



## Headteacher's Newsletter 5/10/2016

It seems like only yesterday that we started our new academic year and so much has happened in these first few weeks that time has flown by. As you will see in my notices below, we have much to celebrate this term and we have been very proud of the great start students have made to their school year. Feedback from parents, visitors and students have given me great confidence in the work we do at Wrotham; our open days, in year waiting list for new students and ever growing 6<sup>th</sup> form add further evidence to the belief that we are the number one choice for parents and students in the area.

I hope that the articles below give you a taste of some of these tremendous achievements as well as providing you with important news and updates regarding our ever growing provision.

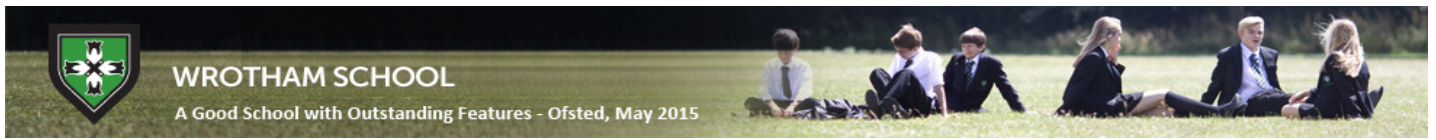
### Food Technology

Many of you will have visited our food technology department and will have sampled their wares at school events; you will therefore know that this is a busy department which the students love to be a part of as they "prove" their skills in the kitchen. It has been a term "jam packed" with events, opportunities and competitions and our students have certainly "risen" to the challenge. One of the highlights has been a visit from HECK, a specialist meat company that taught students about the industry, provided samples of their products and promotional materials and ran a cooking class that showcased some of their best products. I am not telling "porky pies" when I say that students really got a lot from this session.

We have also held numerous fundraisers and competitions. Sarah Louise Sellman and Leah Spence raised a large sum of money for a charity that was very close to their hearts by baking a series of cakes to sell at break and lunch. Our own "Bake Off" style competition was hard fought but eventually won by Shanice Shallcross who demonstrated her incredible baking and presentation skills. I would like to say "well done" to all of the students who took part in these fantastic events.

Although, I am deeply proud of our student's progress and the work of our food teacher Miss McBride, I am deeply concerned that if the students in food technology invite me to taste any more cakes that I will need a personal trainer just to fight back the calories!





## Rugby

Our Saracens Rugby coaching has started well with many students benefiting from the professional coaching we now offer. This takes place for Year 7 and 8 students, boys and girls, Wednesday afterschool and is a great opportunity and one not to be missed. More details are available from Mr Friend in the PE department.



We have a range of lunchtime and after school sports clubs to cater for all ages and abilities. Please check our website for more information and updated schedules.

## Open Events - Feedback

As many of you will know we have recently hosted our open evenings for prospective year 7 students and parents. This year we saw the largest number of visitors we have ever seen for these events and estimate that over 600 parents and young people visited the school on our open evening and morning. This has further cemented our belief that we are a strong choice for local parents and students and have a strong reputation in the communities we serve. The highlight of the night was our student helpers who acted as helpers, tour guides and worked in classrooms. Every single parent who offered feedback made it very clear that the students were a credit to our school and that they were amazed at their good manners and enthusiasm. Some visitors enquired if we coached our students prior to the event, to which I was very proud to reply that we absolutely didn't and that our students really are this good.

Below is a sample of some of the comments I received from visitors, following the event:

"My family and I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your students on an exceptionally good open evening. We were all impressed by your Year 11 prefect guides; Hannah and Megan, who were polite, bright, informative, confident and great fun to be with. Excellent ambassadors for your school! We were also impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of your staff. We have always been confident that our sons have chosen the right school for them (they are in Year 10) and once again having visited the school as prospective Year 7 parents with our daughter(s) we remain impressed and confident that she too would thrive at Wrotham. I would also like to mention a couple of the helpful students who chatted to us in the subject rooms, sadly I don't remember all of their names but Jacob (Yr7) in Science, who showed us some scientific puzzles; like a tin that could roll up-hill and Jack Johnson (Yr8) in ICT who showed us python programs and explained the options you can take. Both of these young men were a credit to your school; as were all of the young people we met on our tour".

