

Nuntius



WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A Business and Enterprise School for Boys

2019-2020 (mid year)

Iceland 2019

Millions of tourists visit Iceland every year and looking back on our trip I can see why! Iceland, which isn't overly big, only holding around 350,000 people in total has miles and miles of undivided plains of land which all combine to provide us with a clear view of a unique country that is different to all others; on one side there are cliffs, the other water and in front, a vast open landscape, smothered in snow.

Landing in Reykjavik, following a three hour flight, we immediately set off to the first geothermal heated swimming pool at Laugardalslaug. After an hour of splashing in and out of different temperatures of water as well as the -20 surrounding, we hit the road and headed to our accommodation where we dropped off our bags and went for something to eat, enjoying some free time.

On our second day, we headed off by coach which took us along the south of the Island, passing huge open flood plains which stretch for miles and miles. We saw old volcanic lava fields which were submerged in snow and waterfalls which flow constantly despite the extremely cold temperatures, reaching -30.

We passed through small villages and geographical forms and made our way to



the black sand beach, which was very different when compared to our rich golden beaches with calm water. It was much different; waves reaching 15 metres in height came crashing in towards us, only starting near land, giving them the name of freak waves.

Day three began with breakfast and preparing our own lunches, before boarding the coach to go glacier walking. This was my favourite part as we were told that some of the ice was 600 years old! We took an extensive walk up the glacier and took plenty of photos over the whole snow covered ice and down into the huge valley below us. After a few stops to take a look into the larger crevices, we progressed down the ice towards the bus. After packing away all of our equipment; crampons, ice axes and helmets, we set off for the Lava Museum.

This was very informative and through



interactive tools we could learn all about the volcanoes, their structures and how they act. Once we were finished we

headed back to the hotel, for three hours of free time before dinner and going to the on-site pool which was geothermal heated.

On our final day in Iceland we set off to visit another geothermal pool known as the Secret Lagoon, which was in the countryside in a remote location. After an hour of the soothing water in the ideal temperature, we made our way to Gullfoss, the double water fall that raged through a valley. Following this, a short drive away was Geysir, where hot springs of water shot into the air every ten minutes. The excitement among everyone was short lived as the water formed a dome and then emerged into the sky, only lasting around 2 seconds! After a quick look in the souvenir shop we made our way to Thingvellir, where two plate boundaries meet, and have formed a huge crack, miles and miles long and up to 20 metres wide in places.

Having said our 'goodbyes' to our tour guide, we embarked on our journey back to the airport for home.

I am sure it was the best school trip I'll ever go on and on behalf of all of the boys on the trip, would like to say a huge thank you to all of the teachers who organised this trip and put many hours of planning into it, making it not only educational but very enjoyable at the same time.

Aaron Daly Y11



Deputy Head Boy gains his "Wings"

Our Deputy Head Boy, Kieran Shingler is a Flight Staff Cadet at 632 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Ternhill, Market Drayton.

He started this role in October 2018 and spends every Saturday there. Over the Easter weekend, Kieran undertook a gliding scholarship and on 28th April flew his first solo flight in a Viking glider - a fantastic achievement who was awarded his Silver Gliding Wings.

In addition, Kieran is a Flight Sergeant at 610 City of Chester Squadron. Kieran has been nominated by his Commanding Officer for a Lord Lieutenant's Award and he is to receive the prestigious Certificate of Meritorious Service to the RAF Air Cadets for his consistent hard work and effort. The award will be made at a presentation evening at Chester Town Hall. Congratulations and well done!



Headteacher's Welcome

Yet another school year draws to a close. I wish to thank all parents for supporting and encouraging their sons to embrace the opportunities that are available. Life at Wirral Boys is about so much more than the taught, academic curriculum. We pride ourselves in the wide range of extra-curricular activities that pupils are able to engage in.

Our sports fixtures are well established and this year we have had some superb results and in many sports. In rugby, our Under 18s were national Schools Cup quarter finalists and Cheshire cup winners. In hockey, our Under 14s were Wirral Cup runners up, while our Under 13s were Northwest quarter finalists. In basketball, our Under 14s were Wirral Schools Championship winners while in handball, our Under 15s were Wirral Champions, Merseyside Champions and Northwest quarter finalists.

Charity fundraising continues to be a big part of school life. In 2018, we supported World Wildlife Fund and raised a very impressive £14,114. This year, we are fundraising for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and as of May, we had already raised £11,560.

In Music we have had three spectacular Music Society Concerts with over 150 boys taking part across 18 ensembles at each of them. The summer term ended with our Music Society Dinner at which many certificates and prizes were presented.

Overseas visits are common in many schools while at Wirral Grammar School the sheer range of them is what stands out the most. Our engagement in the Erasmus+ Programme has enabled pupils to take part in collaborative exchanges in Spain, Norway and the Netherlands. In addition, we have had visits to Rome, Iceland, Berlin and Austria. At the very end of the summer term, we have our Music Society Concert Tour to Venice and 57 pupils take part in our Rugby and Hockey Tour to Australia.

Our School Production in March was 'Chicago' and once again the standard of stage performances were superb and Ben Frampton and Rubin Cavanagh were this year's joint winners of the Drama Cup.

Finally, the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme is continuing to develop and we have established the reputation as the school with the highest completion rate in the North West. At Bronze level we have 326 boys working towards this award, while at Silver, there are 70 boys. We have been providing the Gold route for the past four years and this year, 12 students were presented with their Awards at Buckingham Palace.

At the end of term we said our farewells to a number of staff: Mrs Kahn, Deputy Headteacher, is retiring after 17 years of service; Mr Crowley, Head of Physical Education is retiring after 34 years of service and Mr Money, Head of Year 9 and Teacher of PE is retiring after 29 years of service. We wish them all every success and happiness for the future.

Finally, my thanks again to all parents for the excellent support that they have again given to the school. I hope that all families enjoy a relaxing summer break. Our new academic year commences on Wednesday 4th September. We have a phased return to help new boys settle in and full details of this will be on our school website.

Best wishes

D R Hazeldine, Headteacher

Head Boy Update

At the end of my term, I firstly have to thank Jamie, Kieran, Tom, Callum, Richard and John for their selfless efforts in pulling together what I hope will be a fantastic Year 13 Prom in July.

By the time you read this the whole of year 13 will have left Wirral Grammar for good, after seven long years migrating to pastures far and new.

We leave with the school charity total on target for a record breaking amount, undoubtedly down to the relentless leadership of Shen, Dylan, Charlie and Luke. Leaving the House System in excellent form that I am certain Adam, Will, Josh and Tom will continue towards the end of this academic year and on to the next one.

As for general school matters; it was a pleasure to see the seven-yearly panoramic whole school photograph take place last week and I know Ross took great pride in welcoming Year 5 to our May Open Evening. I have great trust in him and his team to continue to take our school from strength to strength as he builds upon what our student leadership has achieved this year. I wish him great success in taking on this mantle.

