



The Weekly Word

No. 70 Friday 14th December 2018

A note from the Principal

Thank you for the overwhelming support we have had from parents in relation to our work with the police and other local agencies which culminated on Monday 10th December with a very successful operation to search every student for possession of drugs and /or offensive weapons. I maintain my absolute commitment to your families that, no matter what is going on outside in our community, within our school gates your children are safe from deliberate harm. We know that there were issues with the time it took to search every single child and we have certainly reviewed how we will approach the process when we repeat it next year in order to cut down on wait time for the students. Most of the children and young people were incredibly patient and understood that the operation was designed to ensure their safety. Over the next few months we will continue to maintain high levels of vigilance and use our own powers of stop and search if we are made aware of concerns from parents or other students. Our policy on drugs and weapons is very clear and we will not tolerate anything that potentially puts students in danger.



You may also be aware that we confiscated a large number of aerosol cans. I have written to you all previously to explain that such items are banned from school site, primarily because of the severe asthmatics we have in school. It is perfectly permissible for students to bring roll on deodorants for after PE etc but we ask that you check your children are not coming to school with any form of aerosol can.

End of term arrangements

The autumn term finishes on Friday 21st December. We invite all students to join staff in wearing Christmas jumpers with their normal school trousers/skirts and to make a £1 donation. Students will be working Period 1 - 3 in all subjects and then will join their mentor group for a short time before being allowed to leave around 12.45 p.m. We expect all students to be in school on the final day as they will be having meaningful lessons up to the point they leave school for the Christmas break.

We hope that you and your families have a restful and enjoyable festive period.

[Link to calendar](#)

EXPRESSIVE ARTS PERFORMANCE

TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2018
6:30pm at St Marys Church

Tickets cost £2.50

Please purchase your tickets on sQuid
and collect from Student Services.



Wykham Park Academy Banbury
an Aquila Trust Academy

Join us for our first expressive arts performance

Wykham Park is presenting its first expressive arts performance on Tuesday 18th December 2018 at St Marys church 6:30pm start. There are over 60 students sharing their dedication and hard work through Dance, Drama, Music and Choir. Please come down and support the students and enjoy an eventful show packed full of variety and excitement.

Tickets are £2.50 per person, with refreshments of tea, coffee or wine at a donation towards the church. Your tickets can be ordered through Wykham Park squid and collected at student services or if you would rather pay on the door.

Nail's cake sale supports disability charities



Niall made a whopping £66.50 from his cake sale in Stanbridge Foyer. The sale followed on from his assemblies to the rest of the school to raise awareness for Disability Week.

The charities Niall raised money for were:

[Let's Play](#)

[Dogs for Good](#)

[Special Effects](#)

Outstanding High 5 Netball Leaders



"All the leaders enjoyed the netball and thought that the leaders were fantastic" (PE Lead – Hanwell Fields)



"Organisation was great. The leaders were knowledgeable and friendly, they were great." (Class Teacher – St. Josephs)

Sara, Caitlin, Izzy, Emma, Ella, Amy, Collette, Kiya and Maddie did an outstanding job of umpiring at the Y5/6 Banbury Area High 5 Netball Tournament on Thursday 15th November. It was a busy morning with 8 teams entered (Hillview, Queensway, Hanwell Fields, Bishop Loveday, St. Joseph's, The Grange, Cropredy and Harriers) and 28 matches to umpire. The results saw St Joseph's finishing in 1st place, The Grange 2nd and Hillview 3rd. The accompanying adults were extremely complimentary about the leaders.

Thank you and well done to the leaders.

Mrs Smith-Childs (SSCO)

Sixth form students visit the Houses of Parliament

On the 26th November a small group of Wykham Park Academy Sixth Form students were invited to London for a tour of the Houses of Parliament. The students were shown around all parts of this historic building including Westminster Hall, The House of Commons, The House of Lords and The Royal Robing Room. After the tour the students met with their local MP for North Oxfordshire, Victoria Prentis, for a brief insight into the life of an MP and what it means to play a key role in the UK's democratic process. Victoria also answered questions put to her by the students on a range of local and national issues. The Horton hospital was discussed as well as school funding, Banbury Magistrates Court, criminal justice for youth offenders and even the prospect of a Nandos finding its way to Banbury soon!



