



Wolverhampton Girls' High School  
"Ludus Supra Praemium"

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# Autumn Newsletter

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2019/2020





## Dear Parents and Carers



As the long Autumn Term draws to a close, I write to share with you some of the experiences and achievements of our students and to thank you for your ongoing support for our school.

Over the course of the last few weeks we have enjoyed the magical performances at Punch and Carols, our beautiful Carol Services and today's entertainment. Our Year 13 cohort put together an entertaining programme for this year's Sixth Form Revue and Rock and Pop's performance at the end of assembly was fantastic. Thank you!

This newsletter captures some of the opportunities our students have seized in and outside of the classroom to support their development as well rounded young women, from Bear Grylls to subject based trips. I am grateful to the staff for offering such a varied range of activities for our students.

Earlier this month we were delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils from a number of schools across the city as part of our outreach programme, encouraging girls to aspire to join us. This year's Maths Challenge went incredibly well.

Looking ahead to next term, we hope to commence work in the Spring Term on our building project following the granting of planning permission by Wolverhampton City Council. This will bring four new science laboratories and a multi-use activity space once complete alongside two new IT rooms and further labs refurbished.

For now, may I wish you all a peaceful and restful break over the festive period and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year when school re-opens on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Best wishes

Mrs Young

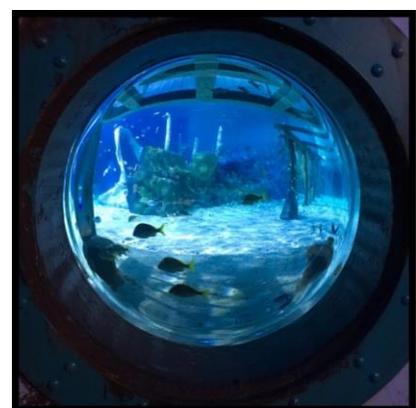
Headteacher



# Bear Grylls Adventure: Year 12 Induction

On Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 117 Year 12s went to the Bear Grylls Adventure held at the NEC in Birmingham. We set off promptly at 08:30 in the morning and took 3 coaches. When we arrived, we split into small groups for the activities ahead. The high ropes were the main attraction, entered via a zip wire and 20 feet above the ground and honestly a little overwhelming especially because I have a huge fear of heights. Despite this, I faced my fears and accomplished the first level (with much encouragement from everyone). The next activity was the escape room- we had to work together as a team to crack codes, solve puzzles and maintain focus under pressure, even with the timer ticking away we managed to have a lot of fun! Archery came next where, after competing against each other to try to score a golden bullseye, we were then challenged to do so under time pressure – accuracy and speed being the main skills for success. The final obstacle (both literally and figuratively) was the assault course, we had to run, jump and swing our way to the finish line; it definitely wasn't easy but it was definitely worth it. All in all it was a brilliant day and although the rain was pouring heavily, it certainly did not dampen our spirits.

## Year 12 Student





# WGHS Sixth Form Speaker programme: Talks from the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, in the Year 13 Core Enrichment session, sixth formers participated in an informative session surrounding the 2019 General Election and the importance of voting for 18-20 year olds. The session involved speakers from the Conservative Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party talking to students about various matters, such as their personal experiences in politics. Voter turnout was also an important issue on the agenda, with all speakers discussing the importance of young voters, who are still noticeably less likely to vote than older people: while 57% of 18 and 19 year-olds voted in the 2017 General Election, for those aged 70+ the figure was 84%.

Each speaker chose to focus on different issues in politics and within Wolverhampton. Firstly, Nick Machnik-Foster, the Liberal Democrat media officer, focused on the actions the Liberal Democrats would take in order to improve education. Then, Stuart Anderson, the Conservative Party candidate, was able to speak to students about his route into politics, which involved a journey through the army. Anderson also discussed the distrust he felt with politicians, as a soldier being deployed in Northern Ireland during the 'Troubles'. He then used this to convince students to use their vote as their voice, rather than not voting in order to protest the political system, as Anderson did until 2015. Eleanor Smith, the Labour Party candidate, was then able to shine a light on her journey to politics through the NHS. Smith drew particular attention to her experiences in the NHS as a second-generation Windrush, and illustrated the importance of voters reading party manifesto's before voting, in order to make an educated decision about their future.