Finally I would like to thank every pupil and member of staff for the support they have given me and my team this year in maintaining Wirral Grammar's Status as the very best school on the Wirral.

Jac Jenkins – Head Boy

Student gains place in National Youth Symphony Orchestra of Wales

Congratulations to Ben Frampton in Year 12 who has successfully auditioned and has accepted a place as a Double Bassist in the National Youth Symphony Orchestra of Wales.

Ben who also plays Clarinet is currently studying for A Level Music. Mr McCabe and the whole music department are extremely proud of Ben and this outstanding achievement.



House Matters



Lever House

Luke McCall– Lever House Captain

Throughout the summer term, Lever House has been full of events and activities for students of all ages.

Moreover, we recently experienced the hustings of candidates pursuing the role of House Captain with the elections drawing closer and closer.

The paper air plane competition was a huge success with all year groups participating to gain commendations for their house. Over the course of this year, I have been very proud of the progress made by Lever House. Particular thanks to all staff and students for all their hard work in the Easter Fair, which included stalls such as the BDO Tombola, an EKV/DW cake sale and lucky carrots led by Archie Brine (L/SM). I would like to thank all the staff and students of lever for such a prosperous year for the house and I wish the very best of luck for the next years House Captains.

Lever Deputy House Captain: Parsa Sargazi



Barber House

Charlie Gough– Barber House Captain

I would like to thank all the pupils and staff of Barber house for making my time as House Captain and enjoyable and productive experience. The success of Barber house this year in the commendation competition is a testament to how hard working and committed we are

as a House and I hope that this can continue well into the future. While Barber did not finish top of the charity leader boards this year, I cannot commend the efforts of Barber enough. We, as a House and a school, can all take pride in knowing that we have contributed to the fantastic cause of building a new cancer centre in Liverpool. I believe that a cause a worthwhile as this goes beyond competition and that any and all contributions are an example of the great generosity and compassion of the pupils and teachers of Wirral Grammar School for Boys.

This year has been filled with fantastic events for Barber; a notable success was the year 8 Football Tournament which saw a great turn out from boys from all Houses and helped to raise over £100 for our charity. Other events such as the 'Pineapple Carving' and 'RC Car Racing Competition' were also successful and a great bit of fun for all lads in the school. Barber also played a big role in school wide events such as the Christmas and Easter Fairs as well as in the House Music Competition. It was also brilliant to see some Barber lads also running their own events helping raise money; these included events such as coffee mornings, raffles and cake sales which all proved to be extremely popular.

On behalf of myself and Alex, we hope that we have delivered on what we set out to do at the beginning of the year and that the new House Captain can build and learn from what we have achieved this year to allow Barber to see continuous success for years to come.

Barber Deputy House Captain: Alex Gurr



Hodgson House

Shen Barnes– Hodgson House Captain

Now we are at the end of the year, I am very proud of Hodgson House and its achievements. It is through

the dedication of staff and students alike that we are currently leading in school charity and have been throughout the year with some outstanding individual performances. Boys have been achieving inside and outside of the classroom, gaining commendations for effort, leadership and team work. We have organised many successful events, but most importantly, increased the competitive nature within the House. We have had some great events over the year such as the 'Go Green fair' which was a personal favourite of mine.

I also want to wish next year's House team- Adam and Che - every success and honestly believe they can take Hodgson to the next level to top the commendation table. Thankyou to everyone in Hodgson and the Head Boys team for helping making this year a successful year.

Hodgson Deputy House Captain: Lewis Hayes



Dodds House

Dylan Owen– Dodds House Captain

This year has been hectic but it has been an honour to lead the mighty Dodds House. Following the roaring success of "Dodds Dogs", Dodds

House took an early lead in the charity tables, only to be dethroned at the midway point of the year by Hodgson. Despite a fantastic staff rugby match it wasn't enough to win the House Commendation Trophy, but overall was a hard fought battle for which we have to thank staff, students and parents for their continued support. I also want to say a special thank you to Ethan Shone, Deputy House Captain, for all the hard work he did picking up the extra jobs when I was too busy. If I've learned anything over the last year, it's that the bigger the team, the bigger the success. The House system is truly about everyone working together to achieve and succeed. Best of luck next year to Will and Sam, as Dodds will hopefully rise majestically like a Phoenix to win the double again.

Dodds Deputy House Captain: Ethan Shone



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Welcome to our new House Captains 2019/2020

We are pleased to announce the results of the House Captain elections: **LEVER HOUSE** Tom Clark (Captain), Reuben Holt (Deputy); **DODDS HOUSE** Will Morris (Captain), Sam McEvoy (Deputy); **HODGSON HOUSE** Adam Evans (Captain), Che Hannigan (Deputy); **BARBER HOUSE** Josh Parsons (Captain), Ted Hopkins (Deputy).



Congratulations to all and thanks to our outgoing House Captains and deputies for their services to their Houses and the school this year.

Welcome to our New Head Boy Team

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of our Head Boy Team for the next academic year, 2019- 2020.

The selection and appointment process involved student and staff nominations, followed by interviews. The following students have been appointed:

Head Boy: Ross Kaszuba

Deputy Head Boys: Drhuv Vasooja and Jonathon Kowalski

Senior Prefects: Adam Helsby, Cameron Mercer, Guy Patten and Sean Collins

Congratulations to all seven on their successful appointment to these leadership roles. We wish our new Head Boy Team every success for their period of office in 2019-2020.

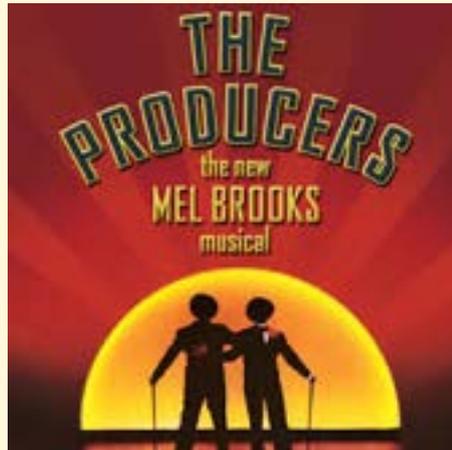
Many thanks to our outgoing Head Boy Team for their excellent services to the school: Jac Jenkins (Head Boy), Kieran Shingler (Deputy Head Boy), Jamie Finn (Deputy Head Boy), Callum France, Tom Lockwood, Jonathan Head and Richard Oscroft-Wainwright (Senior Prefects)



Next year's joint production with girls' school is . . .

