



Wolstanton High School

A Shaw Education Trust Academy



Headteacher:
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Tt/CJD

Easter 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Wishing you and your families a Happy Easter.

Wolstanton High School is a caring school where staff and students stand strong together in their pride in their school. It is a building which dominates the area and is steeped in history; nowhere is this felt more keenly than the school hall with the magnificent organ; portraits of previous Headteachers and the names of old Wolstantonians who fought in WW2. The vast majority of students are well-behaved, wear their uniform well and are attentive in lessons. We are fully staffed and our staff love working here and are committed to helping all our students to achieve their best. There is a strong, respectful relationship between staff and students.

As Wolstanton High School has joined The Shaw Education Trust it is a time to take the opportunity to reflect upon some things that need changing, but I am not an advocate of change for change's sake. So our focus is absolutely on the quality of teaching and learning across school working towards every child should make at least expected progress and many beyond expected.

We also have a Rewards and Sanctions system where certainly the detention system has become unwieldy and ineffective.

Changes after Easter

- We are piloting a new detention system:
 - If a C3 is issued periods 1 to 4 a detention will be at lunchtime the same day. If period 5, then the next day lunchtime. Students will have 20 minutes after detention to have their lunch.
 - Following a sanction, further misbehaviour will be considered cumulatively and may lead to a "serious unacceptable behaviour" sanction. After school detentions are retained where a student receives more than one detention in a day.

We have spoken to the students and staff and taken on board parental comments, but we will be asking for feedback later in the summer to fine-tune the system for September. Underpinning all of the new sanctions system is the agreement that a student will not refuse any reasonable request and, if a sanction is necessary, it will be swift.

We are also looking at our Rewards system: ultimately all of us must learn to take responsibility for our own behaviour and we want to positively recognise our young people who stretch to achieve high standards.

Behaviour Policy: I am enclosing the school Code of Conduct taken from the Behaviour Policy on the school website. There are some key messages included. I am proud that we work closely with the Community Police in a positive way; they are welcome at Wolstanton High School and have already helped some of our students with career guidance, support for problems out of school and helped liaise with staff to support community activity out of school hours.

The Senior Leadership Team has been given whole-school responsibilities instead of solely linked to their mini-school (House).

Broadly:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| Mrs M K Hobson: | Deputy Headteacher: | Curriculum and Raising Standards |
| Mr J Johnson: | Assistant Headteacher: | Behaviour and Rewards |
| Mr C Lakin: | Assistant Headteacher: | Safeguarding and Alternative Curriculum |
| Mr I Verow: | Assistant Headteacher: | Teaching and Learning |

There are a number of other internal changes, but none that will affect you or the students, except for improved outcomes.

Changes for September 2016

- The mini-schools will be referred to as Houses (same name, same colour).
- The School Leaders: Achievement and Support (Mrs V Dale-Drayton, Mr J Rowley, Mrs E Welch-Moore and Mr J Williams) will be referred to as Head of House (HoH).

Parent Pay: If any of you are still owing monies on Parent Pay, please could you balance this as soon as possible.

Finnish Exchange Visit: Mr Lakin, Miss Sayle-Kermode and a group of our students took part in a cultural exchange this term, hosted by students at Myllytulli School in Oulu, Finland. They visited the Arctic Museum at the Polar Circle in Rovaniemi, and national league ice hockey match, as well as taking part in lessons at the University of Oulu and Oulu International School.

Young Enterprise: This year's Young Enterprise Team attended the Stone Trade Fair on Saturday 12th March. What a fantastic day they had! Their company "Safe365" has been through a very long development journey full of ups and downs however, they were open for business.

Their product, which they have dubbed the "Thermal-Etch" is in the form of a sticker and a magnet and is designed with safety in mind. Attachable to any surface, the green coloured circle will change to bright red when it heats above 42 degrees Celsius; the medically certified temperature that children's skin reacts to with heat. It can be attached to any surface in the home and will quickly indicate to a child that the surface is hot and could cause a burn.

The team sold almost all their stock and they were unanimously praised by both customers and Young Enterprise judges for their professionalism, innovation and dynamism. It is always brilliant to see them interacting with customers after such a journey and the team were flawless ambassadors for the school. Once again, we have shown what Wolstanton High School is really capable of.

PE Successes: Our teams have been triumphant this term and we have had a whole week dedicated to Sports Relief, culminating in a mile run around the field for staff and students alike.

Boys: Our Year 11 boys football team became District winners, beating Madeley in a very tense final that finished with us winning 4-2 on penalties.

Our Year 7 boys football team also made a great start this year, winning their league pool without losing a game.

Table tennis has proven to be a real strength of the school. Our B team was successful in beating Excel and Haywood Academies, but unfortunately lost to Madeley and just missed out on the finals.

Our A team, who are current County champions, beat every team they played by 10 games to 0 this year. On the way to becoming District champions, they beat Excel, Heywood and Madeley in the group stages and Newcastle Academy and Clayton on the finals night in the semi-final and final respectively.

Girls: This term the girls teams have won:

Netball: (all unbeaten)

Year 7 girls league

Year 8 girls league

Year 9 girls league

Year 8 girls District tournament

Football: Our U13 girls SCFC tournament winners are off to play at Goodison Park.

Trampolining: The team is through to the level 3 school games trampolining County finals.

Easter Revision Classes: Easter brings revision classes for Year 11, who have impressed us with their attitude towards their studies:

| Date | 9am – 11.30 am | 11.30am – 2pm |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday 29th March | English 11W2 Higher Tier German (10am - 1pm) | English 11H3 Higher Tier |
| Wednesday 30th March | Music | Music |
| Thursday 31st March | English Foundation Tier History Music | English Foundation Tier History Music |
| Friday 1st April | Art and Photography | Art and Photography |
| Monday 4th April | RE (C and below target grades: 10.30am - 1.30pm) German (10am - 1pm) | |
| Tuesday 5th April | RE (B and above target grades: 10.30am - 1.30pm) | |
| Wednesday 6th April | Maths Music | Maths Music |
| Thursday 7th April | Maths Music | Maths Music |
| Friday 8th April | French | French |

Students do not have to attend in school uniform and, if staying for the full day, will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink, as there will be no facilities on site.

A busy term with so much more besides; with weekly requests for students from other schools wanting to join us I think word is spreading about the “Wolstanton Experience”.

Yours sincerely

Tessa Thomas

Mrs T Thomas
Headteacher

Enclosure: School Code of Conduct