The speakers were also tasked with answering questions from the Y13 student audience on issues such as their support for their party leader, expanding the franchise to 16 year olds and over, as well as the issue of political disengagement. Each speaker illustrated their undivided support for their party leader, whilst there was some disagreement surrounding extensions to the franchise: both Machnik-Foster and Smith supported 16 year olds having the vote, whilst Anderson didn't due to the issue of education levels. The speakers were also asked about political disengagement, and what their response would be to someone who is able to vote, but not sure about who to vote for as they don't relate solely to one party. Anderson gave an effective answer to this question by suggesting students should list the 10 most important issues in their life and then match those matters with the different party manifestos.

Overall, this session was particularly important for all students, especially those who are able to vote in the General Election. Now, students are able to understand the importance of voting and political participation, which is instrumental for their futures.

**By Harriet Westlake, Y13 A-Level Politics Student**





## Year 12 Supreme Court and Parliament Visit



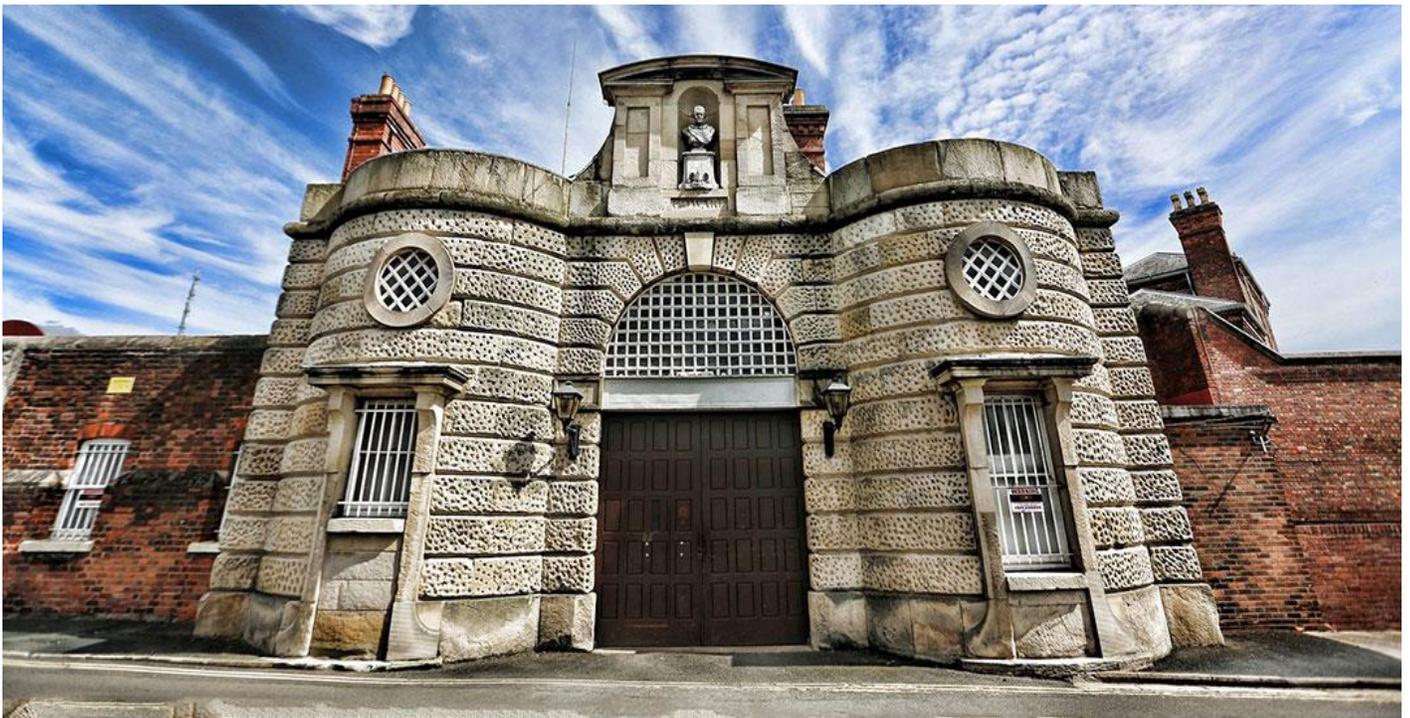
On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the Year 12 Government and Politics and History classes spent a day in London visiting the Supreme Court and the Houses of Parliament. After catching the train and the tube to Charing Cross, we arrived at Trafalgar Square. We were lucky as we witnessed the Extinction Rebellion protest first-hand which enabled us to realise the magnitude and influence that the group had. After experiencing the protest, we made our way to Parliament Square where we stood between the Supreme Court and the striking Houses of Parliament. The Supreme Court provided us with a detailed insight into the highest court in the country including a view at some of its court rooms, the preparation of a trial and some information about its history. We were allowed to sit in the court room that had decided that the recent prorogation of Parliament had been illegal, a highlight for many of us. After an exciting run into Robert Peston, the ITV political editor, we made our way into the Houses of Parliament where we were able to witness many important, political places of interest. We were lucky as we were able to enter the House of Commons and retrace the footsteps of many great politicians before us, which was an experience that we would not have had without the prorogation of Parliament. After our tour came to an end, we participated in a politics workshop where we got involved in a debate and discussed issues that matter to us as young people. Overall, the day allowed us to experience what we had learnt in class and properly understand the UK political system. **By Katie Tour and Anna Flower, Year 12 Politics Students**



