



# Great Wyrley Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust



## WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2021

### Newsletter October 2021

I wanted to take this opportunity to praise students who have settled so brilliantly back into the routine of school. It has been a difficult and long half term and following the covid restrictions of last academic year, students should be recognised for the way that they have approached their education. Great Wyrley Academy is a superb school; I have the privilege of walking around school every day – often with visitors – and what I see is consistently great behaviour and learning taking place. It should be said more often- the students are a credit to the school and to yourselves.

What the students have been through over the past couple of years has been tough. We are doing everything we can to ensure that we make up for lost learning and for lost opportunities. Keep an eye out for the many clubs and opportunities available at lunchtimes and after school.

After half term all students are able to have a free breakfast between 8am and 8.30am in the canteen (drinks have to be purchased). We are also offering paid-for food at break time after half term, in addition to our improved menu at lunchtime. This is all part of what we are trying to offer our local community.

Thank you for your support so far this year. Can I remind parents that students should be on time for school (on site by 8.30am) and wearing the correct uniform (see our website for clarification).

We break up on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm. Have a lovely half term break. School starts again on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at the normal time.

Ian Moreton

Headteacher

### Y7 FORM TUTOR EVENING THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER – 5PM-6PM



A great opportunity to come along and meet your child's form tutors and to ask any questions that you may have.

Please go onto to Parent Mail to book a slot

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY!**

### MIDLANDS JUNIOR BOXING CHAMPION



Callum Seedhouse Y11 competed in the Midlands Boxing Championships on Sunday 26 September in Donnington Telford and won to become **Midlands Champion**.

By winning the Midlands regional he is now through to the pre-quarters of the national junior championships

Callum is a member of Great Wyrley Amateur Boxing Club

**WELL DONE – WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!**

### PUNCTUALITY MATTERS!

Arriving on time for school is important. Arriving late can be disruptive for the tutor group and embarrassing for the student who is late. Important information is given to the students during tutor time so it is essential all students are present.

- First bell 8.35am.
- Second bell 8.40am – all students must be in tutor by this time
- Late arrivals after 8.40am and up until 9.00am **will be spoken to on the gate and will be issued a 20 minute lunch time detention.**
- Arrivals after 9.00am must sign in at reception and **will be issued a 20 minute lunch time detention.**
- Morning registration closes at 9.15am. Any arrival after this time will be marked as unauthorised. This will negatively impact your overall attendance figure.

Students with regular lateness will be issued with further sanctions and parent/carer will be invited into school for a meeting with the Attendance officer and Education Welfare Officer.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

21 October Y7 Form Tutor Evening

**HALF TERM 25-29 OCTOBER**

01-12 November Y11 Examinations

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



We had a very successful European Day of Languages with many pupils getting involved in the activities! Many pupils took part in the Spanish club and pupils learned about the benefits of learning languages at school and beyond!

We had a great turn out for the first session of Spanish club, a few are pictured. Pupils learned how to greet each other and talk about themselves, this will stand pupils in good stead for when Spanish club becomes a weekly event.



Y11s will be trying a French delicacy very soon.. Keep your eyes on twitter to see what they are going to be trying and their reactions!

Y7 Spelling Bee will be starting soon with the list of words coming out for pupils. Look out for a word list on Google Classrooms, with some BIG prizes on offer for the winners, plus the chance to go to the regional finals!

## Psychology

All Year 13 students have been given a comprehensive timetable for this year. This includes topics covered in class, assessments and revision suggestions. This should help students to get organised and stay on top of their work in this very important year. They have been given access to a range of revision opportunities including weekly revision quizzes on the seneca website.

