



# The Independent

Wolverhampton Grammar School Newsletter

Summer 2015



**Thank you and farewell  
to our outstanding Upper Sixth Form**

The school term was coming to a close just as *The Independent* went to print. Good luck and congratulations to everyone taking part in the Jazz Spectacular, Prizegiving, Junior School Summer Fair, Speech Day, Key Master production, Battlefields Trip, German Exchange, Sports Day and all our end of term activities. We'll update you all in the next edition, but for now...

**HAVE A WONDERFUL  
SUMMER!**

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# Head's Welcome

## Summer Term Edition



Everyone loves the Summer Term at WGS. The sight of our students, basking in the sun, playing catch and football on Moreton's Piece over the lunchtime, or just enjoying the company of friends they will know for a lifetime, really does warm the heart.

It is though, a busy term for many, and perhaps only now that the public exam season is over, can those due to leave us for pastures new begin to look with excitement to their lives ahead. As I

write, we have just said farewell to the Upper Sixth. There were tears (from staff and students!) but the sadness of the goodbye was balanced for me by the confidence of several happy students who have popped in having completed their first year at university. It's a reminder that WGS lays down the foundations for young people to develop successful independent lives: the evidence is we do it pretty well.

As our sixth form leave for pastures new, so too do some of the staff who have made their time here so very memorable. Mr Raymond-Barker and Mrs Preston retire after nearly sixty years of service between them: Mrs Baker, Mrs Pawluk and Mr Burden leave for significant promotions (Mrs Baker to become a headteacher) and Mrs Bradley-Buxton leaves having reached the end of her year long contract. We are grateful to all these

teachers for their many contributions to school and wish them the very best. The final weeks of the year are always frantically busy. There is barely a day now that is not host to one exciting activity or another, with both Junior and Senior prizegivings to come, a play and the wonderful Jazz Spectacular. That is to say nothing of the treats in store during lessons. I, along with the students of Year 8, am eagerly awaiting STEM Day, and the Battlefields Trip will no doubt challenge and inspire.

As the long Summer holiday beckons, I wish those adventuring to Uganda a fantastic time. To all of our community, enjoy this third edition of *The Independent*, and have a wonderful break.

Kathy Crewe-Read  
Head



## News Room

Wolverhampton Grammar School is launching a new and improved online education platform for Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form students from September.

Known as Firefly, the new secure, online system will help students and teachers create and access resources from anywhere.

"We'll be gradually introducing Firefly to students from September and eventually, parents will be able to access their children's reports and students will be able to access teaching and learning guides, information about our academic departments and extra-

curricular activities." said Nic Anderson, Deputy Head.

Mr Anderson added "Students have seen how their teachers are using Apple iPads in lessons and Firefly is another great example of how our school is very much at the forefront of online learning. We recognise that Apple is leading the way in terms of educational resources and we want to make sure we do everything we can to ensure our students make the most of that opportunity."

The school will always ensure that all students (no matter how they choose to obtain resources) will be able to access the very best teaching and

learning support. However, if you are considering replacing the mobile device that your child uses to access the internet, we would recommend choosing one of the Apple products including the iPod, iPod touch, iPad, iPad Mini or iPhone - essentially any device that will enable your child to access iOS (the mobile operating system created and developed by Apple Inc). This will ensure your child can use the same Apps that their teachers are during lessons. Please, contact the school's IT department for more advice, but do remember that ALL children will always be able to access the online resources that they need, here at school.



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## Head Boy and Girl Announced

Jack Price-Darbyshire and Freya Cunningham have been announced as newly appointed Head Boy and Girl for Wolverhampton Grammar School.

The positions of Head Boy and Girl provide key leadership and a supportive role for students across the School. The head prefects are selected annually and nominations are open to all students in our Lower Sixth Form ahead of their progression in September to the Upper Sixth.

Both Jack and Freya joined the School in Big 6 following a visit to a School Open Day.

"I remember joining in Big 6 and looking up to the Head Boy as a figure of respect and honour that seemed, at the time adult and far away, and to think I am now in that position is still taking some time to get used to. That said, it is a great privilege, and I am honoured to be selected for it. I



consider myself fortunate in that I am supported by a brilliant Head Girl and a fantastic prefect team in this important task. I am eager to fulfil it as best I can

in the upcoming academic year" said Jack from Penn, Wolverhampton.

Freya (who lives in Bridgnorth) added "The school community has always been important to me. My brother came here first, so even before I joined the school I admired the older students. They seemed incredibly rounded, intelligent and kind people. As Jack said, it is an honour to now be involved in giving support to the younger students. I think this is a time for giving back to the school as a thanks for all the help and inspiration I received as a young student. I look forward to working with Jack, the staff and our prefects to do this."

Students can join Wolverhampton Grammar School at any point from Year 3 (in our Junior School) to Year 12 (Sixth Form) and so the roles of Head Boy and Girl are instrumental in supporting all students as they arrive and progress throughout the School.

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## Dates for your Diary

Good luck to all students awaiting GCSE, AS and A Level results! Visit [www.wgs.org.uk](http://www.wgs.org.uk) for all school calendars and details about forthcoming open events.