## Year 13 Sociology: Shrewsbury Prison Visit

The Year 13 Sociology trip to Shrewsbury Prison was part of the Crime and Deviance section of the course. Once a working prison, now a museum, the trip allowed us to experience what it is like to be in prison from beginning to end. After we arrived, we donned bright orange jumpsuits (which were surprisingly comfortable, if a little big) and started our tour around the prison. All the guides are ex-prison wardens, so they could provide a real and deep insight into what it was like for both staff and inmates after spending many decades working in prisons across the country. As a group, we all found the tour really interesting, especially our guide's stories about his time working in prisons, and we learnt a lot about the criminal justice system and how prisons have changed over time. We especially enjoyed the chances we had to wander around each wing level to see prison for ourselves, and, overall this was an immensely enjoyable trip.

### Year 13 Sociology Student





## Year 11 History: Imperial War Museum Visit

Year 11 history students had an amazing time on the history trip to London! The tour of the Golden Hinde, a model of the ship Francis Drake used to circumnavigate the globe, was very fun, as was walking around central London with all of our friends. The many exhibits in the Imperial War Museum were also very interesting and gave us a great insight into the topics of Nazi Germany and the Cold War to help benefit our learning. Although, unfortunately it did rain for most of the day and there was lots of hustle and bustle on the London underground! However, it was a pleasant change from our daily lessons and overall a very exciting day out!

**Jessica Kaur, Year 11 History Student**





## Year 11 Religious Studies: Places of Worship



In November Year 11 Religious Studies students visited both St. Philips Birmingham Cathedral and a Buddhist Vihara to learn more about the religions they have been studying for their GCSE qualification. The day included a tour of both places of worship, question and answer sessions and a meditation session at the Vihara.

**Mrs Meredith, Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies**



## Year 11 Classics: Ashmolean Museum Visit



The Classics Department organised a trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford which provided some essential context to the everyday lives of the Romans, in advance of the Literature and Culture GCSE paper. Students participated in an object handling workshop with a focus on Roman religion and archaeology.



## Year 11 National Computing Museum Visit



The Computing Department arranged a trip for Year 11 Computer Science students to visit The National Computing Museum in Milton Keynes. The trip provided some essential context to their studies of how computer systems work and their development over time.



## Computing News: CyberFirst Residential

Following on from the CyberFirst Competition event that took place in school, I was lucky enough to go on a CyberFirst Residential trip. I went to Nottingham University on Monday 15th April 2019 - Thursday 18th April 2019. This was to learn more about cyber security and try new technological things.