"an awesome establishment and I would consider coming here"

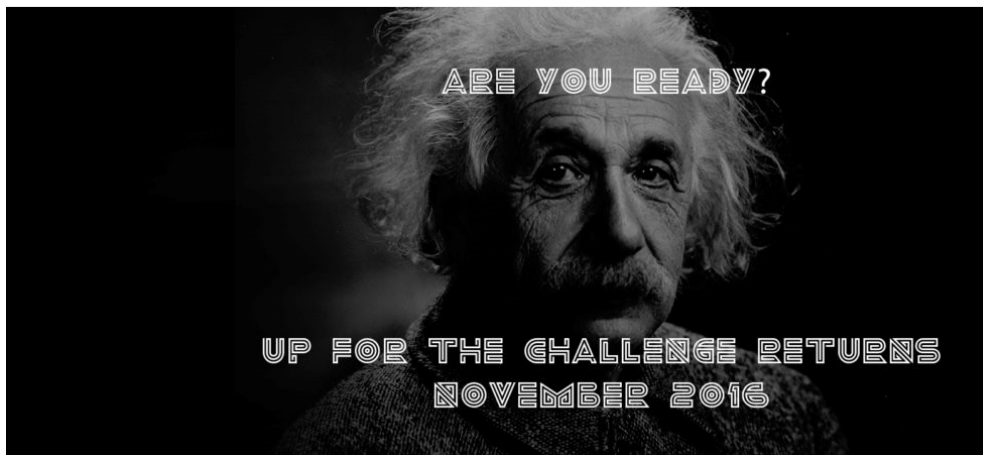
"Bravo, bravo, bravissimo!!!"

"I would like to express how impressed my husband and I were when we attended your open morning on Tuesday. The students who showed us around were friendly and polite and your talk was very informative and certainly gave us a different perspective".



## Up for the Challenge – Homework

Term 2 brings the re-launch of our up for the Challenge initiative which, this year, sees the challenge extended to homework. As well as students being asked to complete the highest levels of work in all of their lessons we will also be providing a series of “super- challenging” homework tasks for each subject as an option for those who really wish to exceed their targets and complete work at the highest end of GCSE or A level. This homework will be set for all year groups, in addition to other homework and is optional. The work will require dedication, resilience and independence in its completion with the aim of pushing all of our students, including the most able. We will be offering a generous reward for the best piece of UFTC homework submitted over the course of the year; this reward will be £250 of amazon or Apple Store vouchers and of course a mention in this newsletter. The challenge is set!



## Head teacher’s Commendations

Each newsletter I will be commending students who have achieved exceptional progress, quality of work or effort in lessons by awarding them a Headteacher’s commendation. This term I would like to commend and praise the following students:

- Joe Pauli in Year 7D for his outstanding RE homework by creating a Guru Nanak newspaper article homework that was visually amazing. He had worked very hard on presentation and the article.
- Mollie Butler, Izzy Hewitt, Hannah Keightley and Adam Woodger in Year 11 for making exceptionally good progress in their history controlled assessments at GCSE.
- Emily Grainger, in geography, who has just completed an absolutely brilliant extended writing piece. She really showed excellent ability and effort in the subject.
- Thomas Gadd, in Year 12 for actively completing work both inside and outside of lessons. Since the beginning of the year, he is always actively taking up challenges and his curiosity is never-ending. Teaching him is a pleasure.
- Rebecca May, Year 12 for her fantastic result in the first A level Biology assessment (91%).
- Shanice Shallcross for her incredible baking skills.
- Leah Spence and Sarah Louise Sellman for their fund raising activity and independence.
- The newly elected and decorated prefect team for their hard work around the school (see below for more information).
- All of the students who helped with open evening and morning (far too many to list here).