- **AS and A Level Results Day**  
Thursday 13th August
- **GCSE Results Day**  
Thursday 20th August
- **Year 7 and Year 12 Induction Day**  
Wednesday 2nd September
- **Start of Term**  
Thursday 3rd September
- **Old Wulfrunian's Sports Festival**  
Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September
- **School Open Day**  
Saturday 3rd October

## A warm welcome to all our new staff starters this term:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Diane Birt      | • Scott Fellows   |
| • Nicole Manning  | • John Murphy     |
| • Barbara Fill    | • Eve Haughton    |
| • Caroline Harris | • Stephanie Smith |
| • Lauren Hill     | • Marguerite Game |

## Best of luck to staff who are moving on this term:

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Joanne Taylor        | • Dawn Bradley-Buxton |
| • Les Homer            | • Jill Pawluk         |
| • Christine Preston    | • Kate Baker          |
| • Vince Raymond-Barker | • Nicola Murphy       |
| • Nathan Burden        |                       |



# Two Week Timetable Special

## Your Questions Answered

Wolverhampton Grammar Senior School is preparing for the introduction of a new, two week timetable from September.

At the moment, lessons last 35 minutes. The move to a two week timetable will increase lesson length to 50 minutes. Two week timetables are common place across the best independent schools and research shows that 50 minutes is an ideal lesson length - ensuring lessons are long enough

to allow students time to develop higher order skills like critical thinking and problem solving, and to enable students to work both independently and collaboratively.

There are many benefits to the two week timetable and the transition will be very easy. To help, we've collated what we think are helpful FAQs to help ensure you have all the information you need to prepare for the change.

### ***When does the new two week timetable start?***

From the start of the new term in September 2015.

### ***Will the timetable changes make a difference to the start and end of the school day?***

The school day will start at 8.50am and end at 4pm (the same times as now).

The implementation of longer lessons will reduce the feeling for your child of being "rushed" to get to the next lesson as there will be fewer lesson interchanges during the day.

### ***What will a typical day look like?***

Each day there will be six lessons, with break after period 2 and lunch after period 4. The week will therefore consist of 30 periods in all, and a cycle of two weeks will contain 60 periods.

To the right you will see what a typical day for Senior School will look like, with a 5 minute changeover between all periods.

You will note that assembly time for the Senior School remains as an important focus for the community at the beginning of each day, except Wednesday, where lunch is slightly earlier to facilitate block fixtures in senior games.

Another feature of the new timetable is slightly more teaching time, so students will have an enhanced learning experience and more of it!

#### **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

08.50am	Registration
08.55am	Assembly
09.15am	Period 1
10.10am	Period 2
11am	Break
11.20am	Period 3
12.15pm	Period 4
13.05pm	Lunch
14.05pm	Registration
14.15pm	Period 5
15.10pm	Period 6
16:00pm	School ends

#### **Wednesday**

08.50am	Registration
08.55am	Period 1
09.50am	Period 2
10.40am	Break
11am	Period 3
11.55am	Period 4
12.45pm	Lunch
14.05pm	Registration
14.15pm	Period 5
15.10pm	Period 6
16:00pm	School ends

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### ***When will students know what their new timetable will look like?***

The new timetable will be issued (as usual) to students at the beginning of September when they return from their summer break. Form Tutors will spend time with their students to ensure they know how the new timetable works and where to find advice if they need it.

### ***How will I be able to remember which week we are in?***

Each week will be known as either a Blue or Red Week. The start of the new academic year in September will be a Blue Week and there will be handy reminders around school. For example, all student planners are being designed so that students can tell what week they are currently working on, computer and information screens around school will act as a constant reminder for students and the calendar on the school website will also highlight whether we are in a Blue or Red Week.

Form Tutors will also ensure that all children know where they need to be at any one time. Heads of Year will also make sure that students are fully supported and not worried about the changes.

### ***What about lunchtime activities?***

Lunchtime activities including music, sport and extra-curricular clubs will be available as normal. The Music and Sports Departments will talk to students about what activities are available when and all clubs will be listed on the school website's club calendar. Form Tutors will also talk through available lunchtime activities with their students.

### ***Will there still be enough time for Assembly and Registration with Form Tutors?***

There will be an assembly on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

All students will still have time with their Form Tutors and, in a two week timetable, students in the critical transition period of Years 7 and 8, will have increased tutorial time.

### ***Are there any other benefits?***

The restructuring will also allow freeing up of some academic options too, so for example Art and Design & Technology have traditionally been studied in half yearly blocks by students below Year 9, they can now be studied continuously throughout the year. Additionally the move has enabled us to offer the sciences as option subjects, rather than all three being compulsory at GCSE level. Whilst all three sciences are strong at our school and we expect most students will wish to study them, we want to offer choice to those whose strengths and interests lie elsewhere. In the Junior School, this change will also enable us to provide more science and language teaching, something we know our children really enjoy.

### ***What help will be available for OpAL, or other students, who may need extra support to adjust?***

As for any student, Form Tutors and Heads of Year can help them make sure they understand their new timetable. As OpAL students have small group and individual support they are also encouraged to speak to their OpAL tutor if they have any worries. In addition, all OpAL tutors will be talking to their students about the two week timetable to make sure we are doing everything that we can to help them with the transition.

### ***How will the Junior School fit in with the two week timetable?***

Wolverhampton Grammar Junior School will continue to have a one week timetable as now, and the timing of lessons will dovetail seamlessly. Their lunch will continue to be at 12.10pm.