Year 13 students will have the opportunity to hear from a range of senior psychologists at the Oxford University Psychology Conference. This will be a remote activity to take place during school time and will allow students to hear about new developments in Psychology including research looking at the impact of Covid on society.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A number of students have become inspired by looking at ethical theories and how they relate to life. They will soon be setting up an Amnesty International Youth Action group. They will be looking for members to join them in their awareness raising of their chosen campaigns

## HISTORY

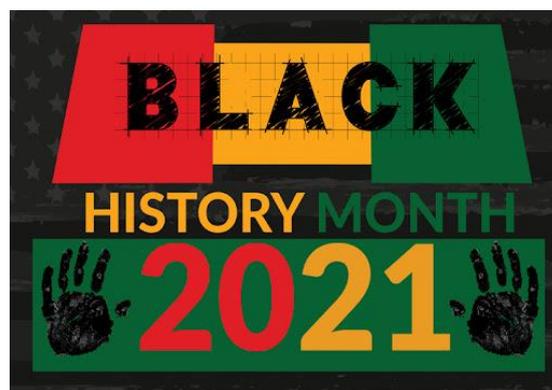
Y7s recently took part in a very successful site visit to the Black Country Living Museum where they very much enjoyed learning about the rich and diverse experiences of people in the past that lived their lives in this important part of the country.



Y11 students have been furnished with an up to date revision pathway to help them prepare for the upcoming November PPEs.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

All students should look out for the events and opportunities that they will be presented with as we enjoy celebrating Black History Month.



October ends on the same day of the week as February every year.

## Bullying - Advice

# Before you

**Make an unkind remark**  
**Spread a nasty rumor**  
**Make fun or belittle**  
**Physically intimidate or threaten**



# and THINK

**about how it would feel if someone did these things to you!**

What is considered to be bullying at GWA? Our School anti-bullying Policy uses the Acronym S.T.O.P.

### Several Times On Purpose

*“Bullying is any deliberate, hurtful, upsetting, frightening or threatening behaviour by an individual or group towards other people. It is repeated over a period of time and it is very difficult for victims to defend themselves.”*

If you want to report that you, or someone you know, are being bullied or just want some help or advice concerning bullying then please email:

[ebullybox@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:ebullybox@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)

As well as doing this, remember you can also speak to:

- Your Head of Year
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Fielder
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Foyle, Mrs S Wilkinson, Mr McFarlane and Mrs McCarthy
- Any member of staff

**Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility**



**“We all have the right to live in safety”**

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Fielder (e-mail:

[dfielder@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:dfielder@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk))

Deputy DSL: Mrs Foyle (e-mail:

[jfoyle@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:jfoyle@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk))

Deputy DSL: Mrs Wilkinson (e-mail:

[swilkinson@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:swilkinson@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk))

Deputy DSLs also available are Mr McFarlane (Head of Year 8 & 9) and Mrs McCarthy (Head of Year 10 & 11)

# NSPCC

New Dedicated NSPCC helpline 0800 136 663

This new helpline has been created to provide both children and adults who are potential victims of sexual abuse in schools with the appropriate support and advice. This included how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish. This helpline will also provide support to parents.

Useful help and advice for parents, regarding all safeguarding areas, including children's mental health and on-line safety can be found at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

**BREAKFAST**



**CHANGES AFTER HALF TERM**

Free breakfast before school

Paid food available at breaktime

**REMEMBER**

THE CLOCKS GO BACK SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER



## ASPIRE SIXTH



Year 13 should be well into their UCAS applications and apprenticeship research. We are hoping to get all references written and applications completed as soon as possible. Students need to ensure that they attend tutorial sessions with their tutors so that we can offer the best advice that we can on Next Steps.

Year 12 continue to make a positive start and have been working exceptionally well in their lessons. Again, it is vital that students attend tutorial sessions and stay in contact with their tutors so that we can best support them.

A big Thank You to all the sixth form students who helped on Open Evening.



**WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

GWA staff collected a staggering £180 as part of the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Well done to all those who baked, faked and contributed to the wonderful cause. A special congratulations to Mrs Sanford who was crowned bake off winner with her Carrot Cake.