**Monday 15th April:** I was dropped off at Nottingham University at around 10 am. We got our name tags and were put in groups. We were then given an older teenage supervisor and were toured around our Nottingham University accommodation. After the tour everyone (which was around 60 - 70 girls) gathered in the lecture room. We were then given a summary of what to do and how to act. The tour and lecture took us to dinner. After dinner we did group activities and got to know our supervisors and made friends. We then had free time before we went to bed.

**Tuesday 16th April:** This day started rather early and we had our first proper lecture which was about different hacking attacks and we got to try them out. We then had a lecture about passwords, Triple A (Authorisation, Authentication and Accounting) and software and hardware. We got to try different activities and even hack into an inside computer! We also did challenges and learnt a lot of information. As a reward we had a movie night where we sat with our friends and watched a movie with popcorn. I had made a good friend here who lives in Nottingham!

**Wednesday 17th April:** On this day we had other lectures and learnt about Malware and how we received it and could get rid of it. We had our own computers to get rid of malware and to put malware on. At the end of the day we had lockbox where we got into small groups and had a supervisor. In these groups we had to complete small challenges and show our supervisor. The more challenges you do, the higher the points; it was really fun and competitive.

**Thursday 18th April:** Today was leaving day, but we started it with our last lecture on how messages were sent and we learnt about data packets and routers. We all sent goodbye messages to each other's computers in our groups. We got a small talk saying goodbye from all our lecturers and helpers and the company that ran the whole trip. It was sadly time to pack and go. I was upset as I knew I wouldn't see my friend I made again as she lives so far away but we still are close and keep in touch!

Overall it was a great experience I made a great friend, I had a great dorm room, I got to experience a uni and stay in a uni accommodation and I got great food!

**By Malinder Sahota, Year 9**



## Year 9 Birmingham Botanical Gardens Visit



The Geography Department organised a trip to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, which provided some essential context to their studies of ecosystems, with focus on tropical rainforests and hot desert environments. The trip will included an animal handling session to study adaptation.



# Year 4 Spell It! Primary School Outreach Challenge 2019

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December we had the pleasure of hosting the annual Year 4 Spell It! Challenge, where some of the brightest children in Wolverhampton had been chosen to represent their schools in the spelling competition. Throughout the event there were various activities such as putting together compound words and using hints to derive a word solely from its vowels. The Year 4s were thoroughly engaged for the whole afternoon and they were wonderfully behaved.

We had an amazing team of sixth formers to help out at the event, including Outreach Prefects and Year 12 A Level English Literature students. We had the role of marking answers when the children were done, and we were able to witness the amazing potential that they all have.

Although everyone tried their hardest and did amazingly well, there can unfortunately only be one winner. The top four school pairings were:

In 1<sup>st</sup> place was St Luke's Primary, and they went home with some wonderful poetry books!

In joint 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place were two teams from Newbridge Primary, and second place also went home with some poetry books!

In 4<sup>th</sup> place was SS Mary and Johns, and they took home a set of certificates.

No-one went home empty handed however, and everyone took home a certificate each, and a prize from Girls' High, for their astounding efforts and for representing their schools so well.

**By Georgia Swinnerton (Year 12)**





## French Play Reviews

- On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November I watched a French play to help widen my vocabulary and hear real French conversation. I really enjoyed watching the play because I managed to understand the context and what was happening, because of the frequent use of hand actions and gestures. It also helped to make me understand more every-day words that are used more commonly in French life. The story was about a girl babysitting a small baby and her boyfriend coming to chat to her, much to her annoyance. They fought and made fun of each other, and they asked for volunteers, which involved me and my peers who were watching and helped us get a stronger understanding of the words exchanged. I really enjoyed watching the play and hope to see another one soon, because it was very helpful and interactive and a story that was very relatable. The humour made me laugh constantly and the facial expressions were very exaggerated to widen our understanding. Overall, I loved experiencing a real-life French play, and it really improved my vocabulary and general French language knowledge. It was great fun to watch and involved the audience, which helped me understand the conversations. I would love to see another one because it was so beneficial to my pronunciation and knowledge of day to day French words that are key to remember to improve my speaking and writing of French.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the play as it was skillfully acted which helped me understand the more complex vocabulary which I hadn't heard before, extending my knowledge and strengthening my understanding of the French language and how to construct grammatically correct conversations. It was interactive, and hilarious (never have I seen our year group in such hysterics before!) and the volunteers from the audience had an excellent time being involved in the action, and all round it was great fun!

