



14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear parents and carers,

### **Performing Arts Christmas Celebration**

Congratulations to all staff and students for an exceptional showcase of the talent and endeavour that exists at our school. It was a privilege to be in the audience to enjoy such high quality and diverse performances from rock bands, to the orchestra, to improvised drama, to an incredible range of dance and of course a sneak preview of the 2019 Rock Challenge entry.

Over 150 students and staff from across the school worked incredibly hard to make this happen including directors, performers, technical, front of house and back stage roles. The festive season at Wollaston now seems well underway and congratulations to all who participated! It was very much a seasonal reminder of all that is wonderful about Wollaston School, culminating with a fantastic finale featuring the entire cast; ably demonstrating the power of combining hard work with a joyful positive approach which makes our school so special!

Thank you to all who made this happen and to our large and supportive audiences!

### **Christmas Jumper Day 2018**

Students will be allowed to wear festive knitwear and Christmas jumpers in place of the usual Wollaston Jumper for the last day of term on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Please note, this is not a non-uniform day - all other items of school uniform must be worn. We hope to see an amazing range of festive jumpers and students are invited to donate £1 to Save the Children, who organise a national Christmas Jumper Day event.

### **End of Term Arrangements**

On the final day of term, Sixth Form students will be out of school on the annual awards trip. For all other year groups, a full day in school awaits, with the excitement of the rewards assembly for each year group. School finishes at the usual time of 3:00pm and we look forward to seeing students on 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8:45am to begin 2019!

### **Exam Contingency Date – Students in Years 11 & 13**

As part of the 2019 examination series at GCSE, A-level and BTEC, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) have allocated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as a contingency date for all examinations. All students in Year 11 and Year 13 need to keep this day free and be available, as this will be the day used if any of the exams are disrupted or rescheduled. The exam calendar is of course externally allocated and this date is part of a national arrangement.

### **Christmas Hampers 2018**

Thank you to all students, staff and families who have donated items for the annual House Christmas Hamper contest. Some incredible designs were on display and photographs can be found on the school website. All items are donated to local families in need through The Salvation Army and local charity Wollaston is Kind.

## Upgraded Site Security

During the past few weeks we have upgraded our CCTV system, to ensure improved site security both during the school day and outside of school hours. This included the installation of a number of new camera positions which allows us to monitor the school site. This will help to safeguard our students and staff during the school day and help to ensure that the site is secure outside of school hours. Our CCTV policy can be found on the school website.

<https://www.wollastonschool.com/about/policies/>

## Staffing Update

As the year draws to a close, we say a fond farewell to staff who are leaving Wollaston at Christmas.

- **Miss Hefford** leaves her role as Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Teacher of Maths, to relocate to Shropshire and take on a new role as Second in the Maths faculty at a school there.
- **Miss Ames** is also beginning a new chapter in her life, moving to Devon and so will leave her role as Student Manager of Year 9.
- **Mrs Martin** also leaves us from the Maths faculty to take up a new teaching role in Milton Keynes.
- **Mrs Woodcock**, our Whole School Literacy Lead and Teacher of English, leaves us temporarily on maternity leave.

We wish all of our staff who are leaving, the very best with the next chapter of their lives and we thank them for all of their hard work at Wollaston School.

Once again, we have enjoyed a highly successful recruitment campaign and we are proud to be fully staffed with subject specialists in all faculties.

- **Mr Bloomfield** joins us from a school in Bedfordshire. He will be teaching Maths to all year groups at Wollaston, in addition to having a leadership role for the development of Maths across the three schools in the Nene Valley Partnership.
- **Miss Lynch** also joins the Maths team from a school in Northampton and will be teaching throughout the age ranges at Wollaston.
- **Miss Killeen** joins our excellent English department from another local school and she will teach all year groups from January.

We are also delighted to announce that **Mr Braham-Nicoll** has been appointed to the Assistant Head of Sixth Form role and **Mrs Weir-Smith** has been appointed to take over the Year 9 Student Manager role.

January also sees the return of some wonderful members of staff who have recently been on maternity leave. **Mrs Barton** re-joins the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher and will be leading our Additional Needs provision. **Mrs Redfern** returns to her role as Head of Art, Design & Technology and **Mrs Hollis-Brown** is welcomed back to the Performing Arts faculty as Head of Music.

We look forward to working with such excellent colleagues, both old and new as we prepare for an wonderful 2019!



## Improving Communication

Parents are invited to sign up to the website newsfeed, where you will receive a weekly email which details any important school information and updates on past and upcoming events. Please head to our website <https://www.wollastonschool.com/>, scroll to the bottom of the **home page** and enter your details into the '**Wollaston News Roundup**' section to subscribe to the service.

Thank you as always, for your commitment and support in making the Autumn Term of the 2018-19 academic year so successful. Every member of the school community should be proud of what we have achieved: celebrating record GCSE outcomes, a wonderful start to life at Wollaston for our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and most importantly, the positive and collaborative approach to learning which we celebrate every day at our school. Not to mention the amazing array of extra-curricular activities, school trips, and many other ways in which our students inspire and achieve with their work at Wollaston School!

It finally remains for me to wish all students, staff, their families and our wider community, a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for a successful 2019.

Thank you as always for your support of Wollaston School. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Birkett".

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