## EXTRA CURRICULAR / AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

### COME AND GET INVOLVED!

Activity Type/Club	Leader	Day	Time	Year Group	Notes
KS 4 Football	Mr Fielder	Friday	3.15-4.15	10 & 11	
Ks3 STEM Club	Mr Baker / Mr Brown	Tues or Wed TBC	3.15-4.15	7 & 8	
Chess Club	Mr Till	Tuesday	12.45-1.10	All	
School Show	Miss Slade, Miss Wood & Mr Smith	Wednesday	3.00-4.30	All	Rehearsal schedule is in the Theatre foyer
Y7 Drama Club	Miss Slade	Monday	3.00-4.00	Y7	Theatre
All years football Club	Mrs Fielder	Tuesday	3.00-4.00	All	Meet in PE department. Remember trainers and shin pads
History Club	Mrs Cornwall	Monday	12.45-1.10	7-9	
Viva Voce	Mr Smith	Tuesday	8.00-9.00	All	
Ringers & Bangers	Mr Smith	Wednesday	8.00-9.00	All	
Table Tennis	Mr Smith	Thursday	8.00-9.00	All	
KS3 Football	Mr Smith	Friday	8.00-9.00	7-9	
Soul Band	Mr Smith	Tuesday	3.00-4.30	Invite Only	
Advanced Singers	Mr Smith	Thursday	3.00-4.00	10-13	
Toots n' Rootz	Mrs Broadwood	Wednesday	3.05-3.45	7 & 8	
Y7 & 8 Dance Club	Miss Wood	Tuesday	3.05-4.15	7 & 8	
Y10 & 11 Dance Club	Miss Wood	Thursday	3.05-4.15	10 & 11	
Arts Award	Mrs Down	Tuesday	3.00-4.00	All	
Netball	Mrs McCarthy	Monday	3.00-4.00	All	
Girls Fitness	Mrs McCarthy	Wednesday	3.00-3.45	All	
Forest School / Eco Club	Mr Stephenson/Mrs Holmes	Tuesday	3.15-4.15	7 & 8	



# STEM & MEDICINE CAREER EXPERIENCES



Ages 12-18 | At UCL and around the UK

This term INVESTIN is offering students aged 12-18 immersive weekend experiences in 13 different STEM and Medicine-related careers. Learn from top doctors, engineers, psychologists, investment bankers and more. You can attend in-person at UCL or online. Other options include the Universities of Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh.

The careers covered are:

- Architecture:** Use pioneering software to create 3D models
- Cyber Security:** Become a white hat hacker and pen-test a 'secure' system
- Data Science:** Use big data to salvage a business on the brink of collapse
- Dentistry:** Practise fillings and drill into decayed teeth
- Engineering:** Use AI to design the next autonomous vehicle
- Forensic Science:** Gather evidence, match fingerprints and analyse blood
- Investment Banking:** Build a winning portfolio and trade stocks live
- Medicine:** Read patient X-rays, ECGs and blood tests
- Nursing:** Watch a live wound care demonstration and try it out yourself
- Psychology:** Advise the police during a live hostage negotiation
- Software Engineering:** Discover the world of full-stack engineering
- Vet:** Experience a live veterinary surgery simulation
- Video Game Designer:** Build your own spellbinding game in Unity

Please click on this [link](#) for more details and to register.

## RAF STEM ENGINEERING DAY

60 of our Y7 and Y8 students worked alongside the RAF STEM ambassadors this month where the focus was problem solving and engineering robots to program them to move. The work was undertaken in small groups to show the importance of collaboration and teamwork in our creative industries. A big thank you to Hyett education for inspiring our students to 'Aspire' during this whole day session and hopefully inspire the next generation of male and female engineers and STEM linked career pathways to become their career aims and objectives.



## CAREERS

This term in careers a focus is encouraging young people to gain an understanding of handling their personal finances as young adults, budgeting and banking, understanding credit, my first bank account, loans and mortgages. Explore the link below

[Free online financial education sessions](#)

New on demand workshops for 2021...

<p><b>First bank account</b> Opening your first bank account</p> <p><b>Opening your first bank account</b> Bank Accounts</p> <p><b>Key vocabulary:</b> bank, online bank, bank account, safety, credit score</p> <p><b>Age range:</b> 11-14 Click here to download student worksheet</p>	<p><b>Understanding credit</b> Understanding credit, debit and debt</p> <p><b>Understanding credit</b> from KS3 group</p> <p><b>Key vocabulary:</b> credit, debit, debt, loans, buy now pay later, online apps.</p> <p><b>Age range:</b> 14-18 years old</p>	<p><b>Loans &amp; Mortgages</b> Fundamentals of loans and mortgages</p> <p><b>Loans &amp; Mortgages</b> from KS3 group</p> <p><b>Key vocabulary:</b> loans, mortgages, students loans, renting, buying first home.</p> <p><b>Age range:</b> 14-18 years old</p>
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# GWAWARDS