'The Producers'- 24-28 March 2020

Based on the 1968 film, Mel Brooks' musical *The Producers* is a laugh-out-loud, outrageous, crowd-pleasing farce that has been a smash hit since its 2001 debut. Fading Broadway producer Max Bialystock is desperate to get to the top of his profession again, and he finds an unlikely ally in mousy accountant Leo Bloom, who hypothesizes that one could make far more money with a flop of a show than with a hit. Together, the two set out to produce the worst musical ever to hit Broadway, with the worst script, the worst director, and the worst cast they can find; the catch is that they will raise two million dollars to finance the show, and they plan to take the money and head to Rio when the show inevitably closes after just one performance. There is no shortage of show stopping musical numbers in this production, and Brooks' signature humour will keep the audience laughing!



Highly Commended Awards for Poetry Competition

Congratulations to Krishna Parmar, Sam Murphy and Daniel Maton who all gained Highly Commended in the Chris Salmon Poetry Competition.

They gained their awards at Wallasey Town Hall during March.



DRAMA CUP 2019

The Drama Cup has been awarded every year since 1981 to the person(s) who have made the most outstanding contribution to the year's drama production.

Past winners have gone on to have successful careers in acting, direction or the technical aspects of theatre.

There are two winners this year. BEN FRAMPTON has performed in previous drama productions and AMOS, the down-trodden husband of murderer Roxy Hart, was his first principal role. Ben displayed an amazing comic skill in bringing the role to the stage and he had the audience totally in sympathy with his character by the end of the show.

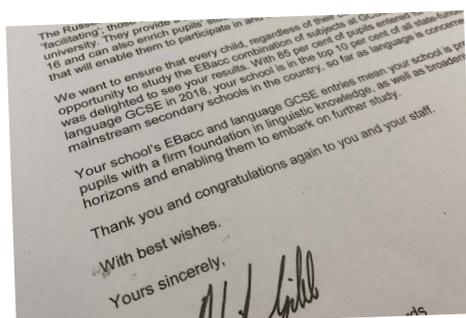
RUBIN CAVANAGH played the part of Billy Flynn, the lawyer who defended Roxy and Velma but whose only interest was in the money he could make from it. Rubin dominated the stage every time he appeared on it and proved himself a consummate actor, singer and dancer. This too was his debut principal role and he was a triumph.

Both of them were major contributors to making this show the great success it turned out to be. Congratulations!



Letter of Congratulations from Minister for Schools

We were pleased to receive a letter from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP congratulating us on our exceptionally high entry for EBacc subjects and language GCSE.



In the letter he said, "I want to congratulate you and your staff on your school's achievement in entering 84% of your pupils into the Ebacc and 85% for a Language GCSE.... you are providing pupils with a firm foundation in linguistic knowledge, as well as broadening their horizons and enabling them to embark on further study."

World Book Day

Thanks to all the staff at who made World Book Day 2019 such a success during the spring term.





'Chicago' delivered 'All that Jazz!'

Once again, as the end of March came along, it was time for the annual joint school production and this year, Mr Hinde MBE produced yet another sensational show in "Chicago".

The show followed Roxie Hart (Lauren Wood) as she battled against the law with her sleezey lawyer Billy Flynn (Rubin Cavanagh) after the murder of her lover Fred Casely (Ruben Holt). Whilst her loveable but intellectually challenged husband Amos Hart (Ben Frampton) attempts to cover her before finding out about her affair. Roxie then meets famous vaudeville dancer Velma Kelly (Becky Brown) in prison and their on stage clash was a highlight! They were kept at bay by Matron "Mama" Morton (Naomi Beale) who was their dubious gatekeeper at the prison with many ulterior motives.

This show was marvellously backed by a very professional chorus and production team led by Jonathon Kowalski, Edwin Price and Tom Green that kept the continuity flowing almost to perfection!

Six months of intense rehearsals came to this energetic showstopper, and the audience couldn't get off their feet quick enough for a standing ovation at the end of the performances on all five nights.

Due to their success on stage, Rubin Cavanagh, for his expert stage presence, and Ben Frampton, for his ability to have the audience in awe, were joint awarded with the Drama Cup (with it being both their first principle roles). On the back of this remarkable show, it was announced that next year, that we will be performing Mel Brooks' "The Producers" with auditions taking place in September. If Chicago is anything to go by then next year will be another smash hit and we look forward to seeing it come to fold.

Ben Frampton 12H/CD



Music Department Update

The Annual School Music Competition, now in its twenty second year, took place during the Spring term.

Almost every boy currently receiving music lessons (as well as few who do not) performed to their house representative and Mr Thomas, a total of over 200 boys, over the course of 4 days in February. There were house winners in each year group who are listed below, all of whom then played against each other to a lower school audience to win the house music prize for their year. The top fifteen of our best musicians were then selected to play once more in the grand final on Wednesday 6th March. The audience were treated to some commanding performances which were adjudicated by Mr Tim Pike, Head of Music at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

The winners of each section are listed below:

Junior (Years 7-8): Matthew Latham (piano)
Intermediate (Years 9-11): Joe Dobbins (guitar)
Senior (Years 12-13): Peter Clough (cornet)

Finalists: Jesse O'Rourke, Jack Heap, Lucas Robertswood, Ioan Vickers, James Watson, Nathaniel Owens, Tyr Bujac, James Binns, Adam Pullin, Tom Green, James Wright, William Brady

House winners (with overall year winners highlighted) are:

House Winners	Barber	Dodds	Hodgson	Lever
Year 7	Matthew Parry	Jesse O'Rourke	Luke Charlton	Jack Heap
Year 8	Michael Weinronk	Oliver Crosby	Matthew Latham	Elliot Bujac
Year 9	Sean O'Hare	Jack Tudor	Julian Pilkington	Daniel Warner
Year 10	Jack Dudleston	Andrew Noble	James Watson	Nathaniel Owens
Year 11	Joe Dobbins	Joe Wallis	Daniel Girvan	Jago Gustafsson-Green

Hodgson House were crowned the overall winners, for the third year in a row!



Congratulations as well to the following successful Music Exam candidates:

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade	Result
Ben Grantham	7	Clarinet	1	Merit
Robert Huskisson	7	Flute	1	Merit
Daniel Maton	7	Piano	1	Distinction
Jack Heap	7	Singing	1	Distinction
James Morris	7	Singing	1	Merit
Daniel McGuigan	7	Singing	1	Distinction
Howie Trantom	7	Cornet	2	Distinction
Myles Edwards	8	Theory	1	Merit
Samuel Roberts	8	Piano	1	Distinction
Piers Serna	8	Jazz Saxophone	1	Merit
Ben Cavanagh	8	Piano	2	Merit
Luke Charlton	8	Clarinet	2	Merit
Elliott Bujac	8	Clarinet	2	Distinction
Dominic Williams	8	Singing	2	Distinction
Hugh Ficardos Moore	8	Singing	2	Distinction
Matthew Latham	8	Singing	3	Distinction
Ben Willis	9	Trombone	2	Merit
James Forsdick	9	Violin	3	Pass
Jack Tudor	9	Piano	3	Merit
Myles Bruce	9	Piano	3	Pass
Sam Evans	9	Singing	3	Distinction
Tyr Bujac	9	Piano	7	Pass
Thomas Mathew	9	Singing	7	Distinction
Callum McKenzie	10	Jazz Flute	2	Merit
Oliver Weber	10	Oboe	4	Merit
Oliver Weber	10	Theory	5	Merit
Andrew Marriott	10	Theory	5	Distinction
Gavin Gao	10	Flute	6	Merit
Anshul Ramavath	10	Violin	7	Merit
Ben Jones	11	Guitar	2	Merit
Joe Dobbins	11	Theory	5	Merit
Christian Hallinan	11	Theory	5	Merit
Jago Gustafsson-Green	11	Theory		Pass
Tom Peake	11	Piano	6	Pass
James Binns	11	Guitar	7	Merit
Tom Peake	L6	Clarinet	3	Merit
Christian Williams	L6	Violin	5	Pass
Ross Kaszuba	L6	Theory	6	Pass
Dominc Wearne	L6	Theory	6	Merit
John Fleetwood	U6	Keyboard	6	Pass

