



Nuntius

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A Business and Enterprise School for Boys

2018-2019 (mid year)

Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award

In September 2018 our school was awarded the Unicef 'Rights Respecting Schools' Silver Award.

Unicef works with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected and their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. Our school has been seen to be explicitly embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in its policy, practice and culture and proactively promotes knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community. In 2017 we achieved the Bronze standard and we now aiming to achieve the Gold standard in 2019.



St Andrew's Church Heritage Project

As part of the St Andrew's Church Heritage Project, our Design Technology Department has created a detailed model of the church.



Students were given an outline brief in the Autumn Term of 2017, and the completed model was presented to the church in July (2018). The model is to form the centre piece of a permanent heritage exhibition.

Students involved were: Adam Green, Will Hankinson, Tom Hall, Oliver Moore, Harry Gerrard and Ethan Dodd. A spokesman for St Andrews said "the interest shown and the work undertaken surpassed our expectations; they are a credit to the school."

'Chicago'

This year's joint production with the Girls' School is 'Chicago'.

Broadway's longest-running American musical, *Chicago* is a dazzling and satirical look at fame, justice, and the media machine. Set in 1920s Chicago and based on real-life murders and trials. *Chicago* follows Roxie Hart, a wannabe vaudevillian star who murders her lover and is arrested, despite her attempts to convince her pushover husband, Amos, to lie for her. In the Cook County Jail, Roxie meets her hero, the famed double-murderess and nightclub performer Velma Kelly. When both acquire the same lawyer, the greedy and lustful superstar, Billy Flynn, tensions come to a head as they vie for the spotlight--though instead of onstage, they're mugging for the flashbulb of the newspaper reporters. With a funny, intelligent, and utterly engaging book by Kander and Bob Fosse, and, catchy music and timeless lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb, *Chicago* is a musical spectacular that is as addictive as gossip rags and as unforgettable as any trial of the century!

Performances take place Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd March 2019 at 7.30pm – tickets available late February from the School Office for £10 each.





Headteacher's Welcome

Keen readers of 'Nuntius' may have noticed that we did not produce an edition back in December. For the last twelve years, 'Nuntius' has been produced three times a year. This year we have decided to reduce to two editions, one mid year and one at the end of the year. Our reasons for this change are twofold: firstly, there is the cost factors and secondly, the world of media has changed and we are now publishing news all the time through Facebook page, Twitter and now Instagram. Hopefully, the new arrangement will allow us to keep an appropriate balance between 'on-line' and 'printed' news.

Our charity fundraising has been another splendid success. During 2017/18 the boys chose to focus on fundraising for the World Wildlife Fund and managed to raise a stunning £14,174. Our focus for the current 2018/19 year is fundraising for Clatterbridge Cancer Care and by the end of the Autumn term, boys had already raised over £4,000. Most will be aware that we have established a strong tradition of raising significant sums for each year's chosen charity and each year, the boys, led by their House Captains, come up with new ways for raising funds. Over the last five years we have raised over £70,000 for a mixture of local and national charities. For any single institution, and especially a school, this is an exceptional sum.

As you will see from this mid year issue of Nuntius, there has been no shortage of activities. Overseas trips have taken place to Rome, Spain, France and the Netherlands. More overseas trips are taking place shortly: the History trip to Berlin, the Geography Department Fieldwork excursion to Iceland, The MFL Norway Exchange and the Ski trip to Paris. Closer to home, we had our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition at Moel Famau with over 100 boys taking part and who will be completing the actual expedition towards the end of April.

Musical events have featured prominently during the first half of the year with highlights including a superb Autumn Term Concert that involved over 250 boys taking part. Our House Music Competitions will be getting underway shortly with the final taking place in March. Rehearsals for this year's school production have been underway since September and we look forward to seeing 'Chicago' performed from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd March 2019.

An important focus this Autumn Term was marking the Centenary Year of the end of the First World War. Our student-led Remembrance Committee were instrumental in making the whole school involved. Each subject department was involved in organising remembrance activities and a 'Human Poppy' was organised involving all the boys in Years 7 and 8 taking part on the playground. As is customary, we held our Annual Remembrance Day Service on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday.

Our sporting calendar has been full of fixtures and competition success. Our Under 18 Rugby Squad did well to get as far as the quarter final of the National Under 18 Cup Competition. The team has also had local success getting through to the final of the Cheshire Cup which will be played in March.

We look forward to reporting on other events and activities towards the end of the school year and in the meantime, Facebook and Twitter produce regular updates on current events. The examination season will be upon us shortly and we hope that all students in Years 11 and 13 do themselves proud and gain the results they deserve.

D R Hazeldine, Headteacher

Activities and Fundraising Update from our Head Boy

As 2018 drew to a close, WGSB can only be described as being in excellent shape heading into 2019.

In a year in which our First XV made it to Twickenham for the National Vase Final and our school obtained the Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award, we have witnessed a year of excellence both inside and outside of the classroom.

The School's chosen charity for 2019 is The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre as they embark on the building of a Secondary Cancer Hospital to further their excellent service to the region. On behalf of the entire Student Leadership I must firstly thank Shen Barnes for his nomination of this excellent charity and thank all Boys for already raising a grand total of £4,402.97 through attending events like the Staff Elimination Football and our extremely popular Staff Karaoke.

On the Sixth-Form Prom front, we are already well on our way to reaching our fundraising target with over £1,000 raised. Again, my thanks must go to Jamie and Kieran for their never ending efforts, along with Callum, Richard, Johnny and Tom whose collective leadership and hard work make everything so much easier.

On a final note I couldn't finish without mentioning our upcoming Alumni Coffee Morning when I will have the pleasure of welcoming old boys back to our school for a catch up and some coffee!

Jac Jenkins, Head Boy

Prom Fundraising Fair

During October 2018, the Head Boy Team held an inaugural Prom Fair in the school hall with the proceeds going towards the upcoming Prom, which will take place on the 10th July 2019.

The fair included a vast array of stalls ranging from 'the giant lucky bag-bin dip' to James Reston's successful 'smoothies and shakes shack', which was so successful that it sold out! The event was a huge success raising £160 profit in just one lunchtime! My personal thanks go to all those who took part in the event!

Jonathan Head, Senior Prefect

2018 Leavers' Prom

Wirral Grammar Schools' Prom 2018 took place at Hillbark Hotel during July.

Thanks to the Head Girl and Head Boy Teams for organising such a splendid evening. We wish all our leavers every success and happiness for the future.



House Matters



Lever House

Luke McCall– Lever House Captain

Having been elected Lever house Captain, it has instilled within me the belief that through helping to voice the opinion of others, I can strengthen this house and achieve a prosperous and successful year for both charity and sporting events. I would like to thank Lever for their vote and promise to strive to promote a spirit of endeavour and enterprise across the House, through promoting involvement and greater participation in academic and inter-house sporting events. I plan to collaborate with other House Captains and my Deputy Parsa, to build upon the success that Lever is already experiencing.