***If you, or your child are at all worried about anything related to the two week timetable, please come and talk to us so that we can reassure you about the change.***

### ***Thought of a question not listed here?***

Contact Carrie Bennett email: cab@wgs-sch.net with any questions about the changes to the timetable.



## Rapunzel

**Congratulations to everyone who played their part in this year's Lower School production of Rapunzel.**

Stellar performances were on show both front of house and backstage as the traditional story of Rapunzel had a contemporary twist with direction from the English Department's Mr Payne and Mr Benfield.

Casting was superb, with a number of characters stealing the show for what turned out to be a run of outstanding performances.

Special thanks to parents, family and friends for their infinite patience during the long hours of waiting, fetching and carrying as the rehearsals took place. Thanks too, of course, to Mr Tyler for his invaluable help and assistance in the background.

**Well done to everyone involved!**



### Cast

Rapunzel: Mollie Bate  
 Patrizio - Prince of Tuscany: Alex Westwood  
 Paulo - Prince of Tuscany: James Bebb  
 Duchess of Tuscany: Amicia Crewe-Read  
 Pierluigi Ambrosi: Reuben Khara  
 Mother Gothel: Ellie Denton  
 Prezzemolina: Lexie Turner  
 Signora Farfalle: Lydia Rudd  
 Shark Fantini: Reece McCarthy  
 Teenage Rapunzel: Loveday Thompson  
 Young Rapunzel: Lizzie Anderson  
 Apple Seller/fighting woman: Karishma Mehan  
 Umberto - old man: Adam Gregory  
 Il Cinghiale (The Boar): Harvey Brown  
 Herbs, citizens, chorus, magic ladder makers, priest, scientist, Rapunzel's patients, Italian tourist sites and ravine: Will Beards, Maddie Bough, Ross Deeley, Katie Evans, Gurnam Hallaith, Oscar Hamilton-Russell, Ashley Makame and Freya Thompson.



### Backstage

Stage Manager: April Beaman  
 Staging: Kevin Petford  
 Graphic Design: Lauren Vasey  
 Costume: Mary Mullock  
 Music Arrangement and Direction: Ray Curran  
 Technical Director: Oliver Cox  
 Directors: Mark Payne and Mark Benfield



## Perfect Evening for the Summer Concert

The Hutton Theatre was the perfect setting for the Junior School's Summer Concert on the 18th June. It was wonderful to see so many students taking part in an evening of dance, drama and music. Well done to everyone who played their part in providing a sell-out performance for all our parents.

Andrew Hymer, Junior School Head said "Hosting the concert in the Hutton Theatre proved to be a great success. Our sincere thanks are extended to all the teachers and coaches who worked so ably with the children, but particularly to Mrs Pawluk for her final concert for the Junior School."



There was really something for everyone including Choir performances, Wind Band, String Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Junior School Dance Club, Flute Trio, Jazz Duos and String Trios!



## Live Show in Support of Uganda

Big School was alive with music and celebration in May, as artists from the city's Seventh-day Adventist Church community descended for 'The Jinja Concert'.

Organised by Lower Sixth student Miranda Roberts, with the help of her family and friends, the event raised over £1300 for charitable concerns in and around Jinja, Uganda.

Wolverhampton Grammar School has had a link with Uganda partner school, Lords Meade Vocational College, for twelve years and fundraises annually to support them. This July, sixteen students from the school will be visiting Uganda for a two-week expedition, spending five days living and working alongside



their Ugandan counterparts at Lords Meade and seeing all that the country has to offer.

This year's fundraising campaign was given a fantastic boost by the host of lively performers at the May event. Gospel choirs, soloists, poets, dancers and musicians made for a diverse evening of entertainment.

Rhiannon Platt, co-ordinator of Wolverhampton Grammar School's Uganda Link, said, "The generosity of spirit and talent on display at The Jinja Concert was remarkable and showcased some of our students at their selfless best. We are very proud of Miranda Roberts and all her hard work."

All proceeds from the event will go to the organisations that Wolverhampton Grammar School supports in Uganda: Lords Meade Vocational College, Yamba home for street boys and MUFO for education in rural communities.





## 44th Annual Art Exhibition

The Viner Gallery was host to the 44th Annual Art Exhibition on Saturday 4th July.

Students' work representing AS, A Level, Year 9 Red by Night pieces and the Junior School Art Competition winner from the recent Festival of Ideas were all on display to an appreciative audience.

Good luck to everyone awaiting Art exam results in August.

## Grace Gelder Exhibit

Former student, photographer and filmmaker, Grace Gelder came back to school to exhibit some of her acclaimed photography. The London based artist works with a range of individuals and organisations to inspire individual and social transformation. The students were inspired by her work and it was great to see how a former student has now become a successful commercial artist.



## Red by Night at the Black Country Living Museum

On Saturday 16th May the Black Country Living Museum opened its doors after hours as part of the European 'Night at the Museum' celebration to showcase the industrial might of the region. Famously described as 'black by day, red by night', the Black Country was once an industrial powerhouse like no other and this special event saw the Museum bring Elihu Burritt's famous quote to life as it transformed into a glowing plethora of smoke and fire. Ten of our Year 9 students represented the school at the museum, exhibiting drawings, prints and paintings, previously shown at the Viner Gallery as part of the 'Forged in Metal' public exhibition. Many of the exhibitors were at the event as Art Ambassadors and were charming, entertaining and polite, explaining to some of the thousands of visitors about their work and the school. They really did us proud.