## MUSIC & DRAMA

### GWAMMYS

Y7 – Michelle Memela & Brandon Collins  
 Y8 – Georgia Despotaki & Lewis Seedhouse  
 Y9 – Teah Jones & Zachary Benton-Rose  
 Y10 – Melanie Dicken & Dec Mayfield  
 Y11 – Amber Grocutt

### GWOSCARS

Y7 – Megan Asbury & Callum Standing  
 Y8 – Archie Evans & Chloe Lewis  
 Y9 – Evie Harris & Cam Howell  
 Y10 – Jessica Taylor & Shelby McDonald



### MUSIC

The start of term has been quite hectic as our instrumental lessons are now under way as well as all of our musical groups. We have had regular attendance for our before school clubs but still need more singers and 'boomwhackerers'. It appears that an 8am start is proving to be a challenge but I would like to commend the GCSE music students for being there every morning to support me. Our soul band, 'Soul Cats', has undergone an amazing transformation with numerous auditions and promotions to help develop the number of performers we have. Due to the long break we had, because of covid, lots of year 11, 12 and 13 performers moved on and we were only left with six original performers. We have managed to raise the size of the group to 28 and now have lots of enthusiastic students learning new instruments and the existing repertoire. We have started to plan the European music tour which will take place in July 2022 and will see the Soul band visit and perform in Belgium.

Year 7 students have been learning all about musical elements and how to read music, year 8 students have been creating African drumming performances on our new Djembe drums and year 9s have been looking at music and media, focussing on film music.

KS4 music students are currently working on developing their performances and compositions.

### DANCE

We had our very first WAT Conference rehearsal. They all worked extremely hard and it's looking amazing already. Special well done to Great Wyrley Dancers Katie-Mae Rawlings, Amelia-Mae Chambers, Ella Simkiss, Louisa Dudley-Mowe. We cannot wait for you to see it!



**Dance stars of the month:**

**Y7 Abigail Nutting  
 Y8 Libby Selvey  
 Y10 Louisa Pearsall  
 Y11 Trinity Edwards**

Dance clubs have started and we are preparing for the Black Country Dance Hub Autumn Show on 15th November. Dance workshops have also commenced at Rivers Primary Academy and Moat Hall Primary!

### DRAMA:

Year 7 Drama Club has started and members have been working hard in 'Greatest Showman' musical theatre workshops. It is not too late to join if Year 7 students still want to!- They just need to come to the Theatre after school on a Monday 3pm-4pm and ask Miss Slade to be joined to the Google Classroom.

We have now finished the opening number for our school show! We are delighted with students' progress so far in rehearsals. We are excited to announce some cast changes: Zachary Benton-Rose will be playing 'Brett' and Jack Capewell will be playing 'Richie'.

In Drama lessons, Year 7 students have been exploring the use of 'Flashbacks' and 'thought tracking' to add depth to their characters. Year 8 students have each performed in groups an extract from 'Billy Elliot' and Year 9 students have been devising scenes based on the Hillsborough Disaster. In Year 10, all students have improvised dialogue and performed back to the rest of the class. Year 11 students have each created a presentation about the context of 'Blood Brothers'.



**ARTS AMBASSADORS**

Congratulations to our newly appointed Arts Mark Ambassadors, who have been chosen to represent the arts across the school.



Our Student ambassadors are from left to right Year 9 - M'Ballou Kallon, Year 12 - Shannon Doughty, Year 8 - Thomas Wood and Year 10 - Harry Griffiths.

**FABULOUS FOODIES**

Presenting our fabulous foodies this month. All year groups have been busy over the last couple of weeks cooking up a storm here are some highlights from Y11, 10 and 9 where the Aspire focus was presentation and creativity, creating doughs for bread and pasta through understanding the function of ingredients when combined and the role of sugar and raising agents in sponge syrup cake. Well done Max Woolley, Sam Price and Roxy Lee Orme.



