



11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear parents and carers,

## **2018 GCSE, A-Level & BTEC Examinations**

Next week sees the 2018 public examination series underway in earnest for students in Years 11 and 13. We have been delighted with the commitment and dedication that our students have shown throughout this academic year and I want to take this opportunity to wish every individual the very best of luck with their forthcoming examinations.

I know that parents will also be keen to support their children during this period and help them to achieve success in the qualifications that they have worked so hard for. There are no hard and fast rules for the right way to do this, as different students will require different types of support. However, as a general rule, students appreciate the importance of a quiet place to revise at home, a healthy balanced diet, and the value of a good night's sleep! We do recognise that exams can be stressful and during the coming weeks, we want to ensure that our students receive positive messages and boosts to their self-esteem, both at school and at home. This positive approach to exams can be highly beneficial in ensuring that our students approach every single exam with confidence and their desire to demonstrate all of their learning during their time at Wollaston School.

If parents have any questions or concerns regarding GCSE examinations, please contact Head of Year Martin Wilkie [m.wilkie@wollaston-school.net](mailto:m.wilkie@wollaston-school.net) or Mrs Ratledge, Year 11 Student Manager [m.ratledge@wollaston-school.net](mailto:m.ratledge@wollaston-school.net). For students in the Sixth Form, please get in touch with Mr Keane [d.keane@wollaston-school.net](mailto:d.keane@wollaston-school.net), Miss Hefford [a.hefford@wollaston-school.net](mailto:a.hefford@wollaston-school.net) or Miss Randell [c.randell@wollaston-school.net](mailto:c.randell@wollaston-school.net).

Formal Leaving dates are as follows, although teachers will of course be on hand after this period to advise on revision, and offer any final guidance and support.

**Year 11:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Year 13:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## **BTEC Performing Arts Practical Examination Performance**

Congratulations to our Performing Arts students who mounted their final exam piece on Friday of last week. This took the form of an incredibly ambitious piece of immersive theatre. It involved the complete transformation of the Performing Arts block into a series of rooms that the audience were guided through, experiencing a scene in each venue, which together told the story of the plight of one individual. The stimulus for the piece was Salvador Dali's "The Persistence of Memory" and the atmosphere created was of a surreal dreamlike state, in which the lines between reality and dreams were deliberately blurred.

This was a considerably technical undertaking which included monsters emerging from cupboards, sounds being played from different directions and audience being guided around the venue by performers in a range of roles.

Congratulations to all concerned, and to the students and staff who supported and inspired such an ambitious piece of theatre. A selection of photographs can be found on the school website.

## Year 7 Parents' Evening

We enjoyed a very positive evening on Thursday, which gave the opportunity for parents and students to meet with their subject teachers. We are delighted with the way in which our Year 7s have adapted to life at Wollaston School and it was pleasing to hear from parents how much they are enjoying their studies and appreciate the high levels of pastoral care at our school. It is clear that we have a year group with considerable abilities, talents and the positive attitude to succeed. We very much look forward to working with students and families in the months and years ahead, in order to achieve wonderful outcomes for every individual student.

I am also delighted to report that attendance from parents was at 91%, continuing the trend for record-breaking levels of engagement with parents during this academic year - a commitment that staff appreciate greatly. All of the available research indicates that education is most effective when school and home work together in a positive and coherent manner. If there are any follow-up questions or concerns, please contact Miss Meeks, Head of Year 7, [z.meeks@wollaston-school.net](mailto:z.meeks@wollaston-school.net) , or Miss Smith, Year 7 Student Manager, [j.smith@wollaston-school.net](mailto:j.smith@wollaston-school.net) .

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](mailto:office@wollaston-school.net).

Yours sincerely,



**Mr James Birkett**  
**Headteacher**