Last term was full of events for Lever which has provoked wider participation within the house. Myself and Parsa organised a fortnightly festive hot chocolate sales which proved to be popular with both staff and pupils. Moreover, with House Groups such as L/NL and L/EKV organising regular cake sales, Lever maintained an excellent charity record and a strong position in the house tables. In addition, the FIFA competition is underway. A key highlight this term included Mr Webb beating Parsa 3-0 on the opening game. Finally, I would like to thank all staff, students and parents who helped support our Halloween Fair. In the Spring term we are looking forward to the a new sponsored event entitled the One Mile Challenge which will run after February half term. Keep up the good work Lever!

Lever Deputy House Captain: Parsa Sargazi



Barber House

Charlie Gough– Barber House Captain

I am thrilled to have been elected as Barber House Captain for the upcoming year. Barber House has always been part of my heart and soul as I come from a long line of Barber men, therefore this it is both an honour and a privilege to serve the House. My ideal Barber House is one in which all students are represented; whether you are great at sport or love to write stories and anything in between, I want every pupil to have the chance to express and showcase their skill and talents in a variety of different ways and do it all while representing Barber. It is through this spirit of hard work, positive mindset and collaboration that we are now top of the commendation table as you have all worked so hard to be your best on a daily basis.

My Deputy House Captain, Alex and I are particularly proud of some of our charity events such as the Year 8 Football and the Christmas Fair, where so many students worked together to make the events a success. Particular thanks goes to Will Guest (B/JOR), who has run pop-cake stalls and made chocolate hampers to raffle for charity, raising £100 individually for charity this year and also to Rhys Jones (B/LEM) who ran his own Macmillan Coffee Morning for his friends and House Group. Finally, we would like to praise all students in Years 7 and 8 who have worked hard on their academic challenges and helped us retain our position at the top of the commendation charts. It is this spirit of individual endeavour and tenacity which makes Barber a great House to be part of.

Barber Deputy House Captain: Alex Gurr



Hodgson House

Shen Barnes– Hodgson House Captain

I am delighted to be elected as House Captain and feel truly privileged to have the opportunity to serve you throughout the year. I would also like offer a warm welcome to all the New Year 7's who joined us in September as they have joined a House with an enterprising and collaborative spirit which has thrived in recent years.

Over the course of the year, I am very proud of the progress made by Hodgson House. It is through the dedication of staff and students alike that we are currently leading in school charity. 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. Some favourite events of mine this year have been the hugely successful Halloween Fair and the Staff Football. Although special thanks must go to Guy Patten and Adam Helsby for raising over £400 in the Santa Dash this Christmas and for their weekly bake sales which continue to serve up tasty treats. Additional thanks to our individual House Groups who have been working tirelessly with cake sales and smaller scale charity events. This year I have really been able to see Hodgson progress as a House and work together to become the best House and can really say I'm a proud House Captain. Together we will achieve great things.

Hodgson Deputy House Captain: Lewis Hayes



Dodds House

Dylan Owen– Dodds House Captain

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me, and I will strive to do my best to maintain Dodds House and its legacy. After an explosive year last year, Dodds' are trying to expand and diversify their charity events, to make things more enjoyable and fun for all years. Starting with a bowling event, we are now moving towards a "Dodds' Arcade", involving small scale events to beat the playground blues this spring. With new events launched and a successful Christmas Fair under our belt, raising much needed funds for this year's charity, we are already looking forward to our Mother's Day Stall, Year 9 Football tournament and our annual Spelling Bee with Dodds on track to top charity boards again. We really need a push by all members of Dodds to move forward in the commendations table, and I hope all of you, but especially lower school, will make an effort with gaining these much needed points. Finally, I would like to thank Connor Johnston and Jamie Greer for all their hard work last year, and hopefully Ethan and I can live up to their legendary status as Dodd's ambassadors.

Dodds Deputy House Captain: Ethan Shone



In 2018 Wirral Grammar School for Boys did remember

2018 was the Centenary Year of the end of World War 1. To mark the occasions boy had a series of assemblies. All students were shown a "We will remember them" film produced by our Commemorative Panel with the help of Mr David Lockwood, a parent, and a number of sportsmen and celebrities.

These included Sir Tony Robinson, Dame Mary Beard, John Bishop, Paddy McGuiness, James Norwood, Adam Lallana, Joe Hart and Jordan Pickford. Our local MP, Alison McGovern, also supported the project. Veterans of the Second World War and old boys also took part; we are very grateful to all involved.

Departments across the school focussed on aspects of the war in lessons and for homework. Students from the Commemorative Planning Panel were involved in organising and coordinating the activities. The History Department focussed on the life of the war poet, Wilfred Owen, who lived and went to school in Birkenhead for a while. The English Department ran a War Poetry Competition.

Geography Department planned a route back from the battlefield while the MFL Department asked pupils to describe life at the front in Spanish and in French, pupils produced annotated images of the war. The Art Department asked boys to produce collages based on the theme of 'Remembrance'. A Level Chemistry students investigated the use of chemicals in the war and lower school science investigated the application of Physics to the Great War. The work produced was excellent and members of the panel were very pleased by the effort everyone put into the tasks. The Music Department produced the soundtrack for the commemorative film shown to students of all the work done.

Mrs A Jones, Head of History



As Time Goes By

During November we were delighted to welcome Mr Marchant to our school.

Mr Marchant is a former pupil who attended WGSB in the 1930s. He served in the Navy during the Second World War. Mr Marchant shared his memories and experiences about both his school days and his wartime service as part of an Oral History Project organised by our History Department. Mr Marchant is also pictured here in 1939 when he was a pupil at our school.



A student's perspective

On Friday 16th November we were given the fantastic privilege of meeting Mr William John Marchant, an old boy from the school.

He gave us a thrilling reflection on his experiences and discussed how our school today is a lot different to what it was in his school days. It wasn't only the structure of the school that was different but also the lessons. Mr Marchant told us about his service in the Royal Navy, whom he met and the countries he went to. He toured the Mediterranean and North Africa. He was also part of the occupational forces in Japan in Hiroshima in 1947 - he was there eighteen months after the use of the atomic bomb. While informing us of his interesting experiences, his very dry sense of humour amused all of us. I asked Mr Marchant what motivated him to join the Royal Navy, he simply responded, "I just wanted to fly". Many of us could not stop chuckling at his jokes.

Mr Marchant also gave us a lot of advice! He told us that if we wanted to go to a country and be respected by the citizens there, we must learn how to say "please" and "thank you" in their language. Another piece of advice he gave was that we should work hard and that will lead to success. All of us were inspired by his words of wisdom and it was an honour for all of us to meet Mr Marchant. I loved the experience and I would be more than happy to interview more former students, which hopefully is the plan!

Shubo Deb 10D/AJ

English Department Update

We have been extremely fortunate to have had 4 published authors visit us since September.

Pupils in various groupings from Years 7 to 10 have attended presentations and book signings by Neil Shusterman, Tom Pollock, Andy Briggs and Melvin Burgess. Winners of the recent 'Reading Reward' draws were in Year 7: Adam Allwood-Owen, Aidan Green and Jak Hodgkins and in Year 8: Matthew Lathom, William Cummins and Leon Tahana. The recipient of this year's Year 7 Poetry Cup is Jack White for 'A True Hero' and Harvey Wilson of Year 8 for 'My Dad is My Hero'.