The whole of Year 8 had a chance to travel to the Philharmonic Hall on Thursday 7 March to listen to the world-renowned Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra perform well known film music and popular classics that demonstrate how composers not native to the UK often wrote some of our most iconic classical music. Performed to a full house of key stage 3 pupils, for many this will have been their first experience of listening live to a full professional symphony orchestra.

A Night for the Prom IV was just as successful as the last three years. Enlisting the most talented musicians from both boys and girls school, Sam Tempest, the Music Society President organised a most enjoyable evening for all

concerned. Many thanks to all those who participated, and the Head Boy & Head Girl Teams who supported the event.

The Spring Concert took place on Wednesday 27 March with a matinee performance in the afternoon. This matinee concert is given to an audience made up of children from local primary schools, this year attended by Stanton Road, Brackenwood and Higher Bebington Primary School. The Summer Concert offered more of the same high standard performances from almost 140 boys on Thursday 4 July.

Wednesday 9 May saw another outstanding collection of solo performances in the summer Chamber Concert. All 27 boys performed admirably and were well received by an appreciative audience. A particular mention should go to the 9 boys who performed for the first time – never an easy thing to do – including the following boys in Year 7:

Sam Newns (trumpet)
Ben Grantham (clarinet)
Tom Kitney (saxophone)
Mark Venables (guitar)
Daniel McGuigan (baritone)



Continuing the Department's visits to primary schools during the summer term, we were able to visit 4 schools on Wednesday 19 June. The Junior Brass Group, String Group, Year 7 Choir, Pop Choir, Clarinet Sextet and Brass Quintet, as well as a number of soloists, performed at St Johns, Devonshire Park, Irby & Thingwall Primary Schools throughout the day, and over 60 boys, mostly in in Years 7-10 were involved. 75 local primary schools have received performances in the last 19 years, and this is now one of the Department's most important annual events.

The Music Society Dinner proved to be its normal gastronomic success on Friday 5 July. Many thanks to our Guest of Honour Dr Anne James, Head of Music at Liverpool Hope University, for a most enjoyable speech, along with the other members of the Music Forum reporting on their ensembles.

The Department's links with Hope University continue to grow. After the brass group performed in a concert with university musicians back in December, the school's Pop Choir were invited to sing at a graduation ceremony at Hope on Friday 12 July.

As you are reading this, 56 boys and 8 staff are currently on tour in Venice, Italy! A programme that includes singing in St Marks, Venice and performing in Italian villas will be off-set by visits to cities, castles, one of the largest cave systems in Europe, and a local waterpark. I'm sure lots of ice-cream will be consumed and hopefully boys will come home knowing the difference between a pizza and a piazza.

Finally - and as I always say - as the long summer months get under way with a vengeance, remember that 7 weeks without music lessons does not mean 7 weeks without practice!

Mr P Thomas
 Music Department



Science & CREST Awards Club

Science Club was revamped this year and has been a great success.

Miss Vaughan and Dr Bakht are amazed by the enthusiasm and dedication of our members. They have worked extremely hard over the year and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments at the Science Club Conference & Awards Day in July. Below are a few words from one of our members.

“Science Club this year gave us a chance to explore parts of Biology, Chemistry and Physics that are not on the curriculum, whilst growing our knowledge through fun and exciting experiments. Initially, we chose a part of science we would like to explore as a group, which was hard as there were so many good ideas being pitched to us. We tried something new every week, whilst also learning the science behind it, and how it could be used in our everyday lives. My two favourite weeks, though it was hard to pick just two, were about designing a firework and fish head dissection. In the first session, we were given various metal salts along with a Bunsen burner and a recording sheet. Our purpose was to create our own firework since different metals burn different colours when combusted. Using calcium and copper chloride, I created a green and red flame, yet others had purples, blues, oranges, yellows and whites from an assortment of compounds and elements. We then explored the inner anatomy of aquatic life through the dissection of fish heads, learning about how their gills are adapted for breathing. This was particularly interesting for me, as I love anatomy, yet we don’t usually dissect anything until the GCSE years.

After a few months of diverse practicals, Dr Bakht and Miss Vaughan introduced the CREST Award to us so we could demonstrate our independent practical skills and gain an extra science qualification. We combined our two favourite sciences of chemistry and biology to choose our topic; designing our own toothpaste. For the first few weeks, we researched and tested various toothpastes and how the chemistry of them helps clean your teeth well. Using and applying our results, we began work on designing our own. What I liked about this was how everybody’s ideas were so fun and diverse, and all had unique properties that nobody else had. After the first prototype, we analysed the results, such as testing taste, pH, abrasiveness and quality, and then used this to help us improve in our second attempt. By this time, most groups had a lot to work on, all using science to help them with these issues. By the third and final creation, most groups were sure that their product was near to perfect and had been tracking their progress to show this. This meant we were ready to begin our posters, packaging, further research and put everything in one place.

My friends and I that have taken part have been back every week because we enjoy it so much, and now we have applied our work to CREST awards we have something to use to our advantage after school and for our own enjoyment. It’s been great, and I would definitely do it all over again if given the chance.”

Samuel Howes, Year 8B/ME



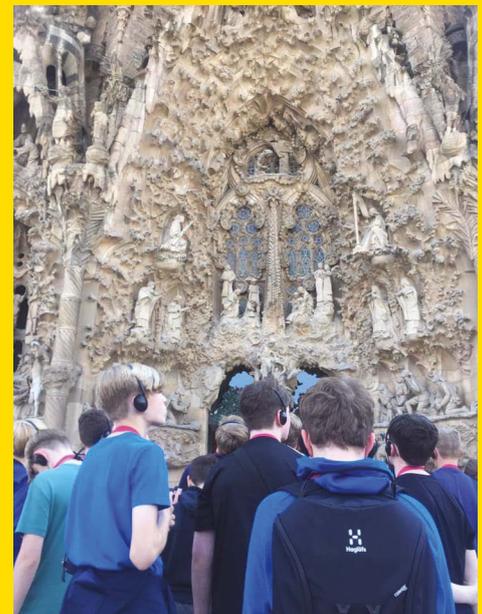
Barcelona

During May, 40 students from Years 9 and 10 visited Barcelona with the Languages Department. The trip was an unforgettable experience for all concerned, and I hope to share that with you here.

