



18th January 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Year 11 Excellence Tie Evening

Congratulations to all of those Year 11 students who were awarded their Excellence Ties on Thursday evening. This recognition is awarded to students who have consistently met the very highest of standards in attendance, effort and achievement. Mrs Hobson was proud to host the event and recognise the incredible talent and dedication of so many in this excellent year group.

It is also important that we recognise the great start that all students in Year 11 have made to 2019. We have a year group who are starting to demonstrate the self-discipline and ambition which is required for high levels of academic achievement and we look forward to making such great potential a concrete reality in the weeks and months ahead.

School Trips

Year 9 students enjoyed their trip to The Living Rainforest on Monday of this week, despite the cold weather outside, students enjoyed a more temperate climate inside the glasshouses. Not only did this enable students to look at a diverse range of plant life in a tropical ecosystem, but this also included an encounter with a giant sloth! Students were of course wonderful ambassadors for Wollaston School and Mrs Collins, Head of Geography commented *'It was a pleasure taking our students somewhere different to experience learning outside of the classroom. The students were attentive and knowledgeable, and it was great to see them experience something different'*.

The Art Department visited the Tate Modern Museum in London on Wednesday, with Year 11 students studying GCSE fine art and/or photography. The visit was an opportunity to seek inspiration for their final practical exam pieces. Mrs Hawkins, who led the trip said, *"The students were impressed with the vast array of different art work ranging from traditional painting to contemporary sculptures that took up a whole room. Pupils were particular fans of the interactive activities and collected a large amount of images and information of artists and photographers they have never heard of before."* Students were enthused by the visit and are now ready for success in their exam work! Once complete, we will arrange for a formal exhibition of all their work, open to parents, families and the school community as a whole.

Parental Support with Homework

We are enormously appreciative of the many ways in which parents support their children's education at Wollaston School. I know from my own experiences, that parenting is not only an amazingly rewarding process, but also one which can be exhausting and occasionally frustrating! In regards to homework, we are hugely appreciative of the efforts that parents and carers make, ensuring students have a quiet place to work at home on a regular basis, in order to complete their homework. We also know from listening to students, that parental interest in homework is appreciated, even if students may not show it at the time! If you have any questions about homework in a particular subject, please do contact your son's or daughter's subject teacher in the first instance.

Professional Leadership Development for staff at Wollaston School

Our School mission is to ensure great outcomes for every student who attends Wollaston School, and investing in professional development of staff to ensure the highest possible standards of leadership, teaching and learning, is central to this.

Parents and carers may be interested to learn that during this academic year we have begun working with our local Teaching School Alliance and University College London (UCL) on a range of National Leadership Programmes designed for education professionals. This includes programmes for Middle, Senior and Executive Leaders. We are pleased to provide our excellent staff with such exciting and prestigious professional development opportunities. As part of this programme, we were also pleased to welcome a facilitator from the Institute of Education at UCL and a group of Executive Headteachers to Wollaston, as they ran a programme on Executive Leadership on Wednesday of this week.

Parking around the School Site

As the weather turns colder, we often see an increase in the number of parents collecting students by car. A reminder that we appreciate considerate parking and driving, not only on the school site, but in the surrounding residential areas. In particular, please can parents ensure that residents have access to their own driveways and that parked cars do not block road junctions. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter. We pride ourselves on being a good neighbour to local residents and whilst ensuring 1450 students and 200 staff leave the site safely quickly is always a challenge, we do want to ensure that we do this with consideration for local residents.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Mr James Birkett
Headteacher