Mrs Campbell, English Department

Politics Students attend Labour Party Conference

At the start of the Autumn Term, Year 13 students visited the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool where we were able to take part in a number of activities ranging from hearing some of the leading figures in Labour speak, to visiting some of the various stalls and conferences.

To begin with, we were interviewed by a reporter for a BBC Radio 5 show, who asked me and another member of the group to voice our opinions on the current situation regarding the EU. We were then free to explore the grounds, which included a number of stalls and areas ranging from food and refreshments, to specific commercial interests such as BP and certain factions or action groups within the Labour Party.



There were also a number of talks by members of the Party regarding a number of different issues, and speeches in the main hall by such well-known figures as Jeremy Corbyn, who spoke of his vision for the Labour party.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get a picture with him due to his tight schedule, but we did see other important figures in the party over the course of the day and even managed to get a wave from Jon Snow, the presenter for Channel 4 news!

George Fitzmaurice 13H/GA



The Great Debate 2019

The Historical Association's Great Debate is a national historical debating competition for schools. Each contestant is required to prepare a five-minute speech that discusses a given topic.

This year the question was: "What was the greatest failure of the Age of Revolutions?" My heat was held at Upton Hall School. I was extremely sceptical about signing up to this competition as I had no real public speaking experience or confidence. However, I found that doing the research for my speech was extremely interesting and provided me with a greater historical understanding. Admittedly, I was terrified about standing up and giving a speech but that's natural. With constant practice, however, and advice from Mrs Jones, when I finally got up to do it I was relaxed and confident. Unfortunately, I did not go through to the next round at Windsor Castle in March of this year, although it was close.

Participation in this competition has armed me with useful skills for later life, such as researching a given topic, speech writing and delivering a presentation in a time limit to an unfamiliar audience. I feel it has given me a stronger CV for university and job applications. Above all it has vastly improved my confidence, and I cannot recommend this competition enough for students who have this opportunity to get involved in the future. Big thanks to Mrs Jones who dedicated many mornings and lunch times helping me to improve my public speaking and make me more confident whilst delivering my speech.

Luke Hodkinson 12L/LW

Historical Association
The voice for history





Music Department Update

A big welcome to all new musicians in the School!

There are 17 instrumental, vocal and ensemble teachers, together with 264 boys having lessons each week. The instrumental and vocal ensembles are represented by a Music Forum, and this years' representatives are:

President	Sam Tempest
Vice President	Ben Frampton
Secretary	John Fleetwood
Concert Band	Will Brady
Choir	Dominic Wearne
Treble Choir	Piers Serna
Pop Choir	Ben Frampton
Big Band	Peter Clough
Orchestra	Richard Oscroft-Wainwright
Senior Brass Group	Andrew O'Hagan
Clarinet Sextet	Owen Storer
String Group	Anthony Marriott
Fiddle Group	Edwin Price
Woodwind Group	Andrew Marriott
Keyboard Group	Tyr Bujac
Samba Band	Ben Eggers
Guitar Group	James Binns
Junior Brass Group	Daniel Warner

There is a Forum meeting once every half-term, and the minutes of these meetings are displayed on the Music Society notice board. Every boy who plays or sings in an ensemble is automatically a member of the Music Society, so if you have any questions regarding your ensemble, speak to your Forum representative.

The first few concerts of the new school year have now taken place, including the Chamber Concert on Tuesday 16 October involving 23 boys, 11 of whom



had not performed a solo in school before. This included no less than 7 boys in the new year 7, which already looks like a strong musical cohort (Howie Trantom on cornet, Mark Venables & Matthew Parry on violin, Michal Kundrat & Jez Parkins on keyboard, Jack Heap on flute and Jesse O'Rourke on vocals).

The Carol Service on Tuesday 18 December with the traditional nine lessons and carols was an opportunity for the Choir with accompanying brass group to provide a reminder of the reason we celebrate Christmas in the first place. Both afternoon and evening services produced memorable performances, and a particular mention should go to the 2 treble soloists (Hugh Ficardos Moore & Matthew Parry) in Once in Royal, as well as to Jack Tudor for a moving rendition of O Holy Night. It would also be right to congratulate the year 7 choir for singing Silent Night in both German and English as well as using sign language, and the Chamber Choir for making sure Gaudete was sung as normal!

The Clarinet Sextet, made up of Sam Tempest, Owen Storer, Ben Frampton, Andrew Marriott, Naomi Beale and Miss Crossley had its annual performance on Thursday 6 December at the Heswall Poetry group in Lingham's bookshop. Playing two ten minute slots during the evening, the organisers have already booked them in for next year, saying they were 'better than ever'!



The Autumn concert involved seventeen different ensembles which rehearse each week, and was the culmination of over 100 hours of work by 135 boys and 13 music teachers since the start of term. There was film music from Skyfall, Pirates of the Caribbean, the Godfather, the Muppet Show and the Blues Brothers, classical offerings from Grieg, music theatre numbers from Chicago and Les Misérables, modern classics by Metallica, The Seekers, John Denver, John Miles and the Crew Cuts, traditional folk music from all corners of the globe, the obligatory 2 Beatles covers and even a song by George Ezra. A particular mention should go to the new year 7 choir performing for the first time, Mr McCabe for a very well received first performance of the new Klezmer group, Elliott Bujac for a moving solo in Danny Boy, and Ben Frampton for conducting his first Big Band pieces.

The School Brass Quintet involving Peter Clough, Dominic Wearne, Andrew O'Hagan, Alex Reddock and Sam Newns were invited to play some carols at Clatterbridge Hospital in December. Taken down by car (instruments and all!) by Mrs Davies, the event was well received by patients and health workers alike.

The Senior Brass Group were invited to play in a guest slot with the Liverpool Hope University Concert Band & Choir concert on Wednesday 5 December.

Joined by a few Wirral old boys as well, the performances of Skyfall and a Queen medley were given the loudest cheer of the evening by the audience, most of whom were singing along to Bohemian Rhapsody. As Mr McCabe plays with the University concert band, this may become a regular extra event in the future.



The Music Department has a new YouTube page to share the performances and achievements of the boys. Please have a look and subscribe to support the achievements of the department: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpilW9LXmwwtuqFMuKRnCag>

Some examination results were not with us in time for the last summer edition of Nuntius. There were many boys who managed to achieve a merit or distinction mark this time, and special congratulations and recognition go to the following successful candidates:

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade	Result
William Guest	8	Clarinet	1	Distinction
Matthew Latham	8	Piano	4	Pass
Ioan Vickers	8	Jazz Saxophone	3	Merit
Anish Hulme	9	Keyboard	1	Pass
Thomas Mathew	9	Singing	3	Distinction
Daniel Warner	9	Euphonium	4	Pass
Thomas Mathew	9	Violin	5	Pass
Anthony Marriott	9	Violin	4	Pass
James Forsdick	9	Violin	2	Merit
Kresten Calvert	9	Cornet	3	Merit
Andrew Marriott	10	Clarinet	5	Distinction
Alex Reddock	10	Tuba	2	Pass
Oliver Cooper-Shone	10	Trombone	3	Pass
Alex Bradshaw	10	Baritone	4	Pass
Oliver Weber	10	Theory	5	Merit
Andrew Marriott	10	Theory	5	Distinction
Ben Jones	11	Guitar	2	Merit
David Marrow	11	Trombone	5	Merit
Joe Dobbins	11	Theory	5	Merit
Christian Hallinan	11	Theory	5	Merit
Jago Gustafsson-Green	11	Theory	5	Pass
James Binns	11	Guitar	7	Merit
Tom Peake	L6	Clarinet	3	Merit
John Fleetwood	U6	Keyboard	6	Pass
Richard Oscroft-Wainwright	U6	Violin	7	Pass

Preparations for this summer's Choir and Concert Band tour to Venice are gathering pace – 57 boys and 8 staff will be travelling overnight on Monday 15 July for a nine day tour to north east Italy. As well as planning a fund raising bag pack and a parental meeting after Easter, we will now start receiving more information regarding potential concert venues and excursion possibilities this term.