On our first day out, having settled into our accommodation the previous night, the group visited the Nou Camp Football Stadium. Considering recent sporting events, this tour could have gone very differently, but it was very informative and exciting overall. Following other outings, such as a trip up Montjuïc, we retired to bed after a thoroughly enjoyable first day. The next morning, we took part in one of the trip’s most memorable moments, ascending Montserrat in a funicular railway; after lunch, there was an incredible walk through the clouds, such was the mountain’s height!

Another remarkable journey was undertaken on Saturday, as we toured the Sagrada Familia. A World Heritage Site, the cathedral is one of the world’s most beautiful buildings, an opinion shared by much of the group. The final full day of the trip was a highlight for many boys; a day-long visit to the theme park at Port Aventura. We returned to home soil after almost a week of constant enjoyment. Thanks must go to Mr Hughes, Miss Jones, Dr Hansen and Mr McKinney, as well as all the staff at Spanish Star, for making the trip possible.

Thomas Armstrong 9H/SM



Berlin History Trip 2019

I was particularly thrilled to be in Berlin after we landed from Berlin Schönefeld Airport, the impressive European architecture of cathedrals and the vibrant colouring of the Berlin Wall graffiti art helped to convince me that I was distant from my home.

The grand monuments of the city centre exemplified the history of the various periods that the city has faced, which made me fall in love whilst walking through the museums and memorial sights, as they gave a thorough insight into the lives and experiences of people as well as the ideas of the Nazis and Soviets.

We visited one of two zoos in Berlin which gave a wide variety of exotic animals and flora from across the globe. My favourite animal there was indefinitely the Pandas since I was somehow in awe (but the Polar Bears were interesting too). My favourite view of the city however was undisputedly the view from the Reichstag Dome. This was due to it being less claustrophobic and more scenic than the Fernsehturm, which is considerably taller.

Disastrously, our flight was cancelled from Berlin Tegel Airport giving us another day in the German Capital. This was a blessing however as the sun was blazing down upon us and the day was peaceful as we strolled through the Tiergarten Park (Germany's national park). Overall, I would fully recommend the trip to anybody who is interested in history, people who would like to experience new places or to simply make new friends and memories.

Owen Langford 10B/GEC



Open Evenings

Parents of boys who will be in Year 5 at their Primary School in September are invited to attend one of our Open Evenings on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 6.00pm.

Mr David Hazeldine, Headteacher, will talk to parents in the school hall. Talks will be repeated at intervals during the evening.

The whole school will be open for parents to view the work and activities of all Departments and parents and pupils will be able to talk to current pupils about life at Wirral Grammar School.

Please note that parents who attended our May Open Evening, need not attend Mr Hazeldine's talk.



Year 8 Visit to Liverpool Museums

In February Year 8 went to various museums and exhibits across Liverpool as part of our curriculum.

We had to find out about its illustrious and often controversial history. There was a question in the end of year exam so we had to work hard! This included its involvement in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Industrial Revolution and both World Wars, in a unique and engaging way through artefacts and exhibits.

We first went to the Maritime Museum where we learnt about one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century, the sinking of two famous ships with links to Liverpool, the Titanic and the Lusitania. We engaged in wearing era-appropriate clothing, such as captains' uniforms and petticoats, as well as looking at plentiful models of what the greatest ships of Liverpool's docks would have looked like. In another part of the museum, we explored scenes of what streets may have looked like in the Industrial Revolution, comparing them to our modern-day ones and feeling very grateful of how we as children didn't have to experience some of the hardships these people had to endure then.

At the Liverpool Slavery Museum we experienced African culture and how racism has sadly developed over history and realising that thankfully we live in a much more tolerant world in comparison. As well as this, we learnt about the Middle Passage and how slaves had to put up with inhumane conditions on board their ship to the Americas. It was obvious to us how much slavery impacted Liverpool's history and economy and we gained a valuable insight into the life of a slave both at a plantation and on board the ships.

In the Museum of Liverpool we looked at how soldiers from Liverpool experienced both World Wars, what they wore and what equipment they used. There were other exhibits there such as Liverpool in the 1960s and it was a great learning experience to see how Liverpool has been transformed over the centuries.

At the Western Approaches Museum, our favourite part of the day, we found out about the incredible importance that Liverpool played during the Second World War. Amazingly this was a secret building that helped plan out the defeat of Germany in the Battle of the Atlantic. It was so important to Britain, that the Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited the site several times. Even Liverpoolians didn't know what was going on in there! It was very interesting and inspiring to see the amount of work they got done, with just old fashioned typewriters, ladders and maps. Most of the workers were women and this was an eye opener. This whole building has been restored by an old boy of the school, Dean Paton, and he has done a magnificent job! This part of the visit was inter-active and the guides got us to do things that would have been done at the time and it was a first hands experience that challenged us all! Another activity that I really enjoyed was exploring a blitz-ridden street scenario of Britain, and seeing that even without a war, things have changed immensely in Liverpool. We had to work on deciphering German codes and realising how serious everything had to be taken. It was overall surreal to imagine that where I was standing a few decades ago would have been full of worried people wondering if we were going to survive the war.

In all, it was a very fun and thought-changing experience and would definitely do it again if given the chance. This was a really interesting and fun school trip to go on! Many thanks to all the staff that took us and in particular Mr McKibbin who organised the visit.

Sam Howes and Joe Norbury 85.

Leeds Royal Armouries Museum Visit

Earlier this term, Year 7 visited the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds as part of their curriculum.

We had an early start to the day to learn about what we had studied in lessons and much more. We looked forward to enjoying the amazing re-enactment of the battle of Hastings, seeing Henry VIII's armour as well as different types of swords and much more. This fascinating museum holds lots of treasures that amazed us all by the end of the day.



On entering the museum, we made our way to a balcony above a battle re-enactment and watched two men in Medieval clothing tell us about the etiquette and technique to fighting in the Middle Ages. This was followed by an equipment session in which we learnt about what equipment and weapons medieval soldiers wore and used, including jousting! Certain pupils were lucky enough to try full outfits on, as I was. After that session a member of the fabulous armouries staff allowed us to look at aspects of warfare that some of us had never even heard of. This was a lot of fun and there was so much to do and learn we did not have a second to waste on these days!

