

Headteacher's Update

Reaching the end of any academic year always gives us much to reflect upon; 2022-23 is the first academic year since 2019-20 that hasn't been directly affected by the Covid pandemic. What is evident through working with our students every single day is that the pandemic has certainly left its legacy. I'm really proud of how resilient our students are, how focused they are in lessons and their overall determination. What I want to focus on from September is absence from school, which is too high, both at Kingswinford academy and nationally). I believe that this is the biggest remaining hurdle left-over from the disruption caused by the pandemic. We will be putting an even greater emphasis on attending school from September; what you can do in advance of this is download the Studybugs app (see the Pastoral updates section of this newsletter).

Our priorities here at Kingswinford haven't changed. Be the best that we can be; help students fulfil their academic and personal potential; reach for the stars; Aspire to Excellence.

We have had some brilliant events this year. There have been numerous opportunities for students to take part in enrichment activities - the wonderful school show (Disco inferno), dance shows, Arts connect music celebration, numerous sports fixtures, Duke of Edinburgh award - the list goes on. Our extra-curricular activities are published on our school website and will be updated in September ready for the new offer for 2023-24.

We've had a wonderful end to the academic year. In the past few weeks we've hosted BBC Any Questions in school (see article overleaf), held a brilliant Awards evening for students, held sports day, and said goodbye to Year 11 with their Prom at the Village hotel. We also met our new intake on transition day for the Year 6 students joining us in September. It was lovely to meet their parents / carers in the evening. I'm really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 to their summer school during the holidays and to school itself in September.

This final week of term has been our annual Active Learning Week. We have had foreign trips, residentials and numerous daily activities going on, contributing massively to our pledge journey. I'm so pleased that we are able to offer this high-quality enrichment to our young people. It plays such a vital role in their development- and in creating their life-long memories of their time at school. We are already looking ahead to next year and beyond. China, New York, Borneo and Kenya are on the horizon; another ski trip next year - this time to Italy. I'm really proud of what we offer our students.

You'll remember that a few weeks ago I sent out a request to parents to give us feedback on how we communicate with you all. Thank you to those who replied. It has proved incredibly useful as we plan ahead. Thank you, also, to those of you who met with myself and our trust communications director this week. We have a plan and look forward to implementing our changes in September.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and restful summer holiday.

Enjoy reading the final Newsletter of 2022-23. I look forward to speaking with you in the new academic year.

Ian Moreton
Headteacher



Other News

Start of term arrangements

We welcome students back to Kingswinford Academy on Tuesday 5th September.

Year 7 should arrive by 8.30am (and will be directed to the Hall)

All other year groups should be on site at 11.15am and should go directly to their form rooms.

School will end at 3.15pm as usual.

BBC Any Questions



The school was delighted to be asked to host the renowned Radio 4 programme, 'Any Questions' on Friday 23rd June 2023.

Any Questions is the longest-running political panel show in the world and was the precursor to the TV programme 'Question Time'. It has been going since 1948. Tickets were available online and the school hall was open to those members of the public for the show, live at 8.02pm (as it is every Friday!).

Hosted by BBC political correspondent, Alex Forsyth, questions were directed at the panel consisting of Wes Streeting MP, West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, Green Party parliamentary candidate Dr Ellie Chowns and journalist and author Ella Whelan.

Afterwards the panellist and guests were treated to canapés and refreshments made by our Year 10 Food students.

Quote from Camelia, the BBC Any Questions producer,

"Thanks so very much for hosting us on Friday. You and the whole team at the school were amazing. So well organised, great attention to detail, calm and flexible. Thank you so much for all your patience with us.

"And what brilliant students! I really loved talking to the little group of students in the afternoon. And then the canapés were something else!

"Really grateful to you all for going that extra mile for us. Thank you".