So bring on 2019 - if you want to get the most out of music at Wirral Grammar School, get involved and get practising!

Mr P Thomas, Music Department



Up 'n' Under Summer School Production

Thanks to the cast and crew for the stunning production of "Up 'n' Under".

This John Godber comedy play was first performed in 1984 and won the Laurence Olivier Award for 'Best New Comedy' in the same year. It follows the story of an inept pub team from the Wheatsheaf Arms pub in a rugby league sevens competition in Kingston upon Hull in England. Ex-pro Arthur's only passions in life are his wife and rugby league. When he hears about the 'Cobblers Arms'... pub team and their corrupt manager, Arthur bets his life savings with Reg Welch that he can train any team to beat them. However, the 'Wheatsheaf Arms' can only muster a side of four whose pride lies in their unbroken record of defeat. The pitifully unfit set of men have to accept the help of a coach, who just happens to be a woman. They have to struggle through adversity, come up triumphant and become a team. They are given a bye to the final of the competition where they have to play The Cobblers. Superb performances by the cast under the direction of Mr Geoff Hinde who prepared this talented team within just 4 weeks.

Musicians Perform for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

Meeting up at 11:20, the five of us congregated in the atrium waiting for Mrs Davies. Upon her arrival we headed to the car and stumbled across our first problem – how to fit 2 tubas, a trombone, a flugelhorn, and 2 trumpets into 2 cars, unable to rely on a larger car as it had been 'attacked by squirrels so had to go in for a service', not to mention stands and music. By some miracle, we did end up packing the cars and we left for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre for the performance, with Peter stopping to pick up ex-student Jonathan Heale (tuba) first. Upon arrival, we set up and began to play our varied repertoire with everything from Carol of the Bells to Little Donkey, from Starry Night to Winter Wonderland. It was set up as far more of a character concert than any of us anticipated but we ended departing after one hour's playing to a reasonable crowd. The whole day was enjoyed by all involved, and we were thanked by Clatterbridge with a chocolate orange each.



The Holy City of Rome

7-10 million tourists visit Rome every year; and our phenomenal trip to this enchanting city made us understand why. Rome has an unparalleled charm for which cannot be fully described. If I could only choose three words to describe our experience, it would be: astonishing, educational and spiritual. But what exactly did we do?

Tired from waking for our early 2:00am start, we took the flight which commenced our 5 day visit to the Holy City of Rome. We were given yellow hats (a rather unique colour of hat) which made it easier to identify who was who. On arrival at our hotel we quickly unpacked. In the lobby we were given radio devices so that we can clearly hear our tour guide, Giusepe, as the sites were very busy. Walking through the streets of Rome was thrilling, but the temperature was very warm. Our first site was Castel Sant'Angelo and we learnt a lot about Michelangelo and his architecture. The walls were elegantly painted with intricate details. My favourite part was when we were at the top of the castle as the view was simply magnificent. The heavenly buildings of Rome could be seen across the horizon. In the evening, we went to a nearby restaurant and ate very nice pasta.

Our second day was a visit to the most sacred place in the world to some Christians. The Vatican is a very popular site. Only having quarter of a square mile in area, 4.3 million tourists go there every year. Before the trip, I was unaware of the history of the Vatican and its glamour, but now, Rome is worth seeing for the Vatican on its own. First, we went to the Vatican Museum and had a tour which led us to St. Peter's Basilica. Before the trip, I had only seen photos, but the inside is simply astonishing and the afternoon was just as fun! We visited the Spanish Steps in Piazza di Spagna and had "free time". We had an hour to have fun basically. It was lunchtime. So instead of ordering something out of Italy's brilliant cuisine, a few friends and I decided to go to McDonalds! We then strolled through the busy plaza where a certain shop caught our attention - an ice-cream parlour! It was €5 for three scoops, which in hind sight seems expensive but it was worth it! After dinner it felt like we had walked across the whole of Rome, but to be fair, Rome at night is a completely different sight to behold. The lights gave her a very charming glamour.

The next day was my favourite day; the day we went to the Colosseum and learnt a lot about the history of the home of gladiator fights, where 50,000 people spectated. Giusepe gave us a thorough tour of the Colosseum where we learnt a lot of interesting facts about the famous attraction. One big misconception many people have is that the gladiators fight to the death which is only partially true as it was more like a show. Most fights between gladiators did not result in death. After that, we entered the ruins of the Roman Forums with its many temples. This was where the ordinary civilians of Rome lived, worked and traded. During the afternoon, Giusepe led us to the Trevi Fountain which somehow surpassed the elegance of the images on Google.



The next day was sadly our last day touring Rome. During the morning, we visited the Jewish Museum. We were given a tour about the history of Jews in Rome and then visited the Great Synagogue – the largest synagogue in Rome. The ceiling was dome-shaped, and it was painted with very elaborate images. Giuseppe was very enthusiastic about Julius Caesar and told us that he is seen as a hero to a lot of Italians. We then visited the Pantheon. This was built by Hadrian and later converted to a church. It had a domed roof and the artwork was incredible inside. In the evening, we had our final tour in Rome at night. We visited the Colosseum again but this time there were bright lights illuminating the ruins. We then went to Altare della Patria (Altar of the Fatherland) before returning back to our hotel.

I tremendously loved this trip. My favourite part was the tour in the Colosseum; it was great fun learning about the entertainment the Romans had. Giuseppe told us Rome is the City of 'Love' and maybe it is because everyone loves visiting the Eternal City and that is why I would recommend it to anyone. Rome is unlike any other city and I would love to go to the Holy City again. On behalf of all the boys that went, we would like to thank the staff who perfectly planned this trip and made it so enjoyable.