**Thank you to everyone who has made use of the Jenyns, Junior and Sixth Form Libraries. We're busier than ever! Here's just a snapshot of what we've been up to and what's to come.**

### Student Librarians

Many thanks to the following students who have trained as Student Librarians this year: Philippa Cawdell (Year 10), Imogen Wade (Year 10), Christine Mineva (Year 10), Caelan Ferguson (Year 9), Joshua Wade (Year 8), George Middlebrook (Year 7), Brandon Taylor (Year 7), Komal Sahota (Year 7), Libby Stewart (Year 7), Lydia Rudd (Year 7), Sahand Kadir (Year 7) and Lizzie Anderson pictured (Year 7).



### WGS Book Clubs

The Senior School Book Club has been well attended this term. The group have read and enjoyed the "Mockingbird" by Katherine Erskine. The issues explored within this book introduced students to a strong and complex character with Asperger's Syndrome.

The Junior School Book Club has continued to meet every Tuesday after school. The students have been busy completing a display based on 'Reading in the Summertime', and is now hanging proudly in the Junior School.



### Summer Reading

The summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students to rediscover a love of reading and develop their reading skills. It is proven that children who stop reading during the summer can lose up to two months of reading progress which can have a long-term effect. With this in mind we have teamed up with Dudley, Wolverhampton, Shropshire and Staffordshire Library Services to encourage children from Years 3 to Year 7 at WGS to visit their local library and join the Summer Reading Challenge.

This is completely free and every child who completes the six book challenge will receive rewards from their local library. WGS will award students who complete the challenge with a certificate and an invitation to a lunchtime reward activity in the Jenyns Library.

Our summer recommended reads can be found in the Library or on the school's website.

### Accelerated Reader

A new Accelerated Reading Programme for Years 7 and 8 is going to be introduced to each and every student providing individual guidance to help accelerate development of reading and literacy skills.

Students and parents will receive more information about Accelerated Reader Programme in September.

### Giovanni Esposito Delivers Poetry Masterclass

Former Birmingham Poet Laureate Giovanni Esposito, also known as Spoz, visited the Library in May to run rhyme and poetry workshops for Years 6, 7 and 8. Spoz is especially good at making poetry interesting, relevant and fun for young people.

### Storytelling with John Edgar

John Edgar is a well-known actor, storyteller and author whose speciality is creating and performing tales to children and young people. John came into school to work with Year 5 students during our recent School Discovery Day. John entertained students with his imaginative stories from around the world, each story was performed and described so vividly that children were engrossed for the entire session.

### Go Offline and Online with the New Look Jenyns Library

Throughout the summer holidays the Jenyns Library will be undergoing some exciting changes. The library will be completely refurbished to provide a more user friendly environment, with round tables for group study, comfortable seating areas to promote reading for pleasure, durable shelving and new computers.

The library will also go online! This will enable WGS students to access online resources, research guides and homework support from any location. The online library will also provide a vibrant reading zone, where students will be able to write book reviews, view recommended reads, access a library of eBooks and keep informed of the latest events and activities on offer.





# Events, Trips and Club News



## History Comes Alive

Year 8 historians enjoyed a recent trip to the Civil War museum at Harvington Hall. As you can see from the pictures it was very much a “hands on” experience with students getting the opportunity to try on clothes, hold weapons and even experience “surgery” Civil War style.

Mia Seager from Form 8Q has provided her take on what looked like a great day.

“ We were taken up to the armoury where we were told all about the different weapons that were used and how they were set up ready to use. A few of the pupils got to hold some of the weapons (such as the pike or musket) and they were surprised at how heavy they were. It made us all realise what a hard life a soldier in the Civil War had. When we had finished in the armoury we went into another room where we were told what clothes men and women would wear in this era. The two pupils that put on the outfits said that they had to put on a lot of layers and they got very warm quickly. The female pupil that put the dress on also found it hard to walk.

After lunch in the beautiful gardens of Harvington Hall we were taken on a tour of the house. We saw the kitchen and the spit with the manual turning apparatus and various other rooms. It was interesting to compare how the rooms were used then to nowadays. We also had a chance to go into the swing-beam hide that the priests would have used when they were hiding from the Parliamentarians. It was pitch black and very tight-fitting but exciting all the same.

So, all in all the day was fantastic and we would all do it again in a heartbeat. ”



## Classic Start for the Junior School

Latin and Classics has been a part of Wolverhampton Grammar School since 1512 and we’re proud to remain one of the few schools in the region to still offer it as part of the curriculum. We’re the only independent school in Wolverhampton to offer Latin at GCSE and Classical Civilisation and Latin at A Level. It’s a fascinating subject and provides a unique appreciation of the ancient worlds through its language, history and culture. Students have gone on to study Classics at Cambridge as well as teaching and research careers.

Now for the first time, students from Years 5 and 6 in the Junior School will have the opportunity to explore the ancient worlds with the creation of a Junior School Classics Club after school on Thursdays from 4 - 5pm. If you’d like to learn more about the club and classics contact Mrs Birt.

