



WOLLASTON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER—SEPT 2015 -TERM 1



Dear parents and students,

I trust that you have all had a relaxing summer break and I am delighted to welcome all students back to School. I am particularly pleased to welcome all of our new year seven students in joining the Wollaston School community. Having met with all of our students through formal assemblies in our first two days back, I have been very happy with the atmosphere around school and the start that our students have made to the new academic year.

I would also like to thank parents for responding so positively to the minor changes that we have made to school uniform before the end of the summer term; overall I was very pleased with the dress code that students have observed at the start of the year. If any parents are still having trouble finding any items of appropriate uniform or are unsure about any items, student managers will be happy to give advice about this. On behalf of the school I would like to apologise for the delay in the delivery of new school uniforms and thank parents for their patience whilst we investigated the problem. We have been assured by our supplier that the issue has now been fully resolved.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a number of new staff to the school. I am confident that we have recruited a number of highly qualified, excellent teachers to take us forward in the years to come. Our new members of staff are as follows:

Shazia Lydon	Deputy Headteacher. Teaching & Learning	John Marshall	Teacher of Design Technology
Anton McAleese	Assistant Headteacher. Science, IT, and New Technologies	Sarah Smith	Teacher of Food Technology
Danielle Clelland	Teacher of English [Literacy and Transition]	Wayne Taylor	School Business Manager
Sam Goodge	Teacher in charge of Drama	Marie Pike	Learning Support Assistant
Claire Rose	Teacher of Drama	Oliver Bodsworth	ICT Technician
Lauren Devoy	Teacher of Drama	Richard Green	Design & Technology Technician
Johnathan Knight	Teacher of English	Louise Cooney	Afternoon Receptionist
Gemma Livingstone	Teacher of Languages	Terence (TJ) Mersh	Cleaner
Becky Collins	Teacher of Geography		

May I wish all new staff the very best of luck for this exciting new stage in their careers.

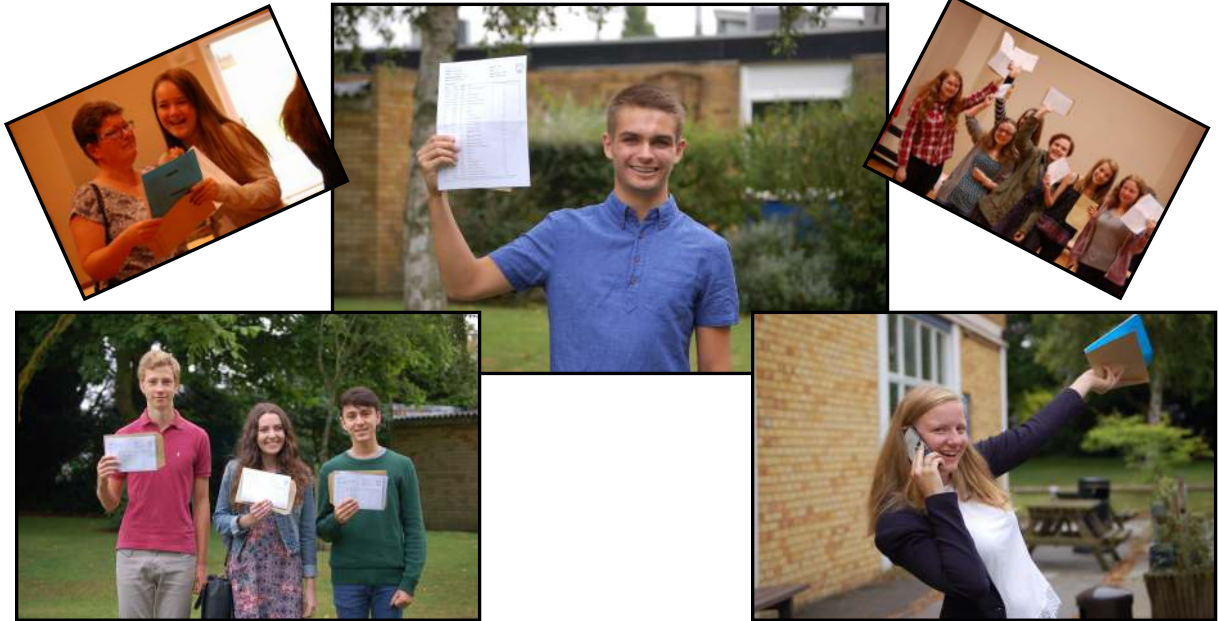
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GCSE RESULTS 2015

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Exhilaration and jubilation were the dominant emotions as students opened their long-awaited GCSE results. I am delighted that so many students have earned outstanding results across a whole range of subjects. Our year 11 students were strongly focused throughout the year and achieved extremely pleasing examination outcomes. The number of students achieving five A*-C grades including English and maths is 63%; 11% higher than last year. 70% of students attained 5 A*-C passes or better. The number of students obtaining A*-A grades has also increased, by 4% to 23%. Over 20 students achieved grade A or better in at least eight subjects and this is testimony to our students' hard work and to the skills and dedication of our subject staff. I would also like to thank our parents on our students' behalf for all of their support, encouragement cajoling and nagging which contributed to these excellent outcomes!