Sporting News

WAT Games 27th June 2023:

The 2023 Windsor Academy Trust Athletics Championships: Celebrating Sporting Excellence and Friendly Competition

The 2023 Windsor Academy Trust Athletics Championships marked the highly anticipated Secondary School Edition of this prestigious event. Students from Cheslyn Hay Academy, Great Wyrley Academy, Kingswinford Academy, and Windsor High School and Sixth Form gathered at WV Active Aldersley Stadium in Wolverhampton for a day of intense athletic competition, camaraderie, and shared values.

The event began with the inspiring words of our CEO, Dawn Haywood, who expressed her admiration for the dedication and high standards displayed by our Trust's athletes. She emphasised the importance of the values we hold dear, saying, "We are proud of our students' commitment to 'Pride in Excellence,' 'Respect,' 'Responsibility,' 'Collaboration,' and their bold and innovative spirit. The Athletics Championships provide a platform for them to showcase these qualities and inspire others."



As the day unfolded, the competition was fierce and the atmosphere electric. After brilliant performances from all participating schools, Cheslyn Hay Academy emerged as the overall winners, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication. Headteacher Tom Macdonald, in attendance, expressed his immense pride, stating: "I am immensely proud of our students' achievements at the 2023 WAT Athletics Championships. Their dedication and hard work paid off, and it is a testament to their talent and commitment. We are honoured to be crowned the champions this year."

Kingswinford Academy, as strong runners-up, displayed remarkable athleticism and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Great Wyrley Academy and Windsor High School and Sixth Form also exhibited their skills and determination, contributing to the excitement and intensity of the event.

Sarah Holder, the WAT Lead Practitioner of Physical Education, commended the PE teams across the Trust for their invaluable support. She expressed her gratitude, stating: "I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the PE teams across the Trust. Their unwavering support was pivotal in the seamless execution of this event. The synergy and collaboration between our schools never cease to inspire me"

Sporting news continued

The success of the 2023 Windsor Academy Trust Athletics Championships would not have been possible without the support and hospitality of the team at WV Active - Aldersley Stadium. Their dedication and efforts as hosts were instrumental in creating a memorable experience for all participants.

The championships epitomised the values we hold dear within the Trust - collaboration, respect, responsibility, and pride in excellence. This event highlighted the incredible talent and passion of our students, further strengthening our collective commitment to fostering excellence in sports and education. Congratulations to all the participants for their fantastic performances and sportsmanship throughout the day. The 2023 Windsor Academy Trust Athletics Championships truly showcased the remarkable talent and dedication of our students, emphasising the spirit of friendly competition and unity within our Trust.



Kingswinford Sports Days week beginning 10th July 2023

Well done to all our KS3 students who have participated in our sports days across the week.

Here at Kingswinford we are very passionate as a PE department to offer an all inclusive sports day where all students within the school participate in the various events. In an exhilarating showcase of athleticism and team spirit, students came together for a highly anticipated few days of School Sports Day. With participants representing different houses, the day was filled with intense competition, inspiring displays of sportsmanship, and remarkable feats of physical prowess.

Track and field events took center stage, and the students gave it their all in each discipline. From sprinting and 400m to long jumps and throws, the competitors pushed their limits and showcased their incredible talent. Our School Sports Days at Kingswinford proved to be an unforgettable occasion, showcasing the exceptional talent and unwavering resilience and spirit of our students. Well done everyone, the PE department are very proud of you all.

Scholarship News

Ingestre Hall

On Friday 14th July, Miss Abel took 52 students which included our Art, Dance and Music Scholars to Ingestre Hall to broaden their talents, flair and personal potential. Ingestre Hall is the UK's only dedicated Arts residential Arts centre.

The students opted to explore their chosen Arts workshops which included Art, Dance, Drama and Music. The students developed their passions by working within their field of expertise and created performances and pieces of Art with specialised staff. The Ingestre Hall team were so impressed with our students in regards to their character, skills and commitment to explore new concepts. They were astonished with the outcomes produced at the end of the day. The students had an amazing time and on the way back to school asked if we could come again next year and stay longer! Miss Abel would like to thank Miss McFarlane, Mrs Cooper and Mr Cotterill for their support with the trip.