## The Towers - Adventure Sport Weekend

Year 8 and 9 students had a brilliant weekend in the Snowdonia National Park just before half-term, travelling to the Towers Outdoor Centre for a weekend of abseiling, canoeing and kayaking, zip-wiring and gorge-walking. A great time was had by all and hopefully a taste for the outdoors and adventure sport may take hold. The youngsters will have plenty of opportunities for adventure, with the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and a major expedition to Ecuador to look forward to as they progress up the school.



## Donations Rush in for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal



Students, staff, businesses and the local community gave a tremendous response to our recent Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

In just over 24 hours, the school collected:

- 2207 packs of wet wipes;
- 575 bottles of hand sanitizers;
- 323 boxes of dried baby milk powder; and
- 327 packs of water purification tablets were donated.

Manni Kaur from Wolverhampton Grammar Junior School commented

“This just goes to show that if we work together as a collective we can make a difference.”

Manni is a volunteer for charity Hope and Compassion who, together with Khalsal Aid arranged for the items to be flown out of London and arrive in Nepal just 72 hours after the initial appeal.

Penny Rudge, Bursar for Wolverhampton Grammar School added “I returned from a charity trek to Nepal just a week before the earthquake hit and it’s incredibly moving to see a school community thousands of miles away come together to help.”



### Step up to the Challenge

Over the last two terms children from Years 3 and 4 have elected to take part in a range of after school “challenge” workshops from garage band music to a Big Draw art competition. Well done to everyone who has stepped up to the challenge!



### Old Vicarage Residential

Well done to all our Junior School children who represented the school so well at the recent residential camp at the Old Vicarage. The rain didn’t appear to dampen the spirits for anyone taking part and it was great to see our children enjoying all that the residential had to offer (including the mud!). Apologies to all those parents who had to contend with a bag full of quite spectacular muddy washing on their return.

### Climbing Club

Mr Baker has been working very hard this term, repainting and re-setting the bouldering wall. Climbing club will relaunch this summer, with trips planned for next term to climbing centres in Wolverhampton and Birmingham. Take a look at the school’s website [www.wgs.org.uk](http://www.wgs.org.uk) in September for more information.





# Events, Trips and Club News

## Year 7 Experience Outside Learning from off the Beaten Track



It was great to see Year 7 students fully embracing the outdoors at the recent residential to Laches Wood Outdoor Centre.

Laches Wood is a modern outdoor centre located in rural, open countryside just north of Wolverhampton. Home to natural woodland with access to the Worcestershire Canal network - the centre provides a great opportunity to learn bushcraft and canoeing activities. The woodland also has an impressive climbing tower and one of the largest tipis in Europe!



Claudine Jones, Head of Year 7 praised her students for their energy and enthusiasm for all the activities on offer "It was great to see our students developing some important life skills like team work, problem solving and decision making. I was particularly impressed with how the group put as much enthusiasm into camp chores as the activities!"

## Solar Eclipse Puts Spotlight on School

The whole school had the opportunity to witness this year's partial solar eclipse.



Students congregated across Moreton's Piece (the playing fields at the back of the school) as the effects of the 90% eclipse were seen and felt.

Students wore special eclipse glasses, used pinhole cameras, welding masks and even set up experiments in order to see the eclipse and its effects. They were able to link this event to their physics lessons as they studied what caused the solar eclipse and compared the event to that of a lunar eclipse. A Solar Eclipse photography competition was launched to find some of the best photographs of the event.

Congratulations go to 1st place winner Natasha Sund (winning picture left), 2nd place winner Jatin Sharma, 3rd place winner Alex Bishop and to all students who took part in the competition.

## A Warm Welcome to all our new Families

Wolverhampton Grammar School continues to go from strength to strength and both teachers and support staff are looking forward to getting to know new students and their families when they join us in September.

If you're a new family, don't forget to book in for your uniform fitting at our school Uniform Shop - simply search for "Uniform Shop and Merchandise" at our school website [www.wgs.org.uk](http://www.wgs.org.uk) and follow the link to the online uniform appointment system.

Current students can also make use of the dedicated appointment slots over the summer break to stock up on any uniform requirements.

## German and Italian Exchange

Don't miss out on your opportunity to take part in the next annual Exchange Trips to Germany and Italy.

Exchange trips provide students with the opportunity to experience the home life and culture of a different country (and their hospitality which is legendary!) as well as the chance to host our continental counterparts in their homes too. The school also supports families with activities to help entertain our guests when they are with us.

The school has a long tradition of successful exchange trips, so make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to take part in a truly unique experience only available to Wolverhampton Grammar School. We have excellent relationships with exchange schools and local communities, the German exchange for example visits the medieval market town of Stradthagen (Mrs Gigat-Bradley's home town) and the next trip will also include a three day visit to Berlin.

As a school we feel it's vital that our students have the opportunity to visit the country where the language they are studying is spoken. Students not only develop their

knowledge of a language but also are able to totally immerse themselves in the culture of a country.

Details about both exchange trips have been sent to language students. If you're unable to commit to the full exchange trips you may still be interested in hosting a family? Should you like further details please contact Rachel Munson (Italian) and Petra Grigat-Bradley (German).

Pictured here Mr Neville-Young and students striking a pose in Italy.