### Year 8 Students





## PE Department Success: Cross Country



In October we had a fantastic representation at the City Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 40 girls competed in the competition from Year 7-13. For the Year 7's it was their first opportunity to represent the school as well as there being girls' from other years who had represented the school for the first time. The PE Department were very proud of you all!! Congratulations to the following girls who placed in the top 6 of their age category and will be going on to represent Wolverhampton in the West Midlands Cross Country Championships for the 2019-20 season. Harriet Evans (Year 7), Jessica Yang (Year 8), Libby Warren, Katie Leary and Molly Charles (Year 10 and 11), Holly Sides, Maria Calleia, Jhanvee Patel (Sixth Form) and another Year 12 Student.





# Netball Match Report: WGHS 31 vs. Royal 18

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019: What a great start to the season girls. We went into this game knowing it was going to be tough but we pulled together as a team and you wouldn't even know some of you played with us for the first time.

The game wasn't easy but we made sure that we capitalised on any turnovers and we tried to score on all our centres. There was multiple times when the royal were ahead of us but we really kept our calm and didn't play to their pace. There was always encouragement on court and we didn't get angry at each other which allowed us to work together as a team. Also considering that to begin with we were 4 down we really pulled together well and the work paid off.

We had plenty of good points from this game. I think that the centre passes were well executed as we never got a not received call as the timing of the dodges were perfect (especially Freya you were great at timing your dodge and change of pace). Also the work in the circle was great the link between Annabel and Ranveer was amazing and some of the feeds into the circle were amazing with some great vision from the midcourt players even though that goal keeper was contacting all the time. Also the shooting was amazing in this game you two rarely missed a shot. In addition the defence were great at getting interceptions at key points which really helped to swing the game and in defence Scarlett you were great at applying pressure to the wing attack which usually forced an error.

However there was something that we need to work on. In defence we need to work on overheads as their shooter was very good at holding her space which meant they could easily feed it into her. We also need to switch onto defence quicker in attack as when we lost the ball sometimes it took a while for us to start defending which meant there was no through court pressure and it is through court pressure which can lead to an interception from a dodgy pass or it can force an error. Mainly we need our arms up in stage 2 defence to apply this pressure and in stage 1 we need to continue to cover the player so that we could force a held ball. In addition we did get caught a couple of times using only the centre channel and not using the outside channels which can really open up the space allowing more room to dodge and get free. Also in attack sometimes we were caught not being able to feed into the circle so remember that there should always be a backwards option on the transverse line either the wing defence or the goal defence. We could pick one of these to use as a target for our next game.

Player of the Month: Lucy Munson (congrats Lucy you were amazing and got some great interceptions at key points). Overall this was an amazing start to the season and let try and keep this up and try and win the league again this year.

**By Paige Haines, Year 10**



# Wolverhampton City Schools' Netball Tournament

Congratulations to the Year 9 & 10 Netball teams for being runners up in The Wolverhampton City Schools' Netball Tournament 2019/20.

They then qualified for the South Staffordshire County round on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 at George Salter Academy. Well done to the U14, U16 and U19 netball squads who represented Wolverhampton in the South Staffordshire County round. They all showed such determination and spirit on the day. The PE Department were very proud of you all!!! Huge congratulations to the U14 and U19 squads who were crowned County Champions. They will go on to represent South Staffordshire in the Regional round of the Competition.

