



16th March 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Wellingborough Music Festival

Music students from Wollaston School have achieved some great results in the annual festival run by Wellingborough Rotary Club. In addition to numerous successes in the solo classes, we are proud to announce the following awards and trophies:

Large ensemble class:

- **First place:** Wollaston School concert band
- **Second place:** Wollaston School big band (led by Oliver Breslin)

Orchestra class:

- **First place:** Wollaston School Orchestra

Small ensemble:

- **Second place:** Wollaston School clarinet ensemble (led by Francesca Zoboky)

Duet class:

- **First place:** Wollaston School (Phoebe Bainton and Eva Jennings)

As a result of these successes, many of our musicians played at the winners concert at the Castle Theatre on Wednesday, 14 March, including the Wollaston School Concert Band, who opened the show.

Congratulations to all who participated, and particular thanks to Mrs Hollis Brown who played an active role in the festival whilst enjoying becoming a new mum only two weeks previously!

Rock Challenge 2018

Over 100 students and staff from the Performing Arts faculty, travelled to High Wycombe on Tuesday to participate in the regional heats of the Rock Challenge event. The Wollaston team performed with great energy and precision, and their dystopian piece based on George Orwell's 1984, was incredibly well received by the audience and judges alike. We won a total of 10 awards and secured a second place finish. On the night, this looked as though it would not be enough to take us through to the next round. However, on Wednesday morning we discovered that we were the highest scoring second place entry in all of the regional heats - and this led to us qualifying for a place in the southern final in Portsmouth on 26th April 2018. *(Please see below for an amendment to the school calendar to accommodate this date).*

Congratulations to all of our students, staff and parents who have been involved in creating and supporting such a magnificent performance. On the day, our students conducted themselves immaculately, demonstrating a calm professionalism and a passion for performance. We are already looking forward to the final!

Change of Date: Year 7 Parents' Evening

In order to accommodate the considerable number of students, parents and staff who will be attending the Rock Challenge final in Portsmouth on 26th April 2018, we have decided to change the date of the Year 7 Parents' Evening. This will now take place on **10th May 2018**. This will enable the full range of staff to be

available for consultations and we hope that this does not cause too much inconvenience to parents. We thank you for your support in this matter, as accommodating this change means that neither the Parents' Evening nor the Rock Challenge performance is compromised.

Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to all parents who attended the GCSE Options event on Wednesday evening. We were delighted to see such an excellent turnout, with approximately 650 people learning about the process and the individual qualifications on offer. As mentioned on the evening, this ably demonstrates just how powerful it can be, when school, parents and students themselves work together towards a common goal. We are delighted that our broad and balanced curriculum is so highly valued by families and we are already looking forward to working with our excellent Year 9 students towards great success in their GCSE qualifications. The deadline for completing options on Insight is 4:00pm on **Wednesday, 21st March 2018**. In the meantime, if you do have any queries, Form Tutors should be the first port of call.

Author Visit: Joffre White

On Monday, all students in Year 7 and 8 were treated to a lecture from author and patron of reading, Joffre White. His session on the 'Power of Words' was inspirational and interactive. Joffre created a positive and happy atmosphere, whilst touching on important topics such as social media, bullying and realising one's aspirations. The message was powerful; with the help of words and a good book we can all begin a journey that might help us fulfil our dreams and ambitions. During the rest of the day, Joffre also worked with a number of Year 7 and 8 students on refining their creative writing skills and spent time in Year 10 English classes, providing ideas and inspiration for their GCSE narrative exam piece. Thank you to all of our students for working so positively during the day and to Mrs Henning (School Librarian) and the English Faculty for organising this visit.

Apprenticeship Fair

53 students from Year 11 to 13 enjoyed a most informative morning at the Milton Keynes Arena which was hosting an apprenticeship fair, allowing students to find out more about the numerous and growing apprenticeship opportunities that they may wish to pursue in the future. Starting salaries, entry requirements and career progression were some of the key topics that were covered, spanning a wide range of careers from Racehorse Jockey to Cyber Security Intelligence Officer. Our students represented Wollaston with confidence and maturity. If parents would like any more information regarding apprenticeships, please contact Mr Myers on b.myers@wollaston-school.net.

Work with our Partner Primary Schools

We held the second of our Year 6 Mathematics Days on Wednesday with another incredibly enthusiastic and talented group of students from Wollaston Primary School and Irchester Community Primary School. Our teaching staff and Sixth Form mathematicians hosted the day and helped foster a love of Mathematics.

On Thursday, it was the turn of the scientists to take centre stage. As part of British Science Week, staff and students from Irchester's nationally acclaimed Lab 13, set a range of primary schools the challenge of designing floating gardens which would be unaffected by flooding. This is an important environmental issue as it has real-world uses in ensuring that crops can survive flooding events. A number of students from different primary schools submitted entries and their designs were on display in the main hall for parents to see. During the day, students also had the opportunity to build their own floating gardens using real plants and sustainable materials. Congratulations to all involved.

Our Modern Foreign Languages team have been working with students in Year 9 this year, culminating in their final showcase at Wollaston Primary School. This was a fun event involving songs, sketches, games and dances, all planned by our students aiming to encourage the children to learn about different countries. The

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HEADTEACHER: James Birkett
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Kieron Beeby
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Shazia Lydon

students then performed the show for their parents in the evening, and were presented with their Language Leaders awards for their work this year.

In all of our work, it has been a real pleasure and a great learning experience to work with students and staff from our partner primary schools. We are enormously fortunate that the creativity, engagement, academic standards and love of learning is so well embedded in all of our local schools. During the months and years ahead, we are hoping to develop this kind of partnership working further, and we are also learning that we can give our younger students even more challenge and responsibility from the moment they arrive at Wollaston!

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'.

Mr James Birkett
Headteacher