**ASPIRE**

**Top 10 performing students**

**WINNER – Lexi Jarvis (9Z) - 59**

- Daniel Tehn-Addy (7Z) – 59
- Brandon Collins (7X) – 51
- Katie Dutton (9X) – 51
- Callum Standing (7Y) – 51
- Shaian Cele (9Z) – 50
- Cole Esprey (7Z) – 49
- Olivia Hayward (9Z) – 48
- Oscar Parsons (11X) – 48

**ASPIRE POINT TOTALS – September**

**WINNERS Year 7 - 2390**

- Year 8 - 1723
- Year 9 - 2074
- Year 10 - 2084
- Year 11 - 1764
- ASPIRE Sixth - 342

**Top 5 tutor groups September**

**WINNERS 9Z – 860**

- 7Z – 676
- 10Z – 670
- 7Y – 666
- 11X - 658

ASPIRE Ambassadors – All students in 7, 8, 9 & 10 have the fantastic leadership opportunity to become an ASPIRE ambassador and work alongside Mrs Cornwall to help promote ASPIRE across our family of schools in the Windsor Academy Trust. For a detailed job description and how to apply can be found by clicking the link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rUxTMI2IXnbtXKQwXeSeD7PqVdSODbLeK2KBSIfARqQ/edit>

ASPIRE sentences – Throughout September students have been working on their ASPIRE sentences. The aim is for students to have high aspirations for their futures once they have left school. The first part of the sentence is made up of the ASPIRE 'I am' character virtues and their career goal. The second sentence is what they are going to do in and out of school to achieve their goal. Here are some standout ASPIRE sentences:

Year 9 – I aspire to be a resilient health care professional. To realise my potential I need to focus on my studies in all lessons and choose child development as a GCSE option

Year 10 – I aspire to be a resilient and compassionate psychologist and help those who have the opportunity to get help, it is important for me not to give up on them. To realise my potential I will study drama to build confidence.

Year 8 – I aspire to be a courageous leader who helps and supports students at EYFS day care. To realise my potential I will be successful in English and Maths and study childcare at Sixth Form

# ASPIRE

We encourage every student at Great Wyrley Academy and ASPIRE Sixth to ASPIRE in their learning and in their lives. We advocate that there are six character virtues and six learning skills which are crucial to the unlocking of both personal and academic potential. It is these virtues and skills which will equip all students with the personal and academic attributes required to become happy, safe and successful citizens.

## ASPIRE has evolved!

More specific character virtues and learner skills, chosen in light of recent research and our own experiences throughout lockdown

These are the 6 'I am' virtues. These are personal qualities that we would like you to develop so you are successful in your future lives.



These are the 6 'I can' learner skills. These are skills that you will use, develop and master each lesson to help you to self-regulate your own learning.

### Character 'I am'

### Learner skills 'I can'

Character Virtue	Definition
Respectful	To treat someone or something in a way that shows it is valued.
Responsible	To act knowing that our choices will lead to certain outcomes.
Resilient	To try, even when something is challenging.
Creative	To think of different ideas and perspectives.
Compassionate	To show care and kindness to others.
Courageous	To be brave and aim high.

Learner skill	Definition
Be organised	Organise and effectively manage learning independently (self regulating)
Become unstuck	Know what to do when they don't know what to do',
Self-quiz	Competent at self quizzing techniques from KO and self quiz it daily
Give and receive feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive, understand and act upon feedback</li> <li>Give accurate feedback to themselves and peers</li> </ul>
Be collaborative	Work effectively with a learning partner and within a team

Communicate clearly

**Get students to SHAPE their verbal answers**

**Sentences - no single word answers**

**Hand away from mouth - be confident**

**Articulate - don't mumble**

**Project - a loud, clear voice**

**Eye contact - this is important!**

Students are regularly rewarded when they mentioned positively on class charts.

We want every learner to believe that they can be all and more than they ever thought they could be, and to know what their future self looks like. Research tells us that people who have clear aspirations, and who know what they need to do in the present, are eight times more likely to achieve those aspirations. 'Aim for the moon, because if you miss you'll land among the stars.'