



2nd February 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Rock challenge UK 2018

Rehearsals are well underway for Wollaston's entry into this national competition, which will take place in High Wycombe on 28th March 2018. In addition to the preparations for the performance, several fundraising events have also been held to support the production with transport, set and costumes.

The most recent event was the 'Dawn till Dusk' 12 hour dance challenge. Last Saturday, a group of dancers and staff ensured that from 9:00am until 9:00pm, there was someone dancing in the performance area at all times! As you might imagine this led to some fairly tired students and staff by the end of the evening. Some of the work will feature in the performance and proved a good opportunity to experiment with some of the technical elements of the performance.

In addition to this, a number of parents also attended during the 12-hour event and held their own non-stop stitching and sewing to ensure that all costumes are now complete. Congratulations to all concerned and for all of the kind donations from friends, family and the wider community to support this fundraising event.

Rag Week 2018

As previously advertised, the week commencing 5th February is our annual charity week organised by the Sixth Form. There are numerous events taking place throughout the week and a non-uniform day on Friday. Students can find further details in school and if parents, friends and family would like to support rag week, you are warmly invited to donate on the website via the Just Giving Page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wollaston-school. The charities that we are supporting this year are:

- **Cransley Hospice**, who provide specialist end-of-life care;
- **At a Loss**, a charity who specialise in young adult bereavement and we support them in memory of Bryony Freestone;
- **Mind Northants**, a local organisation who promote better mental health in adults and young people.

Year 9 Options 2018

As parents and students will be aware, the time is quickly approaching for our Year 9 students to start considering the qualifications that they would like to study at GCSE in Years 10 and 11. Tutors, academic staff and pastoral leaders will be supporting students and their parents to ensure a positive pathway through this process. The Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on 22nd February 2018, with the Options Evening following one week later on 1st March 2018. At this event, all subjects will be represented by members of staff, who will provide information regarding the curriculum studied in each area, and will offer guidance on how to approach selecting courses for further study.

This is an exciting time for both students and the school. We are committed to working closely with students and their families to ensure that every individual studies courses that they enjoy, that they

will achieve in and that will result in a broad portfolio of qualifications. Although nationally there is much concern about a narrow curriculum, I am pleased to assure parents that we continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that cherishes the Arts, Humanities, Sciences, Languages, PE, Art & Design Technology, English and Maths as equal partners in an inspiring and fulfilling education.

Your 10 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents and students who attended the subject consultation evening on Thursday, 1st February 2018. We had a turnout of over 90% percent, which ably demonstrates just how well students, parents and staff work together to ensure excellent outcomes. Our Year 10 cohort have made an excellent start to their GCSE studies and we are looking forward to even greater progress by the end of the academic year.

Boccia Tournament for Primary Schools

The Wollaston Leadership Academy, comprised of pupils on this occasion from Years 8 and 9, led a number of primary school students in a sports tournament held at Wollaston on Wednesday, 31st January. Students attended from Rowan Gate, Oakway, Risdene, Cogenhoe, Croyland and St Mary's. The leaders all received excellent feedback on both their organisation and positive conduct – they are excellent ambassadors for the school. For the uninitiated (such as myself), Boccia is a Paralympic sport of skill and accuracy which is similar to bowls or pétanque. Congratulations to all of the students involved, from both Wollaston and from our primary schools. Thank you also to Mr Roberts for organising this event.

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 with a large initial 'J'.

Mr James Birkett
Headteacher