



Wentworth news



Head's News

Issue 168 September 2009

Welcome to the very first edition of the new-style newsletter, aptly named, 'Wentworth News'. I hope that you will like the new format and enjoy reading it each month.

It is a huge pleasure and privilege to be the new Headmistress of such a successful and dynamic school and I feel very fortunate to be able to work with such an excellent staff and your lovely and talented daughters! Many thanks to all of you who have written to welcome me to Wakefield Girls' High School. It is greatly appreciated and I look forward to meeting you all at one of the many forthcoming academic or social events in this year's calendar.

The summer holidays saw many of our girls enjoying memorable trips near and far and my thanks go to the staff for giving of their time so freely and willingly and to the girls for their exemplary behaviour as ambassadors for the school. You will be able to read more about the National Festival of Music for Youth, the South Africa and Namibia Sports Tour, the Borneo Expedition and Issenye trip elsewhere in this edition.

Of course the holidays also see the publication of the external examination results and I am proud to report that this year, both GCSE and A Level results broke all records for the school, with 85% of all A Level results being at A or B grade and 75% of all GCSEs being at A* or A. Virtually all of our Upper Sixth got into their first choice universities and all of our Oxbridge students were successful. We congratulate all of our girls on their superb achievements.

The return to school saw not only my arrival but also that of several other new colleagues. They are: Mrs Elizabeth Taylor, Learning Support; Miss Rachel Brennan, RS; Dr Bob Buxton Maths; Miss Katherine Dale, Head of Spanish; Miss Cadence Dollive, Biology; Mrs Sherre Harrison, Head of English; Miss Carolyn Kendall, Head of Psychology; Miss Laura Middleton, Art; Miss Davinia North, PE; Mrs Annabel Pitcher, English; Mr Paul Sutcliffe, Art; Mr Martin Wilson, Physics and Miss Joanne Siswell, Chemistry, who is now a full time permanent member of staff. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well for their career at the school.

Various works have been completed over the holidays, including the refurbishment of Beaumont, Jubilee and Willows toilets along with the Year 11 Common Room and Lab B2. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the refurbished Gym Changing Rooms will not be completed for a little while yet but when ready, will offer a much superior facility.

In response to parental concerns and my own observations, I began the term with uniform checks for the girls in every year group in order to reinforce the existing rules and would like to thank parents for their support in purchasing regulation length skirts and complying with advice regarding Sixth Form apparel. The girls are looking very smart and I am sure that if we work together, they will remain so throughout the year and we can all feel proud of the image of the school they will portray.

I come to Wakefield Girls' High School full of enthusiasm and energy, aware that it is a privilege to be taking up the reins of such a wonderful school. As Shakespeare would say: "O brave new world that has such people in't." This newsletter and the new-format 'news' section of the website at: www.WGSF.org.uk aims to keep you up-to-date with what our people are doing and achieving at WGHS.

Mrs G Wallwork
Headmistress



All parents who have provided us with an email address will not be sent home a hard copy of future newsletters, commencing with the next issue of 'Wentworth News' which will be produced just before Half Term. Instead, an email alert will be sent informing you that the latest issue is now available to read or download on-line from the WGHS Senior Homepage at www.wgsf.org.uk. All issues of Wentworth News will be available through a new archive facility, which we hope you will find beneficial. If your email address has changed, please inform the school office.

If you do not have an email address, a hard copy of the Newsletter will, of course, be given to your daughter.



What a wonderful set of experiences for the group of 12 girls and 4 staff who visited Issenye Secondary School in Tanzania this July!

The girls showed great commitment and enthusiasm for their literacy teaching and conversation groups, and the general feeling was that they would have loved to stay much longer! They felt this despite the living conditions, which were far removed from those experienced in England. However, improvements had indeed been made with the visitors' accommodation – most notably the construction of water tanks (with taps), which store any rain which is collected in the new guttering.

A general atmosphere of better planning and organisation has developed throughout the school, both in daily tasks such as at mealtimes and in planning for lessons, where group discussions

were witnessed – a great advance from one teacher dictating notes to 60 + students.

Also, the Garden Project, started 3 years ago and funded by WGHS, has developed incredibly.

