



Student Council

Congratulations to the Student Council on successfully completing their student council training.

Year 10 students spent a double lesson looking at their role as student council representatives. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic the students were about making improvements to our school. Some of the items looked at were: what is expected of a Student Council Representative, what roles they need to complete and how to run a classroom discussion. The Year 10 students then explained this to the new Year 9 members who were fantastic at making contributions.

All the representatives then had a short meeting with Mr Tapp to discuss why they had put themselves forward to represent the student body in our school. The Council

Members received certificates based on their level of training.

Well done to all of the Student Council; we are looking forward to your contributions to our school.

Mrs Kirk - House Leader

Auf Wiedersehen to Jolander

Our overseas student, Jolander Müller, said "Auf Wiedersehen" to us at Christmas after spending last term in England. Jolander was an asset to our school, performing in school productions and making many friends. She has sent the following letter to us and we all wish her well with her future back home in Germany.

First of all I would like to thank you for all the effort you made to sort out all my classes and introduce me to teachers and students, like Scarlett, who helped me to get settled in school and school's routine. It was great for me to be in such a lovely tutor group with her.

I would also like to thank all the staff for being supportive all the time. This includes the teachers as well as the caring staff in the library.

At Wolgarston, I was able to take part in after school activities which I enjoyed very much. I could also join the two Christmas concerts which gained me a lot of confidence.

As another part of great importance to me, I made many friends at Wolgarston, who are as I think, friends for life.

I do really appreciate all efforts that have been made for me!

Jolander Müller

It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Mrs Bott, Humanities Department, and Mrs Flanagan, D&T, who both gave birth to baby girls over the festive period. We would like to send both teachers and their families our very best wishes.



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