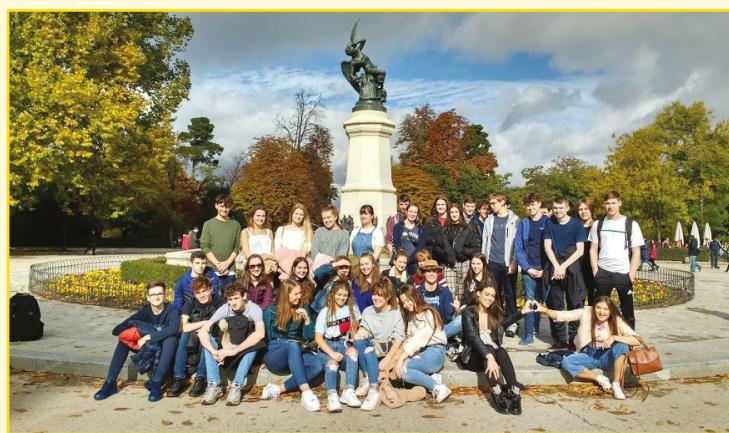
Shubo Deb 10 D/AJ

Sixth Form Visit to Madrid

On Saturday 10th November 2018, 33 of the A-Level Spanish students from both WGSB and WGGSG embarked on a 4 day visit to Madrid.

We stayed right in the middle of the city near Puerta de Atocha station. On the first day, we flew from Manchester to Madrid and once we had landed and checked in to the hotel, we went for a small walk to Plaza de Santa Ana where we had some free exploration time.

During our second day we visited the Reina Sofía Art Gallery where we saw 'Guernica' which was painted by Picasso and was created to show the brutality of an Italian bombing of Guernica, a small Spanish town. Following lunch, we headed off on a guided tour of the main sites of Madrid, visiting La plaza de España, Puerta del Sol, Puerta de Alcalá and El Palacio Real de Madrid and Plaza Mayor.



During the last day, we travelled out of Madrid to El Valle de Los Caídos which is where Franco, the former dictator of Spain is buried. Afterwards we went to El Escorial, a palace in the middle of the countryside where monarchs of Spain are buried. After walking around the grounds, we got a guided tour around the inside which contains a giant church, a crypt for the monarchs' bodies, a grand library and lots of artwork on display. Finally, we went to a nice little café where we all had chocolate and churros which were absolutely delicious.

After a long day we headed back to the airport for our return journey home. We were all very tired but we had a great time, spoke a lot of Spanish and learnt a lot about the culture and history which will be very helpful towards our A-Level.

Edwin Price Y12L/NL

The following day, we split up in the morning; some of us went to the Bernabeu Stadium and some of us went to the Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas. Afterwards, we met up again and went for a walk through the Retiro Park and then on to El Museo Nacional del Prado where we saw 'Las Meninas' by Velázquez. After that we were able to experience some shopping time at La Puerta del Sol followed by an evening meal with a general knowledge quiz about our time in Madrid.



PSHE 'Life Skills'

Year 11 students took part in a PSHE 'Life Skills' lesson practicing their ironing skills.

Other life skills sessions include sewing a hem, sewing a button, wiring an electric plug, changing a car tyre, researching car insurance. Mrs Kahn has revised our PSHE programme, partly in response to feedback from students to include elements that are of a practical nature and of relevance to home life.





Netherlands Erasmus Trip

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 what was it exactly? Basically, it was a student exchange which happened in Emmeloord (a town in the Netherlands). Around twenty Dutch students hosted the twenty students coming from Spain, Norway, Turkey and the UK. Cameron, Reece, Flynn, Andrei and I were the students from the UK. 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 and hang out for an hour or two. 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. This was my first time touring the canals and so 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. Then, we went to a shopping square and had free time and had two hours to do whatever we wanted. On another day, we went ice skating which was a marvellous 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 slip and drop onto the ice. On the last day, we performed a play based on Dutch tales.

Overall, this trip was simply a spectacular experience. Not only was it vastly fun, it was also quite educational. We were interacting with Dutch, Turkish, Spanish and Norwegian students and learnt how different their culture was to ours, which was very interesting.. I also learned the traditions of which my host's family do. 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 like when we went ice-skating. My favourite day was when we went to Amsterdam as it was a blast. On behalf of Cameron, Reece, Flynn and Andrei, we would like to thank Mr McKinney and Miss Money for making this trip so enjoyable.

Shubo Deb 10D/AJ

Wirral Academic Challenge

The Wirral Academic Challenge was introduced for the first time last year.

It has been an invaluable addition to the curriculum that allows pupils in the lower school to develop their research, analysis and essay writing skills, which are vital in coming years when they can apply these skills to their GCSE exams.

Previously, it was a task only for Year 7 students, however this year I have evolved the programme to both Years 7 and 8. There are a total of 3 academic challenges, which are set each term of the school year. This is a compulsory task that must be handed in to a specific deadline. Articles are marked by our Prefect Teams on a 0-5 house point basis, where the full mark responses will be rewarded with 5 house points, along with a certificate in recognition of their outstanding performance.

The first Academic Challenge this year has been completed with 48 Year 7 boys achieving full marks, and 35 boys from Year 8. It was an excellent start to the year and I'm sure there will be more star essays to come!

Kieran Shingler, Deputy Head Boy



How to get ahead in Veterinary



Many thanks to former pupil Andrew Rich who came into school to talk to pupils from both schools about Veterinary Science and routes into studying this at university.

Andrew is currently Resident in Veterinary Pathology at Liverpool University. He left WGSB in 2011.



Erasmus Project

As a school, we are honoured to be taking part in the Erasmus Plus Project, an international exchange programme that allows us to engage with people from around the world.

Erasmus is a community action scheme for students, based mainly in Europe. The plus programme gives us the opportunity to learn about various different cultures, specifically fiction, folklore and fables from the countries we speak to.

This extracurricular activity enables us to meet new people from a range of European countries, experience foreign traditions and learn more about spoken language. The project gives the twenty of us stronger communication skills and higher confidence. Not only are we learning languages ourselves, but helping others learn ours. The whole programme is an enrichment activity that broadens our perspectives about the world around us.

Part of the programme involves travelling to other countries and being hosted by families who speak the language. This hands-on approach gives us a glimpse into life abroad, improving our ability to adapt and overcome change.

Our four partner schools are:

- **IES Miguel Fernández in Melilla, Spain**
- **ELEV Özel Lisesi in Istanbul, Turkey**
- **Emelwerda College in Emmeloord, Netherlands**
- **Hof Skole in Hof, Norway**

Since we began this project, we have created a display board, which can be found by the stairs near the staff room. It is filled with information about the different schools and countries we are linked with. We have also spoken to the foreign students via messaging websites and a few Skype calls and shared our country's most famous fables, but more importantly, read all about the traditional tales of other countries.



Our future plans include travelling to Spain, Turkey, the Netherlands and Norway in the next year. In addition to this, we will be hosting students who come here on the same exchange in 2020, showing them around our city and engaging them in British culture.

Of course, this wouldn't be possible without the assistance of all the staff involved in introducing us to this project and who will be joining us on our trips. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet new people, learn about other cultures and travel to different countries.

Logan Wade and James Binns Y11



Myanmar and more!

Former pupil Ben Cook has settled in really well in the Letwel-Myauk Monastic Education Centre in Mingun, Myanmar, and has thoroughly embraced the lifestyle and culture. The people there are very caring and have really taken to Ben & his colleague Iain, treating them like family.