So, for our WGHS girls on their first visit, they had the opportunity to live with and gain an understanding of the basic, yet determined, ways of Issenye students, living with few material comforts but with huge desires to reach great heights in their educational pursuits. For some of us, the return to the school emphasised the amazing progressions which are taking place – encouraged and made possible by the links with our own WGHS.

SOUTH AFRICA/NAMIBIA HOCKEY & NETBALL TOUR

It could only get better as we left rain soaked England and headed to the African continent: 30 girls and staff and lot of sporting equipment! The teams played some excellent hockey and netball against very good opposition and our reputation as an excellent sporting school continues.

Highlights of the tour for the girls included:

- Miss Bacon falling in the swimming pool fully clothed;
- Meeting the South African men's hockey team ...
- Islandwana Cultural Village: eating crocodile, ostrich & hens feet.
- 2 rhino deciding to have a fight three metres from our Land Rover.
- The sand dunes of Sossivle.
- Quad biking on the dunes on the Skeleton Coast.
- Sand boarding - throwing yourself down a 200m high sand dune on a piece of MDF
- The views from Table Mountain in glorious sunlight.



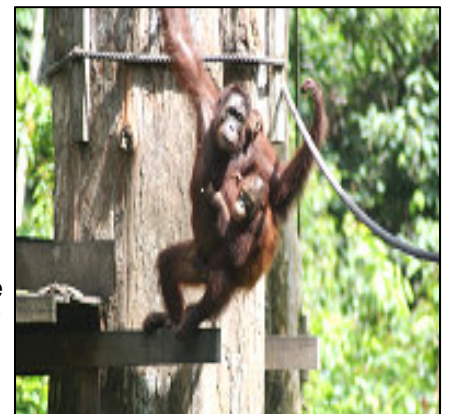
This is only a small part of what was a wonderful tour. The girls conduct was exemplary and thank you to all the parents who allowed their daughters to go and to those parents who helped raise funds.

BORNEO 2009

This summer, staff and students from QEGS and WGHS spent four weeks in Borneo. We flew to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of the Malaysian province of Sabah. After spending a few days in the city to acclimatise and to recover from jet lag, the group was split into three teams and set off to participate in various phases of the expedition.

These included learning jungle survival skills, trekking through the countryside and climbing Mount Kinabalu, which at 4091m is the highest mountain in South East Asia. A significant part of our time was spent staying with families in one of the towns in the interior and working at a local orphanage. This was a great opportunity to experience Borneo culture first hand and also to put into perspective how fortunate most of us are in the UK.

We also saw first hand how human activity has affected the environment during a visit to the famous orang utan sanctuary in Sepilok were fortunate to see the orang utans at close quarters, as well as many other fascinating species of plants and animals. Despite spending nearly a month in Borneo, the time went by very quickly and before we knew it we were boarding a plane back to England. However, I am sure the memories will last a life time.



The following girls have all successfully completed awards:

BRONZE

Naomi Watson; Emily Kaye; Clare Croft; Amarah Bashforth; Alexandra Brown; Sophie Smith; Roseanna Keighley; Katie Smith; Elizabeth Long; Antonia Eves; Monica Soliman; Hedy Navarro; Beth Sawyer; Rachel Connell; Priya Aggarwal; Hannah Mitchell; Phoebe Attia; Catherine Uttley; Julia Lawson.

SILVER

Gemma Patterson; Harriet Jones; Amelia Mirzabegi.

GOLD

Hannah Miller and Emily Hutchinson.

Dr Uttley

MUSIC NEWS and FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 12 : GCSE Music Concert.

This event has grown out of the Young Composers' Concert and showcases both performance and composition work from our Year 11 students.

Venue : Jubilee Hall. 7.00 pm. Tickets : £3.00 and £2.00 concessions, available on Cushions.

October 21 : Cabaret Evening.

Enjoy an enchanting evening of vocal performances by girls from years 7-13. Relax with a glass of wine and traditional Charlesworth's Pie & Pea supper: a perfect way to round off the half term. Please fill in the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter to order tickets.

The Music Department would like to congratulate its A level and GCSE students on their thoroughly well deserved results. Well done in particular to the 20 girls who took GCSE music and maintained our 3 year record of all A* and As.

Also congratulations to all those who took Associated Board Examinations last term; out of 73 entries, 29 girls achieved merits and 20 distinctions.