The most spectacular thing about the museum was the wide range of detail that there was for each battle that they have on display. Wall after wall of information and artefacts are available to support your learning. For example, the use of role-play in the Battle of Hastings really helped us learn in a way that felt like we were experiencing it, something that we don't usually get in classrooms. This experience made us think about what was going through Harold Godwinson's and William the Conqueror's minds at the very moment of time in the battle. Also, when we got to try on the plates of armour, the swords and the shields, you knew instantly how difficult it must have been to carry it all around England from battle to battle. It was interesting for us to compare our sizes to that of the young, fit and healthy King of England he was in his prime (before he became the chubby King that everyone recognises him as today). One of the tactics that we learned about the Battle of Hastings was the fake retreat, which was used by William the Conqueror. Interestingly, he had apparently tried to use this tactic three times before, which made the English look foolish. However, the Normans never included it in their tapestry because they were biased and didn't want to look weak.

The visit was extremely positive and we are all looking forward to our next educational visit with the History department. Thanks to them for organising the day, particularly Mr McKibbin and for all the staff and student teachers that accompanied us all. It wasn't just going around a museum, it was inter active and brought History to life!

Conor Grealis 72 and Jesse O'Rourke 75.

“Ask not what our Rainforests can do for you, but what YOU can do for our Rainforests.”

It's a hot topic right now, the climate, the environment and our impact upon it. James Daw of 72, reports on the visit of Dave from the Rainforest Roadshow who came into school make a difference and help us understand something called 'Symbiosis'.

During May, Dave from the Rainforest Roadshow came to visit us. It started out as another 'lecture' but ended up being a very tense and thought-provoking journey into the Rainforests of the Amazon. The first thing Dave showed us was something called a Milk Snake. This was not a picture or slide of one, but a real snake he had brought in. Now, it sounds as though this snake is delivered to your door every morning, but in actual fact it is a snake that lives in the Amazon Rainforest and has a special talent for avoiding predators - by copying their own physical appearance. A bit like a chameleon but with a bit extra. If the Milk Snake is faced by a very venomous snake such as the Black Viper it can pretend it is also a Black Viper and thus it can escape. The clever bit is that the Milk Snake is non venomous and harmless.

Dave went on to show us a spider, one the size of a fist. It was striped with blended black and red which make predators think it is highly poisonous to anything that might try to eat it. Apparently, the colour red is a warning sign to many species and it had hairs all over its body. These hairs can 'shoot out' of its body and cause incredible itching over their intended target. We were then showed something that is used by the human inhabitants of the Rainforest to hunt their own food to survive. You will have probably seen these 'Blow Pipes' on television but in real life they are much larger and would take a while to learn to use one. Young children learn to hunt from an early age to ensure the tribe's future survival. With a sharp single breath an experienced hunter can take down its intended source of food from easily fifty meters away, firing a specially prepared poisonous dart.

So what does this all mean for us and what is a Symbiosis? Put simply, if we lose the Rainforests from this planet through our destruction of the environment this will directly lead to our own destruction as a species. The Snakes, the Spiders and the Humans all depend on this now rapidly declining environment, and in our turn, we depend on its survival too. We have a global symbiosis. An interdependent relationship with every other creature and plant, regardless of whether they are a part of our food chain or not.



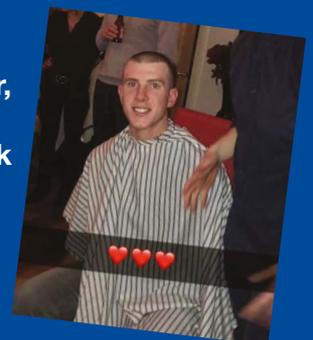
The Rainforest is like the bottom layer of cards in an 'environmental house of cards'. It helps to support us all and if it is toppled over, everything else will go with it. So, we need to be asking everyone, what can YOU do for our Rainforests? Thanks for coming in to share this with us Dave.

James Daw 7B/JOR



Head Shave for Charity

Cameron Mercer, one of our Year 12 students, took the bold step of having his head shaved in order to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.



Cameron was inspired by his Nan's battle with lung cancer.

This is Cameron's story on his Charity Giving page: "My nanny Linda has been battling lung cancer and has never once given up - she's the strongest woman I know and she is the reason I'm doing the head shave as she has inspired me to do this. Also recent news of my uncle who's also battling cancer whilst still managing to visit my nanny and grandad and making them smile every time, any donations would mean the world."



Erasmus+ Norway Trip

On the 9th of February 2019, 5 boys and 2 teachers embarked on a cultural exchange to Hof, a small village in Norway.

The outward journey was difficult (to say the least), with multiple delays and rescheduled flights, but we were entertained by the talented pianists James



and Logan in the departure lounge and finally we all arrived in Oslo safely. We then spent Sunday with our host families, and the Norwegian students organised for everyone to meet up, play sports and go sledding in the thick snow that carpets Norway at this time of year; it was great fun, and a snowball fight (or 2) had broken out by the end! We all went home happy, tired and wet.

On Monday we spent the day in school; first we had presentations from all of the different countries (Spain, Norway, Turkey, Netherlands & UK), a drama lesson, and then in the afternoon we went cross-country skiing, which was great fun! I think everyone fell over a couple times, but it was a unique experience. We spent Tuesday and Wednesday practising plays written by the students, and on Tuesday afternoon we had a trip to Oslo. Whilst there, we visited the Nobel Peace Prize centre, with a very sobering talk about today's societies and the actions of this year's prize winners; we then had a tour of Oslo, as such, looking for interesting landmarks as part of a quiz. In the evening, we visited the Oslo Opera House, and went up onto the roof which was quite a slip-fest; the whole event ended with a rather spectacular snowball fight, and certain members of staff DEFINITELY WERE NOT TARGETED...

On the Wednesday night, we performed our 'Timeless Tales' to our host families; the performances included 'Robin Hood', 'Bald Boy and the Magic Seal' and the 'The Life of the Blind Man's Guide'. All performances were a success, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. On Thursday, we visited the Midgard Viking Centre and ate a traditional Viking meal; we learned lots about the history of the Vikings in Norway, which was very interesting. Finally, on the Thursday night, we attended Hof School's Prom, which was a great way to say goodbye to everyone; one of our pupils Alfie was voted the 'Happiest Person'! All in all, the trip was a great cultural and social experience, and an amazing opportunity. Our thanks go to Mrs Moyes for running the Erasmus+ Project, and to both Mrs Moyes and Mr McKinney for agreeing to give up their week for the trip. We also thank Hof School, the Norwegian students and their families for agreeing to host us and making the experience so amazing for everyone.

Hope the students on the upcoming exchange to Melilla in June have an equally great time.

Andrew Marriott, 10H/KJM

Netherlands Visit with Erasmus+

Our trip to the Netherlands was incredible! The idea of staying at an unknown person's home simply seemed daunting at first.