Ben is learning Burmese and has written the following article:

I have spent the last year and a half at WGBS balancing studying for my A-level examinations, working every morning in a local primary school at Breakfast Club and fundraising over £6,000 in order to embark on the adventure of a lifetime in which I am currently paving. I am working under the educational charity called Project Trust, and for the next year I will be continuing to teach English at a Burmese school (Let-Wel Myauk Monastic Education School) located in the western parts of Myanmar and travelling through Myanmar and the beautiful neighbouring countries eager to learn and explore the new cultures in front of me. My year ahead will be character building, develop my independence and confidence and may lead to other exciting projects and opportunities across the world.



Those who seek a release and a strong challenge in which very much opens your eyes to the big world, I strongly suggest taking a look into Project Trust and their aims.

You can follow my journey on Let-Wel Myauk Monastic Centre Facebook page. Other projects and information can be found at <https://projecttrust.org.uk>

Wirral Grammar School Tree Planting Project

PLAN FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY

The project had a shaky start because when the saplings arrived at school they were not identified as 'live' plants which resulted in a large number of the plants being dried out and close to death!



However, all was not lost! Armed with the 30 new saplings we chose a plot in conjunction with the grounds staff and planted them in a shady quiet undisturbed area of the school. This ensures that they will not dry out, be trampled on or get cut down.

PLAN FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

In 2019, the trees won't be much bigger, however they will start growing at a faster pace and to ensure they grow straight, we will secure a bamboo stick for stability. To ensure the trees develop the best they can, they will be well-watered and monitored to ensure that they aren't being eaten by anything and by putting chicken wire around each tree for protection, will help immensely. We plan to feed the saplings with a specialist fertilizer during the spring. All of this will help ensure that the saplings will develop into healthy trees. Together with the groundkeepers we are happy to carry this project out over the next couple of years and new volunteers should be easy to find throughout the school.

LONG TERM PLANS

Our future plan is to distribute the trees throughout the local area to encourage environmental care.

It will take the saplings around 5 years to grow to be 5 foot tall and when the trees get to this height they will be at the perfect development stage for transporting as their roots won't be too deep and complex, whilst at the same time they won't be weak. At this moment in time it is difficult to say how and where the trees will be distributed, however we believe that local churches (e.g. Christ Church), primary schools (e.g. Stanton road) and care homes (e.g. Charlotte House) would be the best place for them to go as each have a strong community ethic that would take an interest into looking after them.

Owen Storer, Ethan Gibbons, Sam Carvel, James Rowan and Adam Cross (Year 13)

Harvest Festival

At the end of October we held our Harvest Assembly which was attended by all boys in Years 7 and 8 and led by Rev Al Rogers and Chris Jarvis from St Andrew's Church.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed items for our collection which were all donated to Wirral Food Bank <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/>

Exam Results 2018

We celebrated success again at both GCSE and A Level reflecting the hard work of the students and staff.

This was the first year of the new GCSE examinations in the majority of subjects. Most parents will be aware that the new examinations are now graded from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest) with Grade 4 being equivalent to the former Grade C and grades 9 to 7 being equivalent to former grades A* and A. It was encouraging to see our pupils perform well and from initial national data, it appears as though our pupils performed higher than pupils of the same ability across all schools nationally. Results in 2018 were an improvement on those of 2017 in most areas, with 37% of all grades being at the highest grades 9 to 7, and 80% of all grades at upper grades 9 to 5 (where grade 5 is defined nationally as a 'strong pass').

A Level courses have also been changing over the last three years with all of them now being linear, two year courses, with all of the examinations at the end of Year 13. A quarter of all grades were at the top A*/A standard and just under a third of all students gained a minimum of grades AAB in their courses. Every student who wanted a University place gained one with 115 students being successfully placed across 35 UK Universities. The vast majority achieved their first choice offer. An increasing number of students secured High Level Apprenticeships and most of these include sponsored degree courses.



Apprenticeship places this year included GCHQ Cyber Security, Unilever, Airbus UK, Essar, Rolls Royce, Ministry of Defence and Jaguar/Landrover.

The most popular university destinations were the local Liverpool ones and this is a continuation of the pattern of recent years. Four students gained places at Oxbridge, 4 into Medical/Dentistry Schools, 6 into Engineering Degrees and 5 into Law Schools. We extend our very best wishes to all of our 2018 leavers and wish them all continued success.



Summer Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to all of Award Winners at our Awards Ceremony in July.

Our guest speaker this year was an old boy of the school, Rev Mike Loach from Christchurch, Bebington and the award winners and their parents attended the event. Awards were presented for a variety of both academic and extra-curricular achievements.

Our Awards Ceremony is one of the highlights of our school year as we celebrate and officially recognise a variety of successes.



Academic Awards Ceremony

Our Academic Awards Ceremony took place at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight on Monday 17th December and was attended by students who completed their GCSE's and A Levels last summer.

It was good to see a number of last year's Year 13 students back from their university and apprenticeship courses.

Guest speaker at this year's ceremony was Mr Peter Woods, High Sheriff of Merseyside who presented the awards. Congratulations to everyone on their achievements and very best wishes for continued success.





Introducing our Human Poppy

During the Autumn Term we had a special focus on Remembrance as we honoured those who lost their lives in the World Wars.

2018 marked the Centenary of the end of the First World War, a number of events and activities have taken place. As a special tribute, all boys in Years 7 and 8 were involved in forming this Human Poppy on the playground prior to half-term. Thanks to our student-led Remembrance Commemorations Committee for their leadership and organisation and to all the boys who took part for the respect that they showed while forming the poppy. This was a very moving occasion. A short film was also shared with pupils to show how our Human Poppy was formed. The Committee also designed special Remembrance ties which students and staff proudly wore. A total of £296.23 was raised by the School from poppy sales.



Halloween Disco

Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a joint disco between Wirral Girls and Wirral boys on the 30th of October.

The night was hosted by the House captains of both schools with the assistance from teachers and the Head Boy and Head Girl team. The entertainment for the night was provided by WGSBs resident DJ, "DJ Fijay", who provided the children with a plethora of music ranging from chart topping pop hits, to trance and house music! It's safe to say that the dancefloor was packed that evening!

With the motive to raise money for charity, on sale were a variety of refreshments, including pop, homemade cakes, popcorn and even candy floss! These were available all night and provided the essential energy for dancing with such vigour. Throughout the night, many games were played including musical statues. In addition, many dance off's were exhibited, with the inclusion of a best costume competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers that dedicated their time in order to make this event happen and I hope more events like this can be organised for the future.

Jamie Finn, Deputy Head Boy



Annual Remembrance Service

"When you go home tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow we gave our today."

Our Remembrance Day Service took place on Friday 9th November and was attended by boys in Years 7 and 8 together with a number of former pupils and Mrs Clarke MBE, Chair of Governors and Dr Patel, Vice Chair of Governors. Forty-six former pupils of Wirral Boys gave their lives in the Second World War. The service included poems and prayers led by Jac Jenkins (Head Boy) and Kieran Shingler (Deputy Head Boy); Jamie Finn (Deputy Head Boy) read the Roll of Honour. The service included the singing of "I Vow to Thee My Country" and The National Anthem. Rev Mike Loach attended from Christchurch, Bebington and read a prayer on behalf of the community. Mr Hazeldine, Headteacher said "It is important that we continue to remember. The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument". There was a two minute silence at 11am. Forty-six boys from our school gave their lives for the service of their country in the Second World War 1939-1945



Charity Fundraising

Our charity fundraising total for 2017/18 was an amazing £14,164.32!

