



Good News at half term:

- The WBGs debating team won the **Watford Inter-School Debating Competition** on 3 February. This is an annual event organised by Richard Harrington MP, and held at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. Luke Ashford L6C and Srivatsa Garg L6T performed eloquently throughout the day against other Watford schools, eventually defeating Queens School with confidence and grace. They were awarded their prize of one hundred and fifty pounds and the cup by Mr Harrington himself. Although Luke and Srivatsa debated throughout the rounds, the following 6th form students were there to support them: Josh Pickard L6C, Dan Booth L6T, Ethan Honey L6G, Adem Berbic L6F, Sam Finklestein L6G, Nathaniel Ogunniyi L6F, William Britter U6F, Dhillon Dodhia L6T, Mitchell Ford L6P. It must be noted that all these boys did a fine job in showing their support throughout the day, especially Mitchell Ford whose vocal intervention at a critical juncture refocused everyone's attention on the importance of good manners at all times in the debating arena. A huge thanks and well done to all involved.

Maths News

- In the **Hans Woyda** team competition, wins against Notting Hill & Ealing High School and Royal Grammar School meant that the boys qualified for the Final of the Plate competition and will have the chance to win our first Hans Woyda trophy. Congratulations to the team - Tyrone Muriithi U6B, William Britter U6F, Luke Ashford L6C, Jeremy Zolnai-Lucas L6C, Ethan Honey L6G, Ben Jones 11F, Justin Ho 11C, Thomas Connor 9G and Tom Wall 9B and to all the other students coming along on Monday lunchtimes to challenge them.
- As usual, four Year 10 students (Anvay Bitla 10G, Charley Smith 10G, Hayyan Khan 10C, Suhail Merali 10F) took part in the **Year 10 Maths Feast**, a national competition, run by the Further Maths Support Programme, at Roundwood Park School. Against fierce competition in the local heat, the boys came a respectable tenth place, and placed first in the comprehension round.
- In the **Lego Robots** competition, where students program a robot around an obstacle course, the team placed second and won a prize for displaying the core values of the competition. Congratulations to the team, including Luke Dale 9F, Dominic Dale 9C, Matthew Bennett 9G, Jamie Lai 9G and Edward Chen 9N.

Sports News

- Well done to the **U16 hockey team** progressed to the East Preliminary rounds in Ipswich after finishing runners up in the County tournament to Bishop's Stortford College.
- In the County rounds they beat Haberdasher's, St Albans, Hitchin and Merchant Taylor's. At the East rounds there were impressive wins against The Perse (Cambridge) and Lincoln Cathedral School, as well as a draw with Framlingham and a narrow defeat to Felsted College.

Music News

- We were delighted with the excellent results achieved by the boys in their **music exams** at the start of the year. Congratulations to Eddie Cummins L6G, Reuben Gluck 11C, Joel Kelion L6C, Benedict Longstaff L6B, Ethan Meller 11P and Nicholas Watt 11C who all achieved distinctions and Jamie Barrett 10F, James Farnsworth L6B, Mikhail Hashim 9B, Tim Hire 9G and Jeremy Zolnai-Lucas L6C who all achieved merits in their examinations. The timings for the exams to be held at the end of March will be confirmed after half-term.
- Congratulations to Paul Greally 10N who has just won **Music & Drama Education Expo's composition competition**. Paul composed a setting for choir of the Ave Maria and the piece is being published and given its inaugural performance at the first day of the Expo by Schola Cantorum.
- On Wednesday March 22nd and Thursday March 23rd we have our **Spring Concerts**. The letter detailing which ensembles are playing on which evening will be emailed out via InTouch in March and tickets will be available on line through ParentPay nearer the time.
- We hope to hold our **Music Competition** at the start of the summer term. This is open to any musicians in school who would like to perform to a visiting adjudicator. More details will appear in due course.
- Mr Hussey would like all pianists, as far as possible, to come to the Muse at lunchtime on Thursday 23rd February from 1.30pm for a **Piano Recital** presented by an ex-student, Richard Lewis. The programme looks very exciting with music by Albeniz, Chopin and Grieg.
- During this week, all pupils having **instrumental lessons** in school should have received their new timetables for the second half of the Spring term. As usual, copies will be available to access on

Moodle as well as the noticeboards in the Muse. A reminder that boys are responsible for checking the times of their lessons and it is good practice to write these times down in their planners, so that lessons are not missed.

