



8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear parents and carers,

The cold weather and rain has certainly reminded us that we are in Autumn, although we have enjoyed a successful first week back in school which has undoubtedly brightened the dark November days!

### **We Will Rock You**

Congratulations to all students and staff for an incredible production of We Will Rock You, which was performed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The musical is based on the songs of Queen and as ever, the dynamism, talent and cohesion of the cast was simply breath-taking. The production as a whole showcased the artistic ambition and imagination of all who work in the Performing Arts faculty and was yet another reason to be so proud of belonging to Wollaston School.

The list of people to thank and congratulate is far too long to do so individually, so to everyone who was involved in making this such an incredible production - thank you and congratulations!

### **Year 11 Parents' Evening & Forthcoming Success at GCSE Evening**

We were delighted to welcome the overwhelming majority of parents and students to the subject consultation evening at the end of October. Feedback from staff, students and parents has been incredibly positive, both in terms of preparing for success in this summer's GCSE examinations and with support for the new Parents' Evening location in the Main Hall and Maths block.

The next event for Year 11 parents is the preparing for success at GCSE evening which will take place on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 6.00pm**. This is for parents only and is designed to help with how you can support your child through their forthcoming GCSE examinations, emotionally and academically. We are rightly proud of our academic successes, and also determined to ensure that we help students achieve these grades with plenty of purpose, but as little stress and pressure as possible. The evening aims to provide practical strategies and a clear understanding of the exams process for parents, in order that we are ready to achieve great things in partnership with the Year 11 cohort of 2020.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

From event bookings, we are expecting our busiest Sixth Form Open Evening to date. These are exciting times for our increasingly larger successful Post-16 provision and we are looking forward to sharing the courses and educational experience that we have to offer. We would encourage students and parents to arrive in good time for the presentation which begins at **6.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**.

There is then of course, the opportunity to meet with staff leading all courses, as well as to discuss with current students, their experiences of both of life in the Sixth Form generally and of what it takes to be successful on specific courses.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event and in the meantime if you have any questions regarding Sixth Form, please contact Mrs Jo Melia, Sixth Form Centre Manager on [meliaj@wollaston-](mailto:meliaj@wollaston-)

[school.net](http://school.net).

### **Oxford University Trip**

We have a number of students in the Sixth Form who are considering applications to Oxbridge Universities to study and a group travelled with Mr Sheldrick to Hertford College in Oxford for a visit to experience academic life there. Mr Sheldrick is an alumni of Oxford and was also on hand to guide students through both his experiences and the process of application.

Mr Sheldrick said of the visit *"The students had a thoroughly rewarding day. We were given a very warm welcome by Hertford College. Our students were given the opportunity to experience the academic demands of an Oxford tutorial, given an admissions talk by the Outreach Officer and to learn about day-to-day life from two current undergraduates. We also had the privilege of sitting at "high table" when we had our lunch. The group was buzzing all the way back on the bus."*

We are also in the amazing position of having, for the first time ever, more students who would like to visit an Oxbridge University than we had places available. As a result, we will be running a trip to another college at either Oxford or Cambridge, prior to students making their UCAS applications. Further details will follow in due course.

### **Sporting Success**

**U16 Girls Football Team** - Congratulations to our U16 Girls Football Team who were narrowly defeated in a friendly with Caroline Chisholm School shortly before the term break. Congratulations to all who played, as well as Ms Read and Miss Cattell for managing the team. We would also like to thank Joshua Baker in Year 12 who refereed (he is an FA qualified referee) and Mr Myers for his coaching (Mr Myers is a Level 3 FA licensed football coach). We have a talented group of students and staff!

**Ten Pin Bowling** – Congratulations to Jessica Sillis in Year 9, who represented Team England in ten-pin bowling at Blanchardstown near Dublin in Ireland in August 2019, where she played in the Youth Triple Crown. At the age of just 13, she represented her country, led her country out onto the lanes and stood on the podium, collecting her medals, with the national anthem playing. I am pleased to report that in total she won 4 Gold and 2 Silver medals. Full details can be found on the school website.

### **GCSE Awards Evening 2019**

On **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, we will be celebrating the record-breaking achievements of our GCSE cohort of 2019. Invitations have already been sent out to students and the evening will feature the formal presentation of GCSE certificates, as well as a number of awards for individual achievements and effort in a range of subjects. We look forward to celebrating with parents, students and staff on the evening, the incredible successes of all of our Year 11 students of 2019.

Thank you, as always for your support and cooperation in these matters and 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,



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