## Year 9 Team 2019/20



**Back left - Stephany Gabriel, Neve Egan, Amber Lux, Imogen Gage, Charlotte Han, Claudia White, Jaya Sarpal, Hannah Munson, Faridah Jaiyeola. Front- Morgan Pennicook (Capt).**

**Not in photo- Hannah Parker-Honeyman and Reem Mukadam.**



## South Staffordshire Netball County Round

The PE Department is proud to share that on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November the U14, U16 and U19 netball squads who represented Wolverhampton and the school in the South Staffordshire County round all showed such commitment, determination and high spirit on the day and really were a credit to the school.

Huge congratulations to the U14 and U19 teams who were crowned County Champions. They will go on to represent South Staffordshire in the Regional round of the Competition on Sunday 26th January 2020!

We have never had two age groups go through as winners of the competitions - a fantastic achievement! It was a fantastic day!

Well done to all!



**U19 Team: Esme Lambeth, Jhanvee Patel, Esme Gee, Anwen Jenkins, Alicia Allen, Sophie Cooke, Rosie Pearson, Lucy Toor and Rudee Robinson**



**U14 Team: Reem Mukadam, Amber Lux, Charlotte Han, Neve Egan, Imogen Gage, Hannah Munson, Morgan Pennicook, Jaya Sarpal, Even Emanuel and Stepheny Gabriel**

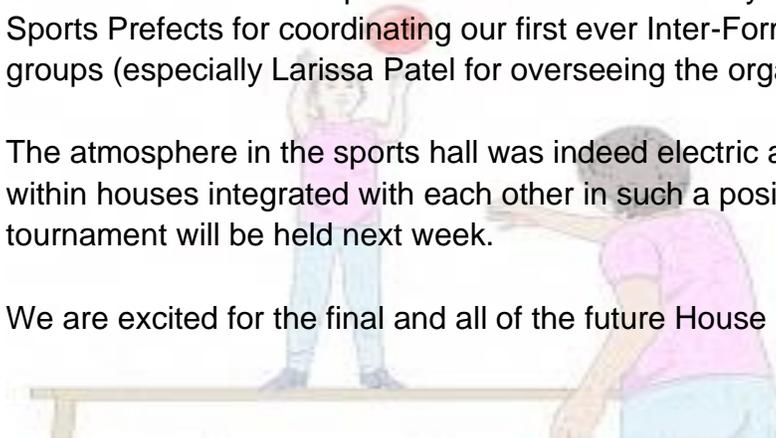


## Benchball Success

On behalf of The PE Department we would like to say a massive thank you and well done to the Sports Prefects for coordinating our first ever Inter-Form competition since having vertical tutor groups (especially Larissa Patel for overseeing the organisation of this).

The atmosphere in the sports hall was indeed electric and it was clear that individual tutor groups within houses integrated with each other in such a positive way. The finals for the benchball tournament will be held next week.

We are excited for the final and all of the future House events.



## O13 Swimming Gala

A huge well done to the two O13 Club Swimming Teams who represented the school on Wednesday. The girls came away in 4th and 5th position and there were lots of impressive individual performances.

We now look forward to the U13 Swimming Gala on Wednesday 29th January 2020.

## Badminton Champions

Congratulations to the following girls who won the U14 and U16 Badminton Competition:

Erin Tyler-Westwood  
Rajni Bhogal  
Jasroop Virk  
Amneek Bassi  
Ramandeep Nijjar  
Katy Robson  
Shruti Deshpande