But when I first met my host, all my worries had vanished, and it went smoother than I could have imagined. This trip is very different to any other school trip. But why? Basically, it



was a student exchange with our partner school Emelwerda College in Emmeloord, a town in the Netherlands. Around twenty Dutch students hosted the twenty students coming from Melilla, Norway, Turkey and the UK. Cameron, Reece, Flynn, Andrei and I were lucky enough to take part in the exchange representing WGSB. All the students were very nice, and it didn't take long for all of us to make a strong friendship. We would plan meetups after school, for example, one Dutch student Fleur, planned a very pleasant, surprise birthday party with us for Flynn at her house.

Throughout the whole trip, we all constantly had fun! The tremendous range of breath-taking activities enriched our experience. On the fourth day, we spent the whole day in Amsterdam! This was extremely thrilling as I had always wanted to go. We went on a tour in the canals and the view of the buildings was phenomenal, it was a fantastic experience. After that, we went to the Anne Frank House. This was quite touching as you were almost living through what a victim of the Holocaust went through. On another day, we went ice skating which was a marvelous experience. Although it was challenging at first -and took a lot of time to master- the outcome of skating across ice swiftly was hugely gratifying. But it would be extremely difficult for me to choose which was more amusing between seeing Mr McKinney ice-skating for the first time or watching our friends drop onto the ice. On the last day, we performed a play based on Dutch tales. We had worked in groups for a few hours on prior days to practice for this. Cameron seemed to be a natural at his performance. My play consisted of a penguin dying and although that sounds very dark, we made it comical.

Overall, this trip was simply a spectacular experience. Not only was it educational it was vastly fun. We interacted with the Dutch, we mingled with the Turkish, Spanish and Norwegian students too. And so, we learnt how different their culture was to ours which was very interesting. And it was possibly more interesting how they interact with our culture as some of them were huge fans of Ed Sheeran and Adele. I also learned the traditions of which my host's family. I learnt Santa Claus in their country is someone called Sinterklaas and he is basically a stricter version of our Santa Claus. The next Erasmus trip is to Norway in February and I am most certain the students going will love it! I would recommend this trip to anyone who wants to try something new. On behalf of Cameron, Reece, Flynn and Andrei, we would like to thank Mr McKinney and Miss Money for making this trip so enjoyable.

Shebujit Deb Year 10

Erasmus+ Project – Melilla Exchange

During June, 11 students involved in the Erasmus+ project took part in an exchange to Melilla, a Spanish region on the north coast of Africa.

Intending to promote international unity and broaden students' horizons, the trip was a great success.

Initially, our students, as well as those from Turkey, Norway and the Netherlands, were welcomed at the airport with a banner by the host families. This surprising gesture truly underlined the significance of such a trip to the area. Over the first week, we were able to perform activities with our host families; examples of these from other students included going to the beach, attending a play and embarking on a tour of the town.



Over the course of the week, all the students involved in the project attended IES Miguel Fernández with their hosts. In conjunction with the project's theme, 'Timeless Tales', we were separated into groups to create comics based on popular legends from each country. Following an informative workshop about art and the design of comics themselves, we began the main focus of the project, to be finished and presented later in the week. Finally, we were lucky enough to meet the president of Melilla in the town hall and we featured on local television and in local newspapers.

The trip would not have been as enjoyable without the tireless work of our host families and all the staff involved; Mr. McKinney, Miss Broadhurst and Mrs. Moyes (from WGSB), as well as Samuel Jimenez of Miguel Fernández.

Thomas Armstrong 9H/SM

'Try to Tell A Timeless Tale' – Erasmus+ Project

On Sunday 14th April, a group of Wirral Boys involved with the Erasmus+ project 'Try to tell a timeless tale' provided an afternoon tea in partnership with Contact the Elderly alongside Mrs Moyes, Mr McKinney, Mr Riley and families.

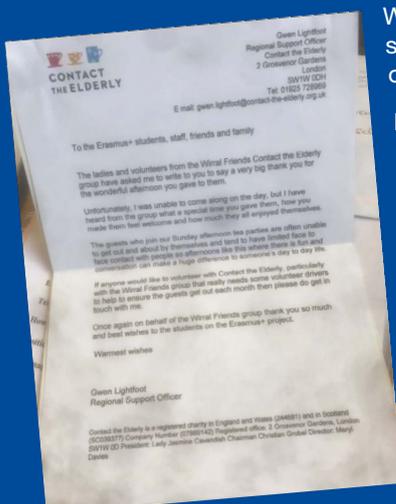
We welcomed the ladies from our local community to share our memorable tales and legends and to recall our time in Norway and the Netherlands.

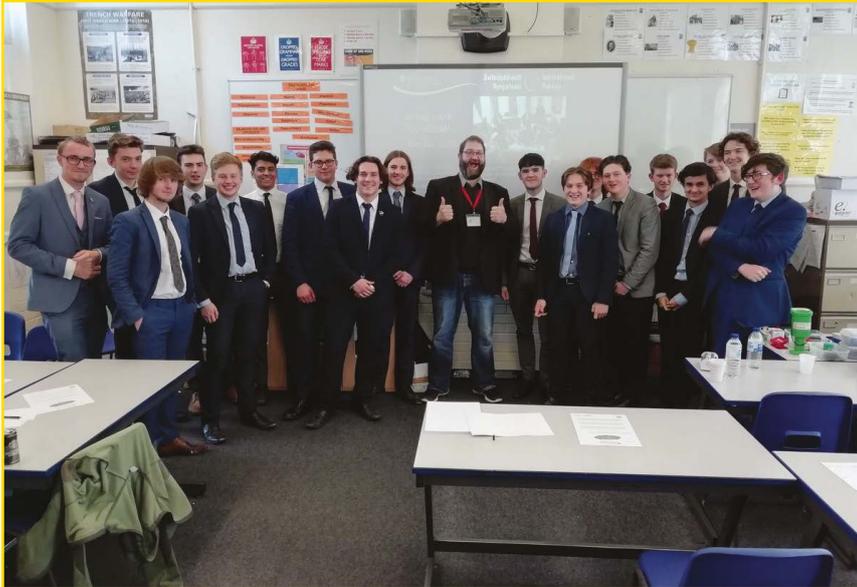
Mrs Riley brought several games for us to enjoy; snakes and ladders and dominoes, we shared tales and showed our visitors photographs of the amazing experiences we had on our exchange trip.

It was also great to hear some of their own life experiences whilst having a cup of tea and a piece of cake. Two of our visitors were almost one hundred years old and all expressed their gratitude after a fun and sociable afternoon. We were delighted to receive a thank you letter from the coordinator Gwen Lightfoot. We had such a fantastic afternoon that we have already arranged to do it again in July.

To find out more about how you could make a difference in your local community visit www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk for more information.

Alfie Barrick, Year 8





Mother's Day Stall

On Thursday 28th March, (MFL) Mr Hughes' House Group set up a 'Mother's Day Stall' in aid of supporting the School's charity.

The stall sold items for students to serve as gifts for Mother's day, and included a wide variety of products such as bath bombs, scented candles and delicious truffles.