Below and overleaf are some photos that capture the memories of the day!

Here are our Music Scholars creating their own band and song focusing on nature and sustainability.



Scholarship News continued ...



Here are our Art students creating pieces with recycled materials and considering the impact of rubbish on our beaches and how materials can be used to create a new purpose.



Scholarship News continued ...

Our Dance students choreographed their own routines incorporating their own styles and demonstrating their exceptional flair.



Our Drama students created improvisations across a range of themes. Here is one group planning their piece before performing their ideas.



Scholarship News continued ...

Instrumental tuition and grade examinations

Congratulations to all of the musicians who have taken grade examinations this year! You have proved how resilience, determination, commitment and a passion for something you really enjoy has resulted in fabulous achievements! Students include Dan Parr, Sonnum Bedi and Ptolemy Haywood. Well done to you all for developing your personal potential!

If your son/daughter would like to learn to play an instrument or have vocal tuition next year then you can sign up for lessons by accessing Dudley Performing Arts website (see the link below).

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/music-lessons-in-schools/>

It is proven that instrumental tuition supports skills that are transferable across all curriculum areas and achievements are highly recognised by universities. Music tuition also has supportive strategies that are conducive to positive well being and mindset as well as enjoying the benefits that Music has to offer. If you would like any further details in regards to instrumental / vocal tuition then please contact Miss Abel.

Windsor Academy Trust Vocal Performance

Last month Miss Abel took over 50 students to perform at the Windsor Academy Trust Vocal event at Walsall Arena, in which we sang with 500 students across all 9 schools within our trust. The event was very special to have so many students unified through the gift of music. Each school had worked with a commissioned musician Paul Wilcox and had created a composition based around the theme of culture. Our school composed an African piece that included a range of instruments as well as phrases of A Capella singing and call and response. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and worked so hard throughout the months leading up to the concert including learning the Windsor Academy Trust song.



Author Visit

On Thursday 29th June, renowned children's author, Chris Bradford, visited Kingswinford Academy to deliver his 'Bodyguard' presentation. Chris is famed for his 'Young Samurai', 'Bodyguard' and 'Soul Hunter' series of books.

During the lively and dynamic session, students were invited up to pose as bodyguards while Chris delivered several readings from his books. He even recruited some willing volunteers to support him in demonstrating some self defence techniques! The students were thoroughly engaged throughout the talk and had a great time learning about the role of a bodyguard.

At the end of the session, our Year 7 students had the chance to meet Chris and ask him some questions as part of his book signing. Overall, the students had a fantastic time and we'd like to thank Chris for his time and enthusiasm!



Scifest Trip



Students from year 7, 8, 9 and 10 enjoyed a day at the University of Wolverhampton's SciFest on Friday 7th July 2023.

All students had a fantastic day and represented the school with the utmost respect and responsibility whilst having a great time. Thank you to the year 10 helpers: Tom, Finley, Will, Debborah, Marcus and Curtis. Well done to Elliot for coming home with a cup and prizes for gaining first place out of all the schools attending on the day in a mathematical puzzle and to Alex who held second place.





Scifest Trip continued ...



Windsor Academy Trust wins MAT Excellence Award for Environmental Trust of the Year

We are thrilled to announce that Windsor Academy Trust has been awarded the prestigious Optimus Education MAT Excellence Award for Environmental Trust of the Year. The award is recognition of the vision we hold to leave the world in a better place and our efforts to create a sustainable and environmentally-conscious educational environment for our young people.

The Optimus Education MAT Excellence Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of multi-academy trusts across the United Kingdom. The Environmental Trust of the Year category recognises the trust that has demonstrated exceptional dedication to environmental education, initiatives and sustainable practices.