Of particular note were:

Jake Allen	7 x A*, 3 x A	Hannah Green	3 x A*, 6 x A, 1 x B
Sam Checkley	7 x A*, 1 Dist*, 1 x A, 1 x B	Ellie Hogan	3 x A*, 5 x A, 2 x B
Gabrielius Slakaitus	6 x A*, 3 x A	Robert Headland	2 x A*, 7 x A, 1 x C
Josh Bullock	4 x A*, 6 x A	Elliott Williams	2 x A*, 7 x A, 1 x C
Louis Miranda-Smedley	4 x A*, 6 x A	Amy Judd	2 x A*, 6 x A, 2 x B
Harry Nash	4 x A*, 1 Dist*, 4 x A, 1 x C	Gemma Bell	1 x A*, 1 Dist*, 7 x A, 1 x B
Joey Baillon	4 x A*, 5 x A, 1 x B	Natalie Shellard	1 x A*, 9 x A
William Dodwell	3 x A*, 1 Dist*, 5 x A, 1 x C	Alex Griffin	1 x A*, 8 x A, 1 x B
Bradley Pearce	3 x A*, 1 x Dist*, 4 x A, 1x B, 1 x C	Chloe Taylor	1 x A*, 7 x A, 2 x B
Rebecca Gristwood	3 x A*, 7 x A	Calypso Eales	10 x A
Erin Saunders	3 x A*, 6 x A, 1 x B		

A-LEVEL RESULTS 2015

Overall I am very pleased with the A-level results which were very similar to last year's best ever results, with slightly higher numbers of students attaining A or A* grades. 20% of A-level grades were at A or A* and over 80% were at A*-C.

All of the following students achieved at least three A-grades at A-level:

Luc Costello-Heaven	A* grades in Biology and Chemistry, A grade in German	Matthew Gent	A* grade in Maths, A grades in Chemistry and Physics
Thomas Kilcoyne	A* grade in Maths, A grades in Further Maths and Physics, B grade in German	Jessica Hollingshurst	A* grade in Philosophy & Ethics, A grades in English Literature and Geography
Amy Bromilow	A* grade in Philosophy & Ethics, A grades in English Literature and History	Jacob Shellard	A* grade in Maths, A grades in Chemistry and Physics
Daisy Edwards	A* grade in Art & Design, A grades in English literature and Philosophy & Ethics	Andrew Turnbull	A grades in History, Maths and Physics

Students doing vocational subjects at A-level also did extremely well, with several students attaining the highest grade, Distinction, in three or more subjects. Students who did particularly well were:

Maddie Sallows	Double Starred Distinction in Health Studies, Starred Distinction in Hospitality and in Travel & Tourism
Emily Higgins	Double Starred Distinction in Travel and Tourism and Double Starred Distinction in Hospitality
Sophie Jenkins	Double Starred Distinction in Hospitality and Starred Distinction plus Distinction in Travel & Tourism
Hannah Curtis	Distinction in Computing and Double Distinction in Health Studies

83 students from a cohort of just over 100 have now gone on to further study at university.



ACTIVITIES WEEK

Parents of students in years 8 to 11 will be aware that at the end of last year our final week was dedicated to residential visits and for those remaining in school, a creative curriculum week which offered students the opportunity to learn some new skills and develop a new interests. Over 300 students were out of school on residential visits across Europe and the USA during this week, and I was also very pleased with the way that the week unfolded for those students in school. I am pleased to share some photographs with students and parents of some of the highlights of this week on this page and am pleased to advise that a much more comprehensive coverage of the main events is on our website.

JULY 2015



HOUSE CUP

Parents will be aware from my previous newsletters last year that we have done a lot of work to reinvigorate the importance of the House system at school and have held several House events throughout the year, as well as rewarding students with House points for positive outcomes during their day-to-day lessons and enrichment activities. At the end of the year the results for the year group House trophies and the overall winners of the Wollaston school house cup were as follows:

YEAR	WINNER
Year 7	Austen
Year 8	Nightingale
Year 9	Nightingale
Year 10	Nightingale
Year 11	Austen



Overall winners of the House Cup: **Austen!**

I would like to lay down a challenge to students in Brunel Drake and Churchill houses to break the monopoly held by Austen and Nightingale in 2014-15.