- Please let Mr or Mrs Hussey know if you have a music locker that you no longer use, so that it can be made available to other students.
- 9 students have secured **UCAS offers** from Cambridge University and 2 from Oxford in this year's round of UCAS applications. Many congratulations to them

English News

- This half term, both year 10 and 11 students have been to see '**An Inspector Calls**' at The London Playhouse Theatre. Last month, some of our A level Literature students accompanied RMS Girls' School students on their visit to see '**The Tempest**' in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Lower sixth Literature students enjoyed a series of lectures on '**Measure for Measure**'. We are excited to be going to the Arvon creative writing trip to the **Ted Hughes house** at Lumb bank, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire from Feb 13th-18th.
- In addition, Years 7 and 8 were pleased to welcome author Lisa Williamson earlier this term when she visited to discuss her popular young adult novel '**The Art of Being Normal**'.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics News

- Year 9 students heard the awe inspiring testimony of **Harry Bibring**, a child of the Kindertransport and attended **Holocaust Memorial Day** events at Watford Synagogue.
- Year 8 PRE students visited **Watford Gurdwara and Bhagdevadenta Manor**.
- Our year 10 **Alan Senitt Leadership** group attended their second workshop. They have two more to go plus their graduation!
- Connor Smyley L6P and Daniel Griffiths L6P will be representing the school in Poland at the **Lessons from Auschwitz Project**.
- Don't forget to follow the PRE department on twitter **@wbgsPRE!**
- Almost every student in Y7 & 8 was given the opportunity to take part in a **Google Expedition** to some of the world's volcano hotspots in Geography lessons on 25th January. The event, organised by Mr Carrera, also allowed dozens of other students - and quite a few staff - to enjoy the experience in the Geography Society's latest meeting
- This year's **WW1 Battlefields trip** for students in Year 9 and 10 was a terrific experience, as ever,

which the vast majority of boys clearly enjoyed and took a great deal from.

We were particularly excited, in this centenary year of his death, to have had the opportunity to visit E. S. Household's grave near Arras where we held a short service and moment of silence on behalf of the school For further information, please see pages 6 & 74-75 of the 2014-15 Fullerman.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

- The Friends of the School (FOS) were delighted with the results of the **Grand Christmas Raffle**, which raised over £2,500 for the school. Many congratulations to the winners: 1st prize James Farnsworth L6B; 2nd prize Shivan Fernando 7T and 3rd prize Jay Patel 9T.
- The school **second hand uniform shop** will be managed by Friends of the School. Open weekly on Wednesdays 3.15-4.30pm starting on Wednesday 22nd February and Saturday mornings once every half term, starting on Saturday 4th March from 10am to 12pm. The shop is upstairs in The School House which is by the sixth form centre. We accept cash and cards and all money raised goes to the school. Return, Recycle, Reuse, Reasonably priced: black school trousers £2; jumpers £2; white shirts 50p; school blazers, with badge £5; ties £1; games Tops £5; shorts £3; socks £2; tracksuit tops £5; tracksuit bottoms £5; white P.E. top £4; white P.E. shorts £3; cricket shirts and trousers £2 and jumpers £3.
- **Donations of uniform and sportswear** are always welcome. Please drop them into the school reception.
- The next parent event is the **Quiz evening** on Saturday 25 February 2017 7.00pm – 10.15pm in the Main School Hall. The Headmaster will be Quizmaster again. Tickets include a 2 course meal and are available at a discounted price of £18 before 20th February. Please email daniellewright10@outlook.com to book your tickets. So far 10 tables have already been booked, with over 100 people attending, so please buy tickets as early as you can!
- Many thanks to new Year 7 parents who attended the first Friends meeting of the year on the 18th January. The next meeting is on Thursday April 27th at the school.
- The Friends are always looking for **new members** to join the executive committee, so please do come along if you have time to support the school. Contact the Chair on wbgs.fos@gmail.com should you have any questions. The AGM reports and minutes are available online at www.watfordboys.org

- The Easter edition of my newsletter will be in a new format. It will include all the usual items as well as photos, a message from the Headmaster, a short article from the Senior Prefect Team, a termly list of lectures, visitors, trips etc and an update on Duke of Edinburgh. If there is anything else you would like us to include on a regular basis, please let us know by emailing head@watfordboys.org.

Best Wishes



SPRING TERM 2016 DIARY DATES/EVENTS

Spring Concerts – Wed 