Commenting on the award win, Dawn Haywood, CEO of Windsor Academy Trust, said: "Receiving the award for Environmental Trust of the Year is a tremendous honour for all of us at Windsor Academy Trust. We are immensely proud of this accomplishment and we will continue to prioritise environmental education and sustainable practices, always striving to be at the forefront of environmental stewardship within the education sector.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff, students, and parents for their unwavering support. It is through our collective efforts that we can create a sustainable and thriving future for generations to come."



Recycling from September



We are pleased to announce that the Trust have appointed new waste contractors to offer a full recycling service to all of our schools from September. This will enable us to collect waste paper, food, glass, metal and plastic together, guaranteed that none will be going to landfill.

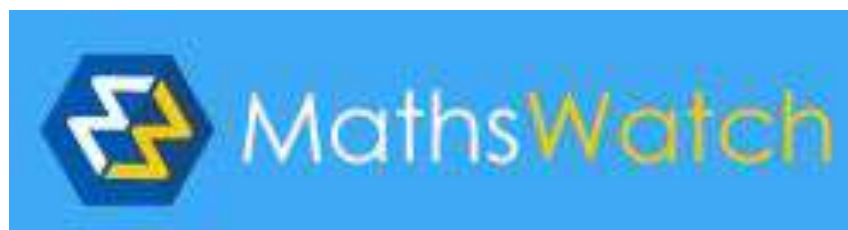
This will contribute towards our goal of being carbon neutral- or better by 2030.

Aspire to Excellence Awards Evening

Our annual Awards Evening took place last week. It was a wonderful evening where students' successes were celebrated. Well done to everyone who achieved an award. Special congratulations to Abeeha and Luke for winning the Headteacher's Awards for Key Stage 3 and key Stage 4. Thank you to everyone who attended.



MathsWatch



Bye bye Hegarty Welcome to Mathswatch!

We are pleased to announce that the Maths department have subscribed to Mathswatch, a fantastic platform that has short videos to support learning followed by practise questions. There are questions that span from KS3 to KS4 that can be completed independently.

Summer challenge!

Students completing additional tasks on Mathswatch over the summer will be rewarded with prizes in September.

For more information, you can contact Mr Patel (Faculty Director Maths)

Pastoral Updates

Ready, Respectful and Safe

As the academic year draws to a close, we have taken time to stop and reflect on the fantastic achievements our students have made. We are privileged to have such a wonderful community, as we have all worked together to embrace our core values of being **ready, respectful** and **safe** in all that we do.

Our students and staff have collectively been deepening their understanding as to our routines in school, ensuring we are **ready to learn, respectful in our interactions** and **safe in everything we do**. We strongly feel these core values are integral to your child's success, unlocking their academic and personal potential, setting the foundations for a happy and successful life into adulthood.

We welcome your support in upholding these values and ask that you actively encourage your child to meet our expectations of being **ready, respectful** and **safe**. Our passion to see your child thrive is relentless, we are firm but fair and consistent in our approach, ensuring we never let your child off, as we recognise this would be letting them down.

Ready to Learn: Equipment and Uniform

To help your child to meet our expectations we ask that you support them in being ready for school by having the correct equipment and uniform.

Equipment

To ensure learning happens from the moment your child enters the classroom please support them in being ready to learn by having the correct equipment:

- Charged iPad
- 2 black pens (1 as a spare)
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- PE Kit (School-approved - see uniform policy; only needed on the days your child has PE)
- Technology equipment / ingredients as necessary

Uniform

We take great pride in our uniform and ask that when purchasing replacement items, these are inline with our school uniform policy, which can be found [here](#). Please pay particular attention to footwear, as all children must wear black school shoes, we have produced some pictures in the guidance to make this easier for you. Similary with the winter months ahead of us, students are permitted to wear a plain black v-neck jumper underneath their blazer, however this must be v-neck. Finally, we wish to support you in ensuring trousers and skirts meet our expectations, again there are some clear pictures to support you with this. We would be more than happy to support you with any questions you have around uniform items, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor for further clarification.