COMPETITION

ATTENDANCE

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

The starting point for every School in respect of student attendance is that in a perfect world every student would attend school every day of the academic year. Inevitably, illness and family circumstances mean that, for very good reasons, many students take one or two days off during an academic year.

Research suggests the once attendance falls below 95% in an academic year [one day off in 20, or a day off every four weeks]

student progress and academic outcomes begin to suffer significantly. For these reasons the Department for Education has announced that from September 2015, it will be introducing a new 'Persistent Absence' threshold of 10%. This means that there will be a duty by School to write to all parents of students whose attendance falls below 95%, providing them with a Notice to Improve letter. If attendance does not improve from this point forward, a Warning Letter will be sent home with a request for parents to come into school and complete a referral for an Early Help Assessment. If attendance reaches 90% or below, a Final Written Warning will be sent to parents and this could also trigger a referral to the Education Entitlement Team for further intervention, which could result in a criminal prosecution. I would therefore urge all parents to ensure their children's attendance is as frequent as it can possibly be.

DON'T MISS OUT!

PREMISES & IT UPDATE

IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our site staff and cleaning staff for the amazing job that they have done over the summer in transforming a significant number of areas of school in readiness for September. Our team of cleaners have worked tirelessly to deep clean floors, toilets and staircases and the result has been a gleaming transformation of some of our public spaces as well as classrooms.

Meanwhile, our site staff had a huge challenge over the summer: A huge amount of physical work has been needed to improve our disabled access, which has meant creating a number of wheelchair access ramps and pathways, particularly into our older buildings and also creating a medical room with disabled and physiotherapy facilities.

In addition to this work the team have also managed to achieve all of the following in the 5 ½ short weeks over the summer.

- **The library has been enlarged and refurbished.**
- **Two new IT Suites have been created. This includes the creation of a dedicated IT suite for our new GCSE photography course.**
- **The tills and fridge in Cucina re-cabled.**
- **Science: Addition of electrical emergency power breakers. On-going work to resolve noise from air conditioning units.**
- **Our malfunctioning 30 year old boilers have been stripped out and the installation of new boilers will be completed in the next four weeks.**

I also wish to say a big thank-you to our IT team, who have also been busy over the summer break, up-grading or adding to our IT resources. Over the summer, they have achieved the following:

- **160 PCs “turbocharged” with new disks. This will make a big difference to the operating speed of PCs in Music and Design where software puts a big demand on the PCs.**
- **A set of Mini iPads for our Accelerated Reader literacy programme installed in the Library.**
- **6 Additional PCs in the 6th Form Centre.**
- **20 CCTV Cameras have been installed to improve site security.**
- **Hardware changes to our site in readiness for our move towards a ‘Bring your own device’ [BYOD] strategy.**

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) STRATEGY



TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Following discussions with governors and with senior leaders in the school, we have decided to move our IT strategy forwards to embrace the rapidly developing array of new technologies available to students in their homes and try to maximise the educational opportunities that these devices bring by inviting students to bring them into the classroom. These devices will include the use of mobile phones as sound and recording devices, as well as tools to access the Internet, data recording tools such as iPads, laptops and netbooks. The applications of these devices are far too numerous to mention in this article, but include opportunities for students to have the ability to take photographs of their work for recording or examination purposes, snapshots of mind maps or board work completed in classrooms, more accessible email of completed or marked work to or from members of staff and wider access to the Internet, which are present is limited by the number of IT suites in school.

This represents a very significant step for the school, as we presently discourage the use of phones in School and up to now have not had a Wi-Fi network capable of providing Internet access for devices other than those provided by the School. As this is such a significant change in the way we operate, I intend that we roll this process out slowly over this half term to ensure that we deal smoothly with any teething problems which occur along the way.

I will shortly be sending to parents a full policy document which identifies all of the issues surrounding this new strategy and ask that all parents and students sign an acceptable use document which covers their own safety, the safety of others and that of the School. I will also be rolling out via year group assemblies our expectations of students in providing these freedoms and these excellent educational opportunities.



OPEN EVENING 2015

For those parents who have younger children at key stage 2 in primary schools or for those who have friends who live locally and may be interested in sending their younger children to Wollaston School in the near future, you may be interested in the information below about our open evening and school tours for prospective year seven students starting secondary school in September 2016.

YEAR 6 EVENTS



**WOLLASTON
SCHOOL**

01933 663501
office@wollaston-school.net

Open Evening

Thursday 24th September

The Headteacher Presentations start at 4.45pm, 5.45pm & 6.45pm. Please see below for booking details.



School Tours

**Thursday 24th September &
Friday 25th September**

Come and see Wollaston School at work during a normal working day.

Tours will be taking place at 9.15am, 11.45am & 1.25pm.



**Places are limited & booking is essential.
Reserve your space online:**

www.wollastonschool.eventbrite.com



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