## Despicable Goings on at the Craft Club!

There are crafty goings-on every Wednesday after school in the Art Block! A new craft club under the leadership of Ms Watson is stretching imaginations and crafting skills. So far this year, students have focused on sewing and have worked hard to try a range of techniques from pattern cutting and aligning, to back stitching and even working with zips. Students were provided with an uncut pattern and the materials they needed to create a minion toy, from the popular film series Despicable Me.

Ms Watson commented "Students had to cut out all the pattern pieces and start by stitching and stuffing the yellow minion body. Once they had completed this, they could stitch together arms, legs and a set of dungarees for him to wear! The students finished their designs by adding little details like buttons and goggles. Students should be exceptionally proud of themselves for creating such excellent minions and improving, or even learning from scratch, their beginner sewing skills."

Students then move on to more advanced work and each pupil has designed and is now making their own zip up cushion cover. The work done this year has been exceptional and craft club will continue next year to take on new challenges and move into card making, paper craft and other exciting ideas! New members are always welcome to join, beginners to experts in any crafts are welcome.





## Students Win National Engineering Award and Boost Local Business

A group of Design & Technology students have been awarded “Best in Show” at the national Engineering Education Scheme’s celebration day in Birmingham.

The event was the culmination of weeks of practical support from the students to two local companies as part of the nationally recognised Engineering Education Scheme. The students displayed and presented their work to a panel of judges at the scheme’s celebration day with host Lord Digby Jones. Ninety other schools from all over the West Midlands were also in attendance.

The students had previously been challenged to work on a real engineering and technological problem by two local companies. The companies, Nuclear Engineering Services and HS Marston Aerospace invited our students to solve live briefs including the manufacture of working prototypes:

- The Nuclear Engineering Services team designed and manufactured a working electro mechanical positioning system for the removal of nuclear waste.
- The HS Marstons team was challenged to create a universal jig that will enable the production of heat exchanges to be manufactured accurately and reliably.

The Nuclear Engineering Services Team was awarded the honour of ‘Best in Show’ and was presented with a VIP day out at JCB World Headquarters in Staffordshire by Lord Digby Jones.



Both teams have been awarded a Gold Crest Award from Engineering Education Scheme as an indication of the high quality work that was produced.

Simon O’Malley, Head of Design & Technology at Wolverhampton Grammar School said “To solve a live brief on behalf of a company really helps bring what students learn in the classroom to life. Then to receive national recognition at a time when business support is so high up in the political agenda was a great way for our students to demonstrate how young people become the engineers and manufacturers of the future.”

Pictured Nuclear Engineering Services Team receiving their prize from Lord Digby Jones: Fran Hopson, Tom Aston, Tom Grainger, Harry Brueton and Dhilian Kumar-Kauldhar.

## Can you Capture our School?

We’re always delighted when former students (known as Old Wulfrunians) share their memories and photos with us and we have a healthy stock of old and new photos. With such a busy school though it’s impossible to capture absolutely everything so

please feel free to email, tweet or post on Facebook your favourite pictures of the school. You can email them to [cab@wgs-sch.net](mailto:cab@wgs-sch.net); tweet to @WGS1512 or post to Wolverhampton Grammar School Official Facebook page. We’ll repost the best of the pictures and also

add them to our photo bank for use in school promotions.

Mr Davies from our Physics and Chemistry Departments sent us this image captured at the beginning of a sunny morning in June.





## Ellen Roars to the Triumph Design Awards

Upper Sixth student Ellen Stimpson has been selected as a finalist at this year's national Triumph Design Awards in July.

Simon O'Malley, Head of Design & Technology congratulated Ellen on her success so far "This is a fantastic achievement, and with so many strong entries, it was not an easy process. Ellen has worked hard and created a strong piece of design which we hope will be recognised by the judges on the day."

Well done for reaching the final Ellen (pictured right with her winning design).



## Junior School Friends Thank You

**The Junior School Friends have made another significant contribution to the School. A total of £4,600 (including £500 towards the Big 6 Leavers' Evening) was donated and will be used to invest in new iPads for the Junior School. Thank you to all Friends who give so much of their time and energy to support our school.**

## One Small Step for Peter Lloyd, One Giant Leap for Wolverhampton Grammar School

Sixth Form student, Peter Lloyd has become the first Wolverhampton Grammar School student to send an object into the stratosphere.

Inspired by a recent Geography module on Extreme Climates and a challenge to create an experiment that would combine interests from all his chosen A level subjects (Geography, Physics and Maths) for his Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Peter decided to set himself the challenge of sending a weather balloon up into the stratosphere.

Thanks to additional project funding from the school, the balloon was also fitted with a state-of-the-art GPS tracker and GoPro HD camera to enable Peter to not only track his balloon, but also capture some truly stunning pictures from the stratosphere. Peter filled his weather balloon with 3.2 cubic metres of Helium and

released it into the sky. After around 60 minutes the balloon reached 33,000 metres above sea level having stretched to approximately 5 metres in diameter. As planned, the balloon then burst allowing it to return back to earth taking around 90 minutes to land, amazingly just 50 miles from the launch site.

The GoPro camera captured the journey and revealed the changing cloud formations at different altitudes, as well as truly stunning footage of the balloon reaching the stratosphere.