Pastoral Updates

Ready to Learn: Attendance “Study Bugs”

I am sure you will agree to support your child to flourish, unlocking both academic and personal potential, attendance is paramount, as attainment is directly linked with attendance. We are excited to announce we have joined a partnership with Study Bugs, which is endorsed by the Department for Education and the NHS to help support student attendance. We recognise it can sometimes be difficult in deciding whether your child is well enough to attend school, in partnership with the NHS we feel this will be a very helpful tool to support you and your child.

Study Bugs

From September 2023 Study Bugs will be the **only** system for reporting absence, this will replace absence reporting through ParentMail and ClassCharts. Please download the free Studybugs application, or [register](#) on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school. Absences can be reported through Study Bugs via our website [here](#)



Studybugs

Year 6 Transition Day



We warmly welcomed our new Year 6 students into school for their transition day earlier this month. They had a fun filled day of activities centered around "The Kings Conquest" whereby they took part in activities from a variety of subject areas, creating dragon's breath in Science, bows and arrows in Design Technology to name a but a few.

This was followed by an evening of "meet the Tutor", whereby parents and carers were invited into school to meet with their child's Tutor and key staff in school. We hope this has helped to support your child with their transition and we look forward to seeing some students for our Summer School and Year 7's in September when we welcome them into Kingswinford and the wider Windsor Academy Trust family.

First day of school - What to expect

When you arrive in September you will be directed to the school hall before going to your form room with your form tutor. You will be given a tour of the school before the other students arrive and will have an assembly led by Mr Moreton, Headteacher. You will get your timetables and your tutor will go through with you the timings of the day and help your with your school orientation. The rest of the students won't be arriving until break time

There is a webinar, hosted by the Anna Freud centre on 9th August entitled- 'Transition to secondary school: supporting your Year 7 child'. We would recommend that you engage with this as it will give you some important information about transition to secondary school for yourselves and your child (see link below)

https://www.annafreud.org/training/training-and-conferences-overview/online-conferences-webinars-and-events/transition-to-secondary-school-supporting-your-year-7-child/?mc_cid=32af069b9d&mc_eid=f1069e1fed

Active Learning Week

Our students have had a fabulous time this week, both in school and on our day trips and residential. Here are just a few snapshots of them making memories..



Refectory News



The National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by Family Action to support schools in England to provide children with a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day.

Family Action is committed to supporting child development, and we believe a healthy school breakfast, without barrier or stigma, can set up children to succeed and give them the very best chance to learn.

As part of this, we offer a free breakfast to all students in the Refectory from 8.00 am until 8.40 am Monday to Friday.

A reminder, please, that we are a cashless school and all food purchases need to be made via the parentmail app.

Our new September menus are now on our website and can be viewed [here](#)



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023



COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

TRAVELODGE

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast

PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 24th July – Friday 1st Sept 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

YO! SUSHI

From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

TO BE CONFIRMED...

M&S and Farmhouse Inns

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Important Dates



Autumn Term

Tuesday 5th September 2023 - Friday 22nd December 2023

Half term week - Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November 2023

Spring Term

Monday 8th January 2024 - Friday 22nd March 2024

Half term week - Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024

Summer Term

Monday 8th April 2024 - Friday 19th July 2024

Half Term week - Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024

INSET Days (School closed to students)

Monday 4th September 2023, Friday 29th September 2023, Monday 27th November 2023

Friday 8th December 2023, Friday 21st June 2024, Monday 22nd July 2024

Parents Evenings

Year 7 - Settling-In Evening - 17th October 2023

Year 11 - 23rd January 2024

Year 9 - 7th February 2024

Year 8 - 18th April 2024

Year 7 - 1st May 2024

Year 10 - 4th June 2024

Year 9 Options Evening 28th February 2024

Year 11 Careers Evening - 11th October 2023