



19th October 2017

Ref JB/In

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to thank all students, parents and members of staff for such a positive half term at Wollaston School. The entire school community has made me feel incredibly welcome and it is a privilege to lead such a wonderful school.

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

We are very proud of the way in which our new Year 7 students have begun their education at Wollaston. With fears about getting lost, forgetting their timetable or becoming confused about the vast range of subjects on offer well and truly forgotten, we have a Year 7 cohort who are confident and positive in their learning. We are very pleased with the feedback that we received about Wollaston during the tutor evening and we are even more delighted that, in general terms, we were able to give such a positive appraisal of how individual students have made great progress during their first half term at the school.

Year 11 Support Evening

Early preparation is always crucial to support students in achieving exceptional results during public examinations. To this end, we held a Year 11 support evening with input from Mr Wilkie, the Head of Year, as well as our academic leads for English, Maths and Science. Alongside this, we also had support from the school nursing service who were able to advise parents on the importance of maintaining good physical and mental health, during what can be a stressful period. From the school's viewpoint, we aim to ensure plenty of purpose in our examination preparations, but avoid pressure or anxiety. Preparation over an extended period of time is genuinely the key to success, and members of the Sixth Form were on hand to share their recent experiences and how they structured their work to achieve great outcomes.

The next stages for Year 11 are the academic parents evening on Thursday 2nd November 2017, and then the mock examination series that take place from 27th November 2017. We are very much looking forward to working with students and parents over the course of the year, and early indications are that our current Year 11 should achieve highly successful outcomes, both individually and as a cohort.

Trips and Visits

15 Students from our Sixth Form with an interest in applying to Oxford or Cambridge universities visited Herford College in Oxford this week. Accompanied by Mr Sheldrick (a former Oxford University alumnus), the students learnt about life at Oxford University and details of the application process. Wollaston School has a good track record in supporting students to gain places at Oxbridge and other Russell group universities, and trips such as this, demonstrate our commitment to supporting our Sixth Form students to achieve the very highest academic aspirations possible.

A-Level physicists visited Wellingborough School this week, alongside fellow students from a range of other educational institutions. This was a day organised by the Ogden science trust with the aim of deepening our students understanding of their A-level science course.

Our Year 9 students enjoyed a technology trip to the Natural History Museum & Science Museum in London this week, where they were able to explore the exhibits and develop their understanding of how science and technology impacts upon our everyday lives. Accompanying teachers were full of praise for the impeccable behaviour and high-level of engagement demonstrated by every student.

Over the half term break, 22 students from Years 12 and 13 will be undertaking a study trip to Berlin. We wish them a rewarding and inspiring visit, and look forward to hearing further details on their return.

Sports news

Congratulations to our Sports Leaders from Years 8, 9 and 10 who helped to run a tournament involving over 80 primary schools. They refereed matches and helped to organise the teams that were competing. Feedback from Mr Roberts and staff from other schools was that our students were incredible ambassadors for Wollaston, in terms of both the technical capabilities and the way in which they conduct themselves as young leaders.

Some extraordinary individual successes really demonstrate the wealth of talent that we have in our student body. Katie Turland competed in the Taekwondo European Cadet Championships in Budapest and was successful in reaching the quarter-final stages, an incredible achievement!

Emily Chapman competed in the English Trampoline Championships in Sheffield, and I am delighted to announce that she won the synchronised category and is now the English champion for the 9-12 age group. On top of this, she also gained a fourth-place finish in the individual category.

Congratulations to both Katie and Emily and photographs of their sporting achievements can be found on our website.

Thank you again for ensuring such a positive start to the 2017-18 academic year. I hope that students, staff and their families enjoy some time together over the half term break, and we look forward to returning to the school on Monday, 30th October 2017.

Thank you as always for your support of Wollaston School. We are absolutely committed to providing the highest standards of education possible and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Birkett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr James Birkett
Headteacher