



7th February 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Year 9 Curriculum Evening

Thank you to all Year 9 students, parents and staff for a very positive evening on Wednesday to explain the choices system for GCSE study and also to learn more of the details regarding selected courses.

We aim to provide students and parents with all appropriate advice and guidance to select courses which will be both enjoyable and enable academic success. This area of our work is led by Mrs S Lydon (Academic Deputy Headteacher) lydons@wollaston-school.net, Mr J Litt (Associate Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum) littj@wollaston-school.net and Mr E Stevenson (Associate Assistant Headteacher: Assessment & Reporting) stevensone@wollaston-school.net. If you do have further questions about the process, please contact any of the above by email.

I trust that Year 9 are excited and enthusiastic about the opportunity to shape their curriculum. It is always a milestone moment in a school career and marks the transition from lower school to more senior status. Our Year 9 cohort will become the Wollaston GCSE class of 2022!

Year 11 & Sixth Form Art & Photography Trip

As part of their GCSE Exam Preparation and A-Level work, students got the opportunity to visit the Tate Modern in London on Tuesday of this week.

Mrs N Hawkins commented *"Students were incredibly behaved and responsible, and even with an hour's delay on the M1, they were fantastic, serenading us with 1980s and 1990s songs! When we eventually arrived at the Tate Modern, students made the most of the exhibitions, looking at the main exhibitions across the 4 floors. They seemed to particularly love the work of Monet, Lichtenstein and Ruscha. A number of particular favourites were the Tower of Radios, the hanging blinds and the lights in photos. Students also got the opportunity to get an amazing view of London from the viewing tower on Level 10 of the Tate Modern."*

Students have responded well to the trip and have now started to use the images to explore ideas and develop ideas for experiments. Thank you to the students for being such excellent ambassadors for the school and to Mrs Hawkins for organising the trip.

Food & Enterprise

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who have begun a number of assessed elements of their GCSE exams.

Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been busy this week carrying out a 3-hour practical exam as part of their Non Examined Assessment. The themes this year have been British Cuisine, starchy carbohydrate dishes for active adults or dishes for someone with type 2 diabetes.

Mrs K Worger (Senior Assistant Headteacher) commented *"The students have worked very hard in preparing for this assessment. They have demonstrated a wide range of food preparation skills to make*

some excellent dishes, including fruit tarts with crème patisserie, traditional Cornish pasties, Victoria Sandwich cakes with homemade jam, and tortellini with homemade pasta. We are very proud of their achievements”.

There are two more groups who will be completing their assessment next week. A very high standard has been set this week, so we hope this will be maintained if not exceeded.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the families who have supported by providing lovely ingredients and helping the students remain calm and thank you to Mrs Worger for her continued support of these students.

Enterprise students have been completing part of their Tech Award for their Level 2 BTEC qualification this week. This involved them presenting a pitch, Dragon’s Den style, in front of an audience. Students dressed in business attire and communicated their Enterprise ideas superbly, a skill that will benefit them in their future lives when faced with interviews and presentations.

Mrs Z Correa-Humphries (Associate Assistant Headteacher & Head of Humanities) commented, *“I have been extremely proud of all of the students; even though some were very nervous, they presented eloquently and persuasively – watch this space for some innovative and interesting future Alan Sugars!”*

Thank you to all staff involved for supporting students with this element of their course.

Primary Dodgeball

The Year 12 Sports Leader students organised and ran a dodgeball tournament for five local primary schools on Tuesday evening at Cogenhoe Village hall. Students from Years 3 & 4 from Grendon, Cogenhoe, Denton, Little Houghton and Yardley Hastings attended. Our students organised and ran the tournament as part of their CLA leadership qualification. It was a brilliant night that was fiercely contested by all schools. The final was between Yardley Hastings and Little Houghton and was narrowly won by Little Houghton.

A special mention to the two Year 9 sports leaders (MacKenzie Pritchard and Amelia Bailey) who ran a team from Yardley Hastings to support their teacher who was running the other team.

Thank you to all students for representing Wollaston School so well and to Mr Roberts for supporting the students with organising such a fantastic event.

Anti-Bullying Event at Cogenhoe Primary School

It was a privilege to attend the Anti-Bullying workshop with Headteachers, Governors and Parents from Bozeat, Little Houghton and Cogenhoe all working together on this important issue in school.

Part of the vision for the Nene Valley Partnership as our new Multi-Academy Trust, is to be engaged with as many partner primary schools as possible to ensure that we have a coherent curriculum and pastoral process for all of our children and families. It was wonderful to learn of the process and support given by Cogenhoe, Bozeat and Great Houghton and we look forward to working together again in the future.



ASK Education

There is further good news for Wollaston School and the Nene Valley Partnership as we develop our role and reputation in the wider educational community.

We have been invited to work with other local school and Multi Academy trusts to organise effective Continuing Professional Development for school staff and governors. Our school will be involved both as participants and as part of the delivery team and steering committee.

This is a new organisation and early activities and progress are beginning. The new website is live at www.askeducation.org.uk. Exciting times for Wollaston School and the Nene Valley Partnership!

Communication with School

We greatly appreciate the way in which parents work in partnership with our school and this approach is key in ensuring our success as a school.

For urgent contact with the school, we would always recommend contact the school by telephone and stating clearly that this is an urgent issue.

We know that staff and parents use email purposefully as a communication tool, and I know that this is also a really convenient format. However, please do be aware that staff may not always be able to respond immediately to emails, and there is always a risk that an important email could be unintendedly missed.

As a rule, we would aim to respond to emails within a few school days as a general guide, but for anything more urgent, please do get in touch via telephone.

Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 13th - Sunday 16th February 2020	Iceland Trip
Friday 14th February 2020	Staff Professional Development day – School Closed to students
Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2020	HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 24th February 2020	School re-opens for Term 4

As this is the final Friday of the term, there will not be a letter next week. A reminder that Friday 14th February 2020 is a teacher Professional Development Day and we trust families enjoy a Happy Valentine's Day!

The second half of the Spring Term begins on **Monday 24th February 2020** and we look forward to seeing students return then.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Birkett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr James Birkett
Headteacher