



Dear parents and carers,

24th November 2017

GCSE Presentation Evening 2017

We were proud to welcome back to Wollaston our Year 11 cohort of 2017, to formally present students with their GCSE certificates and award a number of prizes for outstanding academic and personal achievement in a range of subjects. Learning of all that our students have achieved, both individually and collectively, demonstrates that we are fortunate to have such a positive and talented group of students at our school. A successful education provides young people with a gateway to future opportunities and achievements. Every single individual in our GCSE cohort of 2017 is now engaged in Further Education, employment or training. This is an incredible achievement and testament to the way in which students, parents and staff have worked together to ensure that our Year 11 students are ready and well-qualified to take the next steps in their lives.

During the informal part of the evening, it was hugely rewarding to hear from students and parents, the value they place on the high quality education at Wollaston School, and how this supported them with achieving excellent outcomes in their GCSE examinations.

Congratulations to all, and we look forward to even greater success from the large number of students who have gained a place at our sixth form and are working hard to ensure success in their next set of qualifications!

Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to our Year 7 boys football team, who have won the league and remained undefeated in all fixtures this season. The team have won many plaudits, not only regarding their ability as footballers, but also for their teamwork, behaviour and sportsmanship in every single match. Mr Jackson is enormously proud of the team and the way in which they have represented Wollaston School.

We greatly value the extracurricular work of our PE department and a number of our teams have enjoyed success in recent weeks:

- The under 14 girls' football team played in a tournament against The Ferrers School and they should be very proud of achieving second place in the district.
- The Wollaston Year 9 netball team represented the school at the County netball tournament in Kettering and finished in a hugely creditable 6th place, beating a number of state and private schools in the process.
- On 21st November, our Year 8 dodgeball team played in a tournament at Weavers School, finishing in fourth place.

Congratulations to all students who took part in the above fixtures, and to all of those students who enjoy extracurricular sport and training sessions.

Award Winners

We are delighted to announce that two of our students have recently won awards within their respective sports:

- **Ella Jennings:** Ella has won the '2017 Young Volunteer Of The Year Award' at the East Midlands Netball Galdon Globes and also the 'Young Leader Of The Year Award' at the Northamptonshire Sports Awards. Ella received recognition for her leadership skills, coaching ability and dedication to the sport. Many congratulations to Ella and students can read about her experience of leadership in an article she has written for the PE Times.
- **Maisie Summers-Newton:** Maisie's swimming success continues and we are pleased to report that she has recently won the 'Disabled Sports Person Of The Year Award' at the Northamptonshire Sports Awards and also the 'Emerging Athlete Of The Year Award' at the 2017 British Swimming Awards. Maisie managed to knock a staggering 17 seconds off of the current European record for the 100m breaststroke and now plans to qualify for the European Championships.

Huge congratulations to both students. More information, including a link to Maisie's interview on YouTube, will be posted shortly on the school website.

STEM Ambassador Visit

As part of our work to promote future careers in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, we were pleased to host a member of staff from Nissan UK to speak to a number of our students. Our visitor, Mr McMillan, spoke to a range of students who are currently studying Science and Vehicle Engineering. He spoke of the career opportunities that success in this area of the curriculum can open, and students were able to learn first-hand about how their current education links in to the wider world of work in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Thank you to Mrs Sheldrick for organising this event and to Mr McMillan for being such a positive ambassador for the STEM subjects.

Poland Trip 2018

This well-established visit to Auschwitz in the Wollaston School calendar has considerable support again in 2018. Many students who have visited previously have described the experience as "life changing" and Wollaston School is recognised as a beacon school in remembrance of the Holocaust.

In a presentation to parents and students, previous participants on the trip explained what they experienced last year and the role that students will take on as ambassadors once they have completed the tour of remembrance. The visit takes place in December and we will publish the work and thoughts of students on their return.

Sixth Form PSHE Day

Our Sixth Form students spent today in the main Hall, working on a personal development programme with a group called Human Utopia. The aim of the day is to promote engagement with key issues regarding personal, social and health education. There is an emphasis on reflection and engagement in a range of different activities and a consideration of the responsibilities that each of us has as an individual in society. Thank you to the Sixth Form team for organising this event, demonstrating Wollaston's commitment to the education of the whole person, as well as being a school that achieves excellent academic outcomes.

The Outstanding Teacher Programme

We value highly the quality of our teaching at Wollaston, and this week hosted a number of teachers who are participating on a training course to develop outstanding practice. During the day, delegates attended a range of lessons at Wollaston, looking at the great practice of our teaching staff to implement at their own schools. This was also a great learning experience for ourselves, and we will



continue to engage with professional development programmes such as this to ensure that teaching at Wollaston is at the forefront of current outstanding practice.

Children In Need 2017

As promised, a final total for our fundraising efforts for the national Children In Need appeal day 2017. Wollaston School raised a grand total of **£1447.99**. Thank you to all who donated for your generous contributions.

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 via email on office@wollaston-school.net.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr James Birkett
Headteacher