## **Prefect Team**

This year we have elected a prefect team, who can be identified by their distinct green school ties. These students have been nominated by students and staff to undertake extra duties around the school and to embody our ethos of high standards, high expectations, challenge and opportunity. These students will be playing an active role in all aspects of school life over the coming year and we thank them for their continued help and support. The prefect team is as follows Steph Borg, Ru Marie Kirsch, Izzy Hewitt, Yasmin Hurley, Hannah Keightley, Megan Madden, Vincent Beaumont, Ayeisha Norman, Summer Heather, Holly Hickford, Keira King, Abbie Simpson, Mollie Butler, Xander Higginson, David Matthews, Fahim Aziz, Thomas Henning and Mazon Baker.

## **6<sup>th</sup> From Dress Code- Review Outcome**

In light of student voice feedback and in response to expectations in the modern workplace, we have reviewed and made changes to our 6<sup>th</sup> form dress code. The basis of these changes is to reflect our high standards of appearance whilst adapting to the range of subjects and career pathways our students are following. We have adapted the policy to reflect a “smart casual” standard by making the following changes that will come into force from term 2.

### **Smart/ Casual**

6<sup>th</sup> form dress should reflect the expectations of the modern day workplace. Sixth form dress should be modest, neat and smart.

#### **Recommended:**

Suit, Shirt and Tie  
Skirt, blouse, jacket  
Smart shoes

#### **Accepted:**

Smart jeans (at our discretion).  
Smart cardigans  
Waistcoats  
Open collar shirts  
Dresses

#### **Not Accepted:**

Bright/ Sports trainers/ White trainers  
White Socks  
Polo shirts/ T- Shirts  
Vests  
Items with large or highly visible logos or slogans.  
Shorts (accept tailored shorts in the summer).  
Leggings – (without a skirt covering)  
Torn or ripped clothing/ denim jackets or shirts.  
Sports kits/ tracksuits/ sports-wear.

Pro- Soccer students are able wear their official tracksuits on match days (Wednesdays).





## International Baccalaureate and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Pathways

This term we are pleased to confirm our option offer for Years 12 and 13 which includes 4 pathways and offers our widest and most inclusive range of subjects and pathways, ever. We aim to create a sixth form that is accessible and relevant to all of our students and the wider community.

### The offer is as follows:

Pathways	BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D	BLOCK E
<b>IB diploma Subjects</b> 2 x IB subjects must be taken with 2 x Career- related subjects.	Film	English language and literature (combined)	Mathematical Studies	Visual Arts Social Anthropology	Music Theatre
<b>A-levels</b> Choice of 3 or 4 subjects, 1 from each block. Can be combined with IB diploma courses. For students achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE including A*-C in English and mathematics.	Biology	English literature Chemistry	Mathematics History	Photography	Physics
<b>Career- related Subjects</b> To be combined with IB diploma courses as part of the IBCP.	Business	IT	Criminology	Sport	CISI (Finance)
<b>Additional options</b> To be taken in addition to either the IBCP or three other subjects.		English GCSE re-sit.	Mathematics GCSE re-sit.		Pro Soccer Academy
<b>Foundation Year</b> For students not achieving 5 x A*-C grades at GCSE and not achieving at least a grade 4 English <b>and</b> mathematics at the end of year 11.  This is a pathway to further level 3 study in years 13 and 14.	Business	English GCSE re-sit.	Mathematics GCSE re-sit.	Sport	CISI (Finance)

**Geography will also be offered if minimum student numbers are met.**

More information about this can be found here: <http://www.wrothamschool.com/ibcp-international-baccalaureate/>



### Upcoming Dates and Events:

13/10/2016	Year 11 Parent Evening
14/10/2016	Open Morning for prospective parents
17/10/16 -28/10/16	Half Term (2 weeks)
31/10/16	Term 2 starts
31/10/16	Year 12 Drivers Education course
2/11/2016	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening
10/11/2016	IBCP – Service Learner Community Remembrance Lunch (Year 12)
22/11/2016	Year 11 “An Inspector Calls” Theatre Trip.
28/11/2016	Year 11 PPE Exam Week Starts
1/12/16	Prize Giving Evening

Thank you for your continued support of our school community and I hope this newsletter was useful and worthwhile, I look forward to contacting you again soon with more updates on school life at Wrotham.

Kind Regards

Mr M Cater  
Headteacher