The stall raised an impressive £106 for Barber House, which makes up for over 10% of Barber's total charity



contributions for this academic year. Everybody involved were motivated and took a proactive role in what sure was a great collective effort to aid the School's chosen charity for 2018/19, whether that may be through setting up the stall, producing posters to advertise it, or being cashiers on the stall.

Contributions were made generously by the students in the entirety of the school and the staff, in the form of donations, so thank you for that! The stall was a great success and reflects what can be achieved when everybody helps towards a common goal.

Joshua Parsons Year 12 B/JHH

US Workshops

In May, the Politics department was delighted to welcome two university lecturers to discuss American Politics with Sixth Form students.

The first, led by Dr Warren Dockter from Aberystwyth University, included a small group task where we formulated likely policies of the Democratic candidates for the 2020 Presidential race. We were also shown how exactly the American Congress works. Moreover, we were provided with potential explanations for the results of the previous American election, including the advantages and disadvantages of the Electoral College. A special thanks to Dr. Warren Dockter for this very informative workshop.

In the second workshop, WGSB Politicians and Dr. Mathew Hill from Liverpool John Moores had an in-depth conversation about the separation of powers and what each branch of government does, which provided an insight into the differences between the US and UK institutions, which will be beneficial for our US studies next year.

Joshua Johnston 12 L/BDO & Joshua Whitehead 12 H/SLJA



Spring is in the air!

Spring is in the air and our grounds are looking wonderful thanks to the creative talents of our groundsman, Dave Hallam



National Representative for Canoe Polo

Canoe polo, also known as Kayak polo, is one of the competitive disciplines of kayaking

Polo combines boating and ball handling skills with a contact team game, where tactics and positional play are as important as the speed and fitness of the individual athletes.

Each team has five players on the pitch (and up to three substitutes), who compete to score in their opponents' goal which is suspended two metres above the water. The ball can be thrown by hand or flicked with the paddle to pass between players and shoot at the goal. Pitches can be set up in swimming pools or any stretch of flat water. Each half starts with a sprint for the ball, which is really exciting and dramatic! Play is fast and furious, with players jostling for position, riding over each other and pushing each other in for possession of the ball.



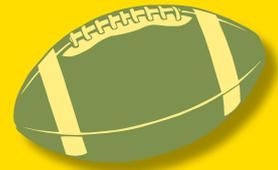
I have been playing canoe polo with FOA for 3 years and in that time, I have come from playing in the bottom division (division 4) to playing in division 2, division 1 being the best. In 2017 I was on the winning team for GB U14 at the Youth International in Belfast. In 2018 my team (Friends of Allonby) and I won both the Youth Division and Division 2 at the Liverpool international canoe polo tournament held in Princes Dock in Liverpool. I have played tournaments in Holland, Belfast, Nottingham, Hull, London, and France. Later this year, I will go for trials for the GB U21 squad.

Isaac Keating-Pipe 10D/DJB



U15 Rugby

Looking back over the achievements through 2018/19 for the U15's side, it has been a mixed affair.



Largely due to an unprecedented amount of long term injuries in key positions. These setbacks have required a number of players playing in unfamiliar positions, which they all have done without hesitation. Even with the Squads depleted numbers, there have been some notable performances, particularly a hard fought away win, against Stockport Grammar, where the team came from behind twice to grind out a 34-26.

Unfortunately we were to exit the Natwest Cup in the first round after a disappointing performance against Calday, however, this in turn has led to a very good run in the Plate Competition. With the Squad back to full fitness, we had a tough away fixture in the last 32 against Stonyhurst. A remarkable team performance saw us run out 29-0 winners, and we now await a last 16 home fixture against Bridgewater.

I would like to thank the boys for their effort and commitment throughout this season, along with the parents for their support at both home and away fixtures. I am sure there will be a number of boys fighting to be included in the senior squads over the coming years.

Mr Griffies - U15 Coach

Covey Cup Winner (Golf)

Congratulations to Matthew Dodd-Berry who after competing in the Midlands U16 Golf Competition for 4 days during April, won the Covey Cup at Hawkstone Park.

This makes him the Midlands Boys' Champion. Matthew, who is in Year 10, also trains with the England North West regional squad! <https://www.Englandgolf.org/matt-and-lottie-win-after-double-play-off/>



Merseyside Handball Champions

Well done to our U15 Handball Team who are now Merseyside handball champions! They are now through to the regional finals in May. Superb achievement boys!





Visited our website recently?

Our website is an important source of information about our school and includes a wide range of content relating to subjects, extra-curricular activities, events and policies and procedures. The website address is:

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Lost Property Service

Parents are reminded that the school operates a Lost Property Service, the co-ordinator for which, is Mr McKinney. Unclaimed lost property has been a growing concern to us and amounts to considerable replacement expenses for parents. The Lost Property Room is located near the gym, next to the playground entrance and is open on three days each week: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.45am to 9.00am. MOST of the lost property is unnamed which means that we cannot return the lost items to their owners. If your son has lost an item, please remind him to go to the Lost Property Room at the stated time. At the end of each term, unclaimed lost property will be given to local charities. Please ensure that all items of personal property (clothing, bags, shoes, equipment etc) have your son's name on them. Where names are included, we are able to return items to their owners. Any queries relating to items of lost property should be directed to Mr McKinney.

Parent Mail: Is your email address up to date?

The majority of parents with computer access have registered an e-mail address with us and 'Parent Mail' is proving to be a fast and effective means of getting letters and messages to parents. To remain effective, parents need to keep their e-mail address information up-to-date. If you have not registered, or if your e-mail address has changed, this can be amended by logging into the Parent Mail website: www.pmx.parentmail.co.uk and following the 'parent login' link or by contacting the school Finance Office

Admission Enquiries

Enquiries relating to admissions should be directed to our Admissions Manager, Mrs Tanya Fry on 0151 644 0908 or by visiting the school website:

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Ways to Keep In Touch...



Wirral Grammar School for Boys has a Twitter feed and we can be followed [@WGSB](https://twitter.com/WGSB)



Those with Facebook can be kept up-to-date with achievements, developments and events through our secure, school managed Facebook page: [Wirral Grammar School for Boys \(Education\)](#).



To have our up-dates in your Newsfeed, simply 'like' this page.

Uniform Shop New Opening Times

During term time the Uniform Shop will now be open 4pm – 5.30pm on a Monday and Wednesday. Click and Collect from finance office or home delivery is available.

Mobile Phone Policy – Reminder

Our policy on mobile phones is very clear. Pupils are permitted to have phones available for use before and after school but during the school day they must be switched off. Staff will confiscate mobile phones that are on view/in use during the day.

Absence Requests

Parents are reminded that the rules have changed regarding parental requests to take boys out of school during term time. The new regulations now clearly state that "Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time".

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

• news • achievements • events • admissions