# Extra-Curricular Timetable: Spring 2020

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>BEFORE SCHOOL</b> 8.15 - 8.45					<b>FunFit</b> (CMC)
<b>LUNCHTIME</b> 12.45 - 1.15				Sport Prefect meeting (LD) Sports hall	<b>Advanced Running Club</b> Yr 9-13 & Staff (SB, SM & DB) <b>Offsite permission</b>
<b>LUNCHTIME</b> 1-1.30	GCSE practical energizer (CMC) Sports Hall	Yr 7 Netball (CJJ & leaders) Netball Courts	Yr 10, 11 & 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Netball (LD & CMC) Netball Courts	Year 9 - 13 Basketball league (CMC) Sports hall	Yr 8 & 9 Netball (JP & leaders) Netball Courts
<b>LUNCHTIME</b> 1-1.30	Badminton - 3 courts (LD) U14 / U16 qualifying teams and GCSE  Table Tennis - 1 court (JP) Yr 10, 11 & 6 <sup>th</sup> Form			U19 Regional netball training (LD) Netball Courts	Yr 7 & 8 Football (CMC)  GCSE theory energizer (CMC) Venue TBC
<b>LUNCHTIME</b> 1-1.30	Fitness suite (Yr 9-13) (TQ - A, AM - B)	Fitness suite (Sixth form only)	Fitness suite Yr 9-13 (SS)	Fitness suite Yr 9-13 (JT)	Fitness suite Yr 9-13 (VB - A, KM - B)
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b> 3.45 - 4.45pm (unless otherwise stated)		Yr 7 Netball (CJJ) Sports Hall (Until 5pm)	Yr 8 & 9 Netball (JP) Sports hall  7&8 Football fixtures (CMC) SWBA - 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb (Until 5.45pm approx.)		<b>Badminton</b> Yr 10-13 & Staff (AJ) Sports hall

The PE Department 😊



# Children in Need

Well done to all the students that took part in the 'Joe Wicks' big morning move workouts during their PE lessons in order to raise money for 'Children in Need'. A total of **£223.60** was raised.

Also a big thank you to those of you who dressed up in your Pudsey gear or pj's in order to look the part!

## The PE Department





## Other School News and Events:

### Harvest Collection



During Harvest Festival, our school community aimed to collect as much food as possible to be donated to the Good Shepherd where the food will be used to feed the homeless and most disadvantaged in Wolverhampton. With homelessness and in-work poverty on the rise, it is important more now than ever to donate as much as we can to the Good Shepherd.

### House Arts 2019



Congratulations to all of our girls who have taken part in this year's House Arts competition. Your performances were sensational. You moved us to laughter and tears throughout the performances. It was a closely fought competition with Stafford and Paget claiming the various awards and Stafford being crowned the overall winning house. Well done, everyone!

### Punch & Carols 2019



We hope you enjoyed the two wonderful, festive evenings of Punch and Carols musical entertainment! Thank you to all girls, staff, parents and Parent Guild volunteers for making the events magical.

### Sing-a-Long Wizard of Oz

Students from years 8-13 took part in a sing-a-long screening of the classic Wizard of Oz film. Students sang songs from the original soundtrack and this was followed by a screening of the film. This helped to support a worthy local venue.





## Parents' Guild News



This Term the Parents' Guild have supported a number of events and meetings including:

- Parents' Guild AGM
- Sing-along-movie event
- Y13 Parents Evening
- Punch and Carols events
- Uniform Collection
- Parents Guild Meetings

We are really pleased to confirm that we have approved the following school funding requests:

- ✓ Russian interactive course £234 and online newspaper subscription £120
- ✓ History/Politics/Sociology range of academic magazine subscriptions £142 and A Level coursework support books £96
- ✓ Music Pitched percussion instruments for classroom use £984
- ✓ Geography Fieldtrip equipment £368
- ✓ Economics – Data pack and Synoptic revision map £35
- ✓ House Winter Games material £32
- ✓ French workbooks £475
- ✓ 30 Refurbished PC towers £4875
- ✓ Washing Machine for Design & Technology (food room) £279

If you would like to get involved, volunteer, help out at our events or share your ideas about how we can raise funds that will expand the girls' experiences at school, then please contact us:

[parentsguild@wghs.org.uk](mailto:parentsguild@wghs.org.uk)

Thank you to parents, girls, staff and Parent Guild Committee members for their ongoing support. Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Sheila Gill**  
**Chair WGHS Parents' Guild**

*Merry Christmas*





**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020**

**Spring Term 2020**

Monday 6 January 2020 – Friday 3 April 2020

(Half Term: Monday 17 February 2020 – Friday 21 February 2020)

**Summer Term 2020**

Monday 20 April 2020 – Friday 17 July 2020

(Half Term: Monday 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2020)

**Non Pupil Days**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**