On July 10 Swing Foundation took part in the final stages of the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham. After a workshop in the morning, Swing Foundation performed in the afternoon and were awarded the Martin Donaldson prize, entitling them to a spot in the prestigious Cheltenham Jazz Festival next year.

Mr Meredith

LIBRARY NEWS

There have been a few changes over the summer and there are more to come. Following several changes, there is more room for lots of new books for years 7 to 11; in Library 2 more room has been found for fiction and there are now more Quick Reads to choose from including some for Senior Fiction. Also Jean Plaidy now has her very own stand making it easier to find those historical fiction books you keep being asked to read.

The Scholastic Book club leaflet has gone out to all year 7, 8 and 9 girls. Last year over £200 was raised for the Library and we hope for the same success this year.

All Year 7 girls will receive a free fiction book this term through the Booked Up initiative. There's even a competition to enter to win books for the Library, for which the girls have details.

Finally, welcome to all the Pupil Librarians who will be coming to assist this year. *Mrs Dover*

Year 9 History Trip to Buckingham Palace

Up to the Twentieth Century, the history of Europe was dominated by Kings - glamorous, exciting figures such as Richard the Lionheart, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Catherine the Great. However the 1900s witnessed a remarkable decline in European monarchy, so much so that it was often said that by the year 2000 there would only be five royal houses left in power, Clubs, Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Windsor!

The fact there are still seven European kingdoms means the fall of monarchy has not been quite that great, but it has been marked. This year WGHS Year 9 students spend a lot of time examining this fall on their history course. In consequence we are delighted to be taking them to Buckingham Palace on September 23 and 24 to see the headquarters of the Royal Family, which despite its personal problems of the last twenty years, remains the symbol of European kingship.

Mrs Stothard

DATES TO NOTE

Thursday 17- Saturday 19 September

Year 12 & 13 DT Trip to Paris.

Monday 21 September

Year 13 Biology field trip to Filey.

Year 7 Study Day.

Tuesday 22 - Friday 25 September

Year 7 at Caythorpe Court.

Tuesday 22 September

Year 12 Tutor Evening.

Wednesday 23 September

Half Year 9 trip to London.

Thursday 24 September

Half Year 9 trip to London.

Friday 25 - Sunday 27 September

D of E training : Peak District

Saturday 26 September

German Department trip to London.

Tuesday 29 September

Year 7 MidYis Tests.

PASA AGM : 6.00 pm

Wednesday 30 September

2010 Issenye Meeting for parents and girls.

Thursday 1 October

Year 9 MidYis Tests

Saturday 3 October

INFORMATION MORNING

Thursday 8 October

Drama trip to West Yorkshire Playhouse

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience for 2010 will be June 28 - July 9.

We are currently finding placements for your Year 11 pupils. If you could provide one of our students with a work experience placement for one week or two, please email Miss Hawkridge at ehawkridge@wghs.net.

Clothes Show 2009

Our annual visit to the Clothes Show Live will be taking place on December 6. Some pupils from Years 10-13 will be given places through a strictly first come first served basis.

Miss Hawkridge, Head of Textiles.

CAREERS SPEAKERS : AUTUMN 2009

Tuesdays @ 1.10pm. Lecture Theatre.

15 September : Royal Air Force, Jim Tait

22 September : Dentistry: Chris Marston & Sachi Soni

29 September : Medicine: Dr Andrew Jackson

6 October : Police : PC Amos

20 October : Probation Service: Jude Roberts

10 November : Law: Mr Mark Gore.

17 November : Fashion Buyer : Janie Theaker

24 November : Army Presentation team (Hall)

8 December : Toxicology : Dr Jackie Morton.

Monday 12 October

GCSE Music Concert.

Wednesday 21 October

Cabaret Evening - Jubilee Hall.

Friday 23 October

HALF TERM

CABARET EVENING : WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2009

Daughter Form

I would like to order tickets for the above event, of which are vegetarian.
(Tickets £6.00 adults and £4.00 students - *cheques made payable to WGHS PASA please*).

Signed(Parent/Guardian)

Please return this reply slip by Wednesday 14 October in an envelope marked "Cabaret Evening".
Orders for Pie and Peas cannot be taken after this date.

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