£12,264.74 of this is for the boys' elected charity, World Wild Life Fund. £1,910.48 was also raised for children in our community with a rare brain tumor. Well done to all pupils, staff and parents. Our chosen charity focus for 2018/19 is The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity and Years 7 and 8 students were visited in assembly by Elspeth Wilson from the Trust.



Congratulations!!
You raised
£ 14,174.32

Last year you raised £12,263.84 for World Wildlife Fund and £ 1,910.48 for children in our community with a rare brain tumour known as DIPG. In total you raised £ 14,174.32 for charity. Well-done and thank you to all staff, pupils and parents for their help!

Keep your ears open in House Assembly for the of charity you can vote for this year

#ClatterbridgeCancerCharity Fundraising has begun and we would welcome support from everyone for our activities. The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre & Charity @ClatterbridgeCC

Glad Tidings of Comfort and Joy!

Our traditional Carol Services of nine lessons and carols were held at St Andrew's Church, Bebington on Tuesday 18th December.

An afternoon service was held for pupils in Years 7 and 8 with our Community Service taking place during the evening. Thanks to all of the boys who took part for their outstanding musical and reading contributions. Many thanks to those who attended our community evening service and to our friends at St Andrew's Church for hosting us once again.



Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our PA Christmas Fair which took place on Saturday 24th November. An even special thanks goes to parents and boys for their contributions and who were busy the day before organising and preparing the stalls for the Fair. The combined income from both the Fair and the raffle ticket sales was £4,900... an excellent result!



Fundraising Fair

A fantastic Christmas Fair hosted by Dodds and Barber took place towards the end of term on Friday 14th December. A total of £247.50 was raised for our school charity Clatterbridge Cancer Centre. Thanks to all the staff, students and parents who supported the event #ClatterbridgeCancerCharity



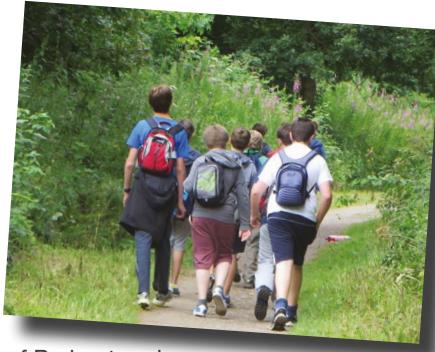
Congratulations...

...to Professor Robert Smith, (father of Max Smith L6) this year's winner of the Friends' Programme Prize Draw. Professor Smith was presented with the Amazon Fire HD Tablet during the Autumn Term.



Activities Week: Years 7 & 8 Wirral Way Sponsored Walk

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 pupils who successfully completed the Wirral Way sponsored walk from Hooton Station through to Thurstaston, a distance of 9.1 miles.



Thanks to the staff and pupils of Parkgate primary School for allowing us use their school facilities as a half way stop. All sponsored walk proceeds go towards this year's choice of charity which is World Wildlife Fund.

Clubs Fair: New Year 7 Induction Welcome Day

As part of the year 7 induction process the Head Boy Team decided to enhance their transition by introducing new pupils to the Clubs Fair.

The Clubs Fair provided an opportunity for the students to be made aware of, and sign up to, any of the extra-curricular activities that are on offer at Wirral Grammar School for Boys. There were 13 activities on offer, built around providing choice and variety to cater for the differing interests of our students. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the event with each pupil on average declaring interest in 3.2 clubs, which has been translated into a visible increase in the number of students participating in extra-curricular activities when they arrived in September. This contributes to the enhanced extra-curricular experience we have implemented as a team over the course of this year. We would like to thank the boys for their co-operation on the day, as well as all those boys currently attending the clubs and societies who have given up their time to offer students such wonderful opportunities.



Tom Lockwood, Senior Prefect

Activities Week: Year 9 Conway Centre

As part of Activities Week in July, over 100 Year 9 pupils visited the Conway Centre on Anglesey.

Situated on the Menai Straits, the Centre is ideal for water based activities.

Over the 3 days activities include: raft building, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, sea-level traversing, mountain biking and out-door problem solving.



Year 7 Team Building Day

The Year 7 Team Building Day took place during the Autumn Term with all activities taking place on our school site: cookery, the assault course, den building in the copse, and a number of problem solving activities on the school fields.



The purpose of the day had been to give the boys some different



experiences, each designed to get them working together in groups, showing initiative, taking the lead and cooperating with each other. Our thanks to the team from 'Military Style Education' who coached the boys through their activities.



Staff Elimination Football

Last half-term we held our inaugural Staff Elimination Football Match.

Twenty teachers turned up for a ten a side game in front of a huge crowd, with students cheering them on. The whistle blew for kick off and almost instantly Mr. McKibbin opened the scoring with a 30 yard screamer, eliminating him from the contest early on in the game. With the first 3 scorers being eliminated, the game stood at 2 - 1 to the House Captains' XI, before the departing Mrs. Attueyi scored the fans' favourite goal. Both teams shared the score at 2 a piece with only 10 minutes to go, but then 2 quick back to back goals were scored by the Head Boys' XI to triumph 4 - 2. Overall, we raised a staggering £260 with an attendance of over 400 and managed to put a smile on the teachers' faces on the winning team.



Callum France, Senior Prefect

Country's Youngest Qualified FA Coach!

Well done to Adam Reddock in Year 11 who has recently passed his FA coaching course and is now the youngest qualified FA coach in the country.



Adam's interest in coaching grew from his volunteering at 'Shooting Boots' football club as part of his Bronze D of E and his work experience at Tranmere.



Year 7 Rugby Update

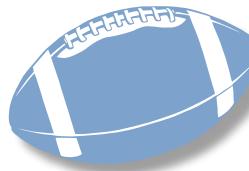
The Year 7 Rugby Squad has made a very pleasing start to the season.

The squad has shown a determined attitude in both training and games and a commitment to improvement since day one. The squad has had a steep learning curve due to relative inexperience but has natural talent in abundance coupled with a desire to learn and improve.

Congratulations must go to Dylan Hodgkinson and Matthew Bowden who have been appointed Captain and Vice Captain respectively and have led the squad throughout the season. The squad has improved game upon game and has produced some well-deserved wins against local rivals Calday in both the A and B fixtures (6-2 and 8-1 respectively), Wilmslow and Manchester Grammar school.

Such has been the squad's improvement, that after a resounding early season defeat at the hands of St Ambrose, the squad had the opportunity to play them once again in a tournament format and came away with a 0-0 draw. This performance and result was just reward for the hard work the Year 7 squad continue to put in and a reflection of progress made. We believe that this squad will continue to improve rapidly and become a really well balanced side, ready to take on the Year 8 fixture list.

Mr Atkinson and Mr Walker



Junior Bantams 2018-19

A team Played 10 W 8 L 2

B team Played 8 W 4 L 4

The Junior Bantams have had a great start to the season, playing some fantastic open rugby.

I would like to thank the squad for their efforts and to the boys who have played in the B Team; they are all continually pushing hard for places in the A team and are making selection a very hard process. Without a big squad (38 players), the team would not be successful.