Our students making the news!



On the 4th December a group of students went to London to compete in the Aspirations Trust AEP final against 5 other AAT schools. The regional winners were also invited to write an article for the Banbury Guardian .

You can read Will's article below.

How often do you see an elderly person in the centre of town? You may not have stopped to think about it before, but the reality is stark: according to a local charity, more elderly people than ever are becoming isolated in Banbury.

As part of Banbury Sixth Form we are expected to take part in a Sixth Form project called the Aspirations Employability Portfolio (AEP), students and I assisted the Oxfordshire community foundation to look at this problem and try to find a solution: what we came up with was an innovative event that aimed to break down generational barriers.

The AEP involves Aspirations sixth form students setting aside three hours a week for ten weeks to work with a client to solve a real world problem. Local professionals present their issues and we choose the project we feel the most passionately about. My team chose to work alongside Jayne Woodley from Oxfordshire Community Foundation, this charities aim is to make Oxfordshire

a more equal and better place for all its residents no matter their age or background. The problem that Jayne introduced to us was that Banbury wasn't age friendly enough and this issue needed to be addressed. We conducted some research and concluded that older people were not coming into the town because of the lack of public toilets and benches around the town centre.

Elderly people who are exposed to extreme isolation and loneliness are up to 14% more likely to die a premature death, it leads to a decline in physical and mental health.

In order to pull off our event, we needed sponsorship. So five of us Samuel, Charlotte, Danielle, Olivia and myself headed into the community to talk to local businesses, Tesco kindly sponsored us giving us lots of free food and drink, while the school art department provided us with resources for arts and craft.

The day of the event rolled around quickly, it was a huge success. For two hours the nursery children, our team and the elderly guests shared music and Christmas crafts activities. Our team also spent an hour having lunch with the elderly guests.

It was a wonderful atmosphere where everyone got on so well, 'it was a lovely day out to socialise'. We set out to bring two generations together and ended up bringing together three.

Since the event we have been asked to host another event in Easter, which we are currently planning. I hope it will be even bigger.

By Will

Year 7 students meet Korky Paul!

Four of our Year 7 students attended a special assembly at Orchard Fields Primary School and met Korky Paul, well loved illustrator whose books include the award winning Winnie the Witch series.

Rosie Mae Lawrence, Jon Vincent, Ben Davies and Tegan Tom all drew illustrations for a competition and were picked as finalists by Korky Paul. The students were very excited to meet Korky Paul in person and they each received a signed copy of his new book, Winnie and Wilbur: The Monster Mystery.

Sports Leaders - great role models!



Year 8 and 9 girls did a superb job of leading the way at this year's 'This Girl Can!' Festival. They were great role models for the 60 Y5/6 girls that attended the event and the accompanying adults were full of praise for them.

Safe Drive Stay Alive

The year 13 students attended the Safe Drive Stay Alive event in Oxford on the 22nd November. The Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign reaches new and pre-drivers in an emotive and hard-hitting way, influencing behaviour and attitude on the roads. The event is a firm fixture in the Sixth Form curriculum and we are thankful to Thames Valley and Hampshire Police, local councils and emergency services for running the event.

Keep up to date with the latest information about what's going on in school.

Please follow us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit the [academy website](#)

Well done and thank you to – Olivia, Victoria, Martha, Rhiannon, Lexie, Lucy, Trinity, Alisia, Tirza, Ellie, Faith, Bryony and Eve.

Looking forward to the spring term

The spring term begins on Monday 7th January 2019 and all students will be welcomed back into school at the normal time of 8.40 a.m. ready to move to mentor time by 8.45 a.m. As usual we will be looking for everyone to be fully equipped and wearing full uniform for the new term.