Tom Baker, Head of Geography at Wolverhampton Grammar School said "The experiment was a huge success and went exactly to plan. Thanks to Peter's hard work and his commitment to ensuring its success, we'll now be integrating the experiment within our Year 8 Geography syllabus, enabling the next generation of possible



meteorologists and astronauts to have the experience and thrill of sending an object into the stratosphere."

A clipped video of the balloon's flight is available to watch on the news pages of the school's website [www.wgs.org.uk](http://www.wgs.org.uk)



## Earl's Catering Team are Getting Ready to Serve up a New and Exciting Menu



The School's Head Chef, Earl Irving and his kitchen team are to work with catering market-leader Holroyd Howe to provide new facilities and culinary expertise to the school.

Our food and kitchen staff are the heart of our school and this new partnership will provide not only a fresh approach to our food, but new investment in our staff too.

Kathy Crewe-Read, Head said "All our students know and trust our Head Chef Earl and Holroyd Howe is his first

choice partner to work with, because of their commitment to our people and what we stand for as a school community. Earl visited a number of schools and met with Head Chefs and catering staff to make sure the changes our kitchen staff will be making will make us stand out as a school that puts our students, staff and healthy food at the top of our priority list."

Student Parliament have provided some valuable feedback during this process and it is clear that they are much more discerning in their tastes with Sixth Formers in particular wanting a more "high street" style to their food. Holroyd Howe will provide the expertise, training and facilities to help our kitchen staff meet that challenge. Over £150,000 will be invested over the coming year on various kitchen, dining area, Sixth Form café and tuck shop improvements. Staff will also have

access to the highest standards of industry training and expertise.

Holroyd Howe work with world renowned chefs and only use the best British ingredients, nothing processed, nothing added, just honest great food every day. They are keen to ensure all students get access to a fun and healthy diet at school - treats and snacks will still be available but the school is committed to limiting sales of high sugar and fat snacks like chocolate bars, crisps and fizzy drinks.



## Year 5 Discover Life at Senior School

Over 80, Year 5 students from across the region came along to a Secondary School Discovery Day in May. The day was packed full of activities specially designed to give younger children a taste of the curriculum topics that they can look forward to at Senior School.

The children experienced a full school day with lunch, PE and the opportunity to design their own story with local storyteller John Edgar. Parents were also are invited to join us for a short tour of the school.

Thank you to all our staff and students who were involved in the day. All our guests took the opportunity to write a note saying thank you, here are just a few of their comments:

***"I didn't know anything about Shakespeare before and I liked DT because it was challenging. For maths we had to solve a murder mystery. Thank you for sharing your time with me (especially on a Saturday) and giving me a lovely time."*** Simrun

***"I enjoyed learning Japanese because I've never done anything like that before."*** Lewis

***"I enjoyed meeting all of your teachers and seeing how beautiful your school is. It was amazing and I now know why everyone likes this school."*** Finley

***"I enjoyed geography the most and the teacher was really fun."*** Ryan

***"I made a new friend."*** Shaniya

***"I enjoyed everything because it was very, very, very good. I LOVE this school and I want to come here."*** Ellis



This free event was open to all Year 5 children from any school and was so successful that the date has already been set for next year's event: Saturday 14th May 2016.



## Emma Secures a First Class Start to Cricket Season

Emma Hudson has made history by becoming the first female to be selected for Wolverhampton Grammar School's Cricket 1st XI team since 1512!

Emma, a student in the Lower Sixth is already a seasoned player representing Worfield Cricket Club and the Shropshire Women's Squad.

Alison Causebrook, Head of Girls' PE & Games at Wolverhampton Grammar School said "Whilst many schools and sports clubs are struggling to recruit girls, Wolverhampton Grammar School girls' participation in sport and physical activity has risen to an all-time high. We're extremely proud of Emma and the enormous contributions she is making to our 1st XI team."

Sport at Wolverhampton Grammar School is open to all, regardless of ability. The school's 23 acre campus includes pitches, netball courts, an all-weather astro-turf as well as fully equipped sports centre with multi-gym and indoor courts for badminton, squash, basketball and cricket.

Across the broad range of sports (and extra-curricular activities) on offer, girls compete at city, regional and national level.



**The complete Wolverhampton Grammar School Cricket 1st XI squad 2015.**

**Top row from left:** James Bostock, Paul Griffiths, Sam Timmins, Dom Price, Matthew Evans, Alastair Carey and Simon Reynolds.

**Bottom row from left:** Kieron Patel, Ciaran Singh, Emma Hudson, Sandeep Sandramouli, Stephen Jones and Aaron Wilson.

## New Astro Turf Pitch Combines Science with Sport

With a site covering 23 acres, it's sometimes easy to miss the school's astro turf pitch in The Valley. That's not to suggest though that it doesn't get a lot of use with school and club fixtures a daily occurrence throughout the year.

The astro turf pitch has served us well for over 18 years, but with increasingly high usage for competitive sport its days are now numbered.

A new state of the art astro turf will be installed over the summer with work beginning in early July. The WETT Dressed (Evolution) design is a top of the range pitch and



is a popular choice for clubs serious about sport across the UK, New Zealand and Australia.

The versatile surface is ideal for premium hockey and tennis whilst being soft enough for football.

Nic Anderson, Deputy Head and Boys' Hockey Coach commented "The installation of such a professional pitch is in recognition of all the hard work our hockey teams, sports department and clubs put into their game. It's a great asset to the school and for the opposition who compete against us and use our facilities."

## Great North Swim Success

Congratulations to Petra Grigat-Bradley, Liz Harris and Rachel Munson from the Modern Foreign Languages Department who, along with former Chemistry teacher Fiona Lister completed the Great North Swim in June.

The mile-long course on Lake Windermere was completed in just under 40 minutes and all money raised was donated to the British Heart Foundation in memory of our former Director of Music, Andy Proverbs.





## Students Relay from Coast 2 Coast to Raise Money for Dementia UK

The first weekend of half term usually seems like a great opportunity to relax and catch up on some sleep. However, a team of dedicated Year 10 students were running across the country for Wolverhampton Grammar School's annual Coast 2 Coast relay run to raise money for Dementia UK.

Starting from St Bees Head, the gruelling route takes in some of the most spectacular scenery in England, including the infamous Hardknott pass.

Nathan Burden who led this year's challenge said "The months of relentless training paid off and we arrived in Robin Hood's Bay just twenty four and a half hours later - a new school record for our route. Huge congratulations to the team, and many thanks to all the staff and parents who supported the event."

The gruelling 187 miles is run in relay, following Wainwright's famous walking trail over three spectacular National Parks (the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors).

Last year's Coast 2 Coast team have been recognised by Birmingham Children's Hospital as one of their Hundred Heroes - in recognition of being one of their top one hundred fundraisers of 2014.

## National Biathlon Competition

Competitors from the Junior and Senior Schools took part in the National Biathlon Championship at the Olympic Park in London. It was a great experience to be able to swim at the world famous London Aquatic Centre. Well done to everyone involved - you did a great job representing the school.

## Four Marathons in a Day for Uganda

Year 9 students from Wolverhampton Grammar School ran the equivalent of 4 marathons in relay to raise money in aid of our partnership school, the Lords Meade Vocational College in Uganda and other charitable causes in the Jinja area.

The students set themselves the relay target of running a kilometre for every child currently recorded as homeless in Uganda. They estimate they have raised around £500 which will support Yamba, a recently established home for street boys, as well as sponsored students at Lords Meade itself. 9D smashed their target, going on to clock up an incredible 168 km (105 miles) in eight hours of continual running.

Rhiannon Platt, Uganda Partnership lead for Wolverhampton Grammar School said "We're incredibly proud of our students who have gone above and beyond to help raise money to support the education of children in Uganda. The fact that they also did this to remember so many forgotten, homeless children in Uganda makes this fundraiser even more special."



## Fencing News Update

Elanor Charlson, John Steel and Tom Steel qualified as West Midlands fencers for BYC last half-term, with Elanor 2nd, Tom 3rd and John 2nd in their respective categories. This put them through to the national final on the May bank holiday, with over 2000 fencers competing from all over the UK. Tom had a tough weekend, coming 26th. Elanor came 28th, playing girls a lot older than herself, and John medalled, coming 7th in his category across the whole of the UK.



## Festival of Sport

The Junior School was host to a number of local schools in May for our first Festival of Sport. It was great to see so many children enjoying sporting challenges. Many thanks to Miss Trevor and Mrs Barnett who worked so hard coordinating the event with fantastic support from Mrs Gaylor. We're hoping that this becomes a regular fixture for all the schools involved.

## Hockey Stars at WGS

Congratulations to hockey players Katie Naylor (Year 10) and Ammar Ahsan (Year 9) on being selected for the Birmingham Under 16's squad, Birmingham Lynx.

Trials included players from all over including Birmingham, The Black Country, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcester. "I'm so excited to have been selected, and looking forward to the new season in September" said Katie Naylor.

Congratulations to you both on an incredible achievement.



## Villarreal en Persona!

This year's Easter European Football Development tour in partnership with InspireSport and Villarreal Football Club was a great success.

Twenty six students from Years 8-10, in the company of Mr Hall, Mr Crust, Mr Johnson and Mr Clancy, took part in four fixtures and six superbly organised training sessions. The level of football played and the attitude displayed was superb throughout and all the boys played their part in ensuring the trip was enjoyable - returning home with an improved awareness of a unique brand of football.

The early morning flight to Barcelona was smooth and, after booking into our suitably salubrious 4\* hotel in Benicassim, students were bussed out to their first training session at Villarreal's training complex, one of the best in Europe and the base for Villarreal's youth, reserve and 1st teams. Head Coach of Villarreal's Under 18 side, Javier Gallego, coached the squad for the entire week and luckily his English was far better than our collective grasp of Spanish! Each 90 minute session consisted of demanding and technical drills, many of which focused on ball control and retention, with some specialist drills for the three keepers.



The school had competitive fixtures against Juventud Amadora and CF Benicassim. Other highlights of the trip included guided tours of Villarreal's El Madrigal Stadium and Barcelona's Nou Camp, attending a Villarreal La Liga fixture against Espanyol, as well as the obligatory trips to the nearby beach to enjoy the Spanish sunshine.



# *The* Independent

Wolverhampton Grammar School Newsletter

Summer 2015



Wolverhampton Grammar School would like to wish all our readers a fantastic summer.



If you would like to hear more about anything featured in this edition of *The Independent* please contact Carrie Bennett email: [cab@wgs-sch.net](mailto:cab@wgs-sch.net)

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