There have been some notable games against St Anselms and Kirkham, and in excellent games we came out on top in both. A lasting memory for 2018 was when Aidan Smith scored his first try for Wirral GS in rugby and was carried around the pitch by all the other players. A fantastic achievement for Aidan who has worked tirelessly at his game.

I would also like to mention the Cheshire A Festival at Cheadle Hulme, where in a fantastic performance we pushed St Ambrose all the way, just losing by 1 try. This showed where we have come as a squad and where we have to get to, to be the best. The teamwork and effort of both teams has been superb. The forwards dominating, and the backs with pace and vision, finishing the moves off. I would like to make a special mention to Captain Josh Gregory and Vice-Captain Vin Crawford, who have both led from the front so far this season.

We go into 2019 with games against Altringham GS and Kings School Macclesfield, followed by the annual trip to Cardiff, which is always a great experience for the players lucky enough to be selected. We finish with three very good 7's Tournaments, so the competition for places within the squad is still high and training needs to be well attended.

Mr McKinney, Junior Bantams Coach

Year 9 Rugby Report

The Year 9 Rugby Squad has enjoyed a reasonably good season to date of writing this report.

There have been 12 games played for the A team and 6 games for the B team. 41 players have been used and attendance at training has been particularly good. This is without doubt a talented rugby squad who have given their all in all game they have played. All game have been close in terms of the result, with only a big and decent Birkenhead School side really winning well in the closing stages of that game. I have felt that the A team has competed and been in with a chance of winning all other games played so far so far. The B team won four of their games with big wins over Stockport GS and Manchester GS. The frustration of other schools not having B teams continues to be an issue but I suppose there is little we can do about it. The A team won the other local derbies against St Anselms and Calday GS comfortably, playing some good rugby in the process. The win away at Manchester GS was particularly impressive and there have plenty of other good performances like against Lymm and Wilmslow. There is no Cheshire Cup this season. 20 boys are heading off to Cardiff on the annual tour in February and there are some 7s tournaments due to be held. I want to thank the boys for their commitment and hard work through the season so far and to the parents for supporting the team on Saturday mornings. Also thanks to our referees for turning out to do their best in facilitating all the fixtures. I am grateful to Mr Price for helping out with training and with the B Team and I wish the boys all the best for the remainder of the season especially in their rugby playing which should always be about enjoyment and developing positive character skills.

The Squad is:

Oliver Pryce (Captain), Matthew Keenan (Vice-Captain), Alfie Sweeney, Nicholas Lewis, Harry Richards, Matthew McLaren, Michael Wootton, Kenzie Cheetham, Lewis Jones, Harry Gould, Thomas Cade, Kobus Donnelly, Ben Harding, Oliver Pownall, Scott Williams, Pavith Mohotty, Matthew Forshaw, George Morris, Oliver Smith, William Brennan, Rhys James, Aiden Hughes, Matthew Wakefield, Harper Farnsworth, Adam Thompson, Tom Haynes, Kaleb Le Gall, Finlay Bell, Charlie Robinson, Reiss Townshend, Sam Moore, Daniel Thompson, Kai Hill, Tom Ford, Conrad Renton, Callum Hill, Connor McCrone, Finn Evans, Joel Barnes, Adam Earp and Harry Naylor.

Mr McKibbin

School Rugby Club Dinner

A date for your diary – the 52nd Annual School Rugby Club Dinner will take place on Friday 10th May. 6.30 for 7.00pm in the School Hall.

Mr Phil Crowley, Master i/c Rugby
Head of Physical Education

First XV Report

It has been an outstanding season for the 1st XV, winning all but one of 18 games played last term.

Victories against Calday GS, Rydal Penrhos and Sandbach School have put us through to the Cheshire Cup Final, where we will meet Wilmslow HS in March. This will be a tough game. We beat them 18-10 in our regular block fixture in October and again 12-9 in a very tight game, in the fourth round of the National Schools' Cup Competition. Jacob Ainscough squeezed over for the winning try, with only minutes remaining.

Our National Cup run was very impressive. We were beaten 27-16 by a very strong Woodhouse Grove team in the Quarter Final. The score line flatters our opponents somewhat, and 'Grove certainly knew they had been in a game that afternoon! Further wins against traditionally strong Rugby Schools', Stockport GS (64-0), St Anselms College (31-7), St Ambrose College (14-12), Lymm HS (31-10) and Manchester GS (14-10) have made for a very enjoyable and successful season. This is a very talented group of players who have gelled together nicely and kicked on from the success of our journey to Twickenham last season. They have been a pleasure to work with, and I look forward to the remaining games and the Sevens Season ahead - as well as the Tour to Australia in July!

Mr Phil Crowley, Master i/c Rugby
Head of Physical Education

Rugby Representative Honours

Congratulations to Tom Roebuck, who has been selected for the England U18 Squad for the coming Internationals after a very successful England tour to South Africa last summer.



Tom has also signed a professional contract for Premiership side, Sale Sharks. He has already played for the Sharks First Team in the Premiership Cup!

Tom has also featured for the Sale Sharks Senior Academy Team alongside School First XV Vice Captain and Scrum Half, Jacob Ainscough. Dan Carroll and Tom Lockwood have represented Cheshire U18s and Will Robinson and James Outram have both been selected for the Cheshire U16 squad. Congratulations to them all - we wish them every success!

Mr Phil Crowley,
Master i/c Rugby
Head of Physical Education



Year 7 Black Belt First Dan in Taekwondo

When I was seven and a half years old I thought I would try Taekwondo. I went to Wirral and Chester TKD Club in Bromborough, which is run by Master Richard Saunders, a Sixth Dan Black Belt. I was a bit nervous at first as a new White Belt, but that did not last long as everyone really helps new members. The first thing I learnt was the tenants of Taekwondo. These are like the code we abide by and everyone adopts them in and out of training, they are:

1. Courtesy
2. Integrity
3. Perseverance
4. Self Control and
5. Indomitable spirit.

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art and I have had to learn quite a bit of Korean as this is part of the knowledge you need. The training teaches punches, kicks and defence moves. It is a contact sport but we spar wearing head and leg protection. Since starting in January 2015 I have

been graded for a higher belt at 3 and 6 month periods. After 9 gradings, over three and a half years, I became a black stripe (1st Kup). I then spent 8 months preparing for the black belt grading. I went to the National Taekwondo Academy, in Bristol in October this year. I had a 2 hour grading assessment in front of 5 Grand Masters who are all 8th Dan and above. I was tested on my sparing, patterns and technique and knowledge, which is in Korean. I was very happy to have passed and felt proud being awarded my black belt, 1st Dan.



George McWilliam
7D/NM



Visited our website recently?

Our website has grown into a very important source of information about the school: news, forthcoming events, guidance materials, sporting achievements etc. are all to be found on the website

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 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 updated 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.

Absence Requests

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

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](#)



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.

Parents' Surveys - 2017/2018 Analyses

Many thanks to all parents who have reported through our surveys which are always available at our Parents' Evenings. The full analyses for all year groups is available on our website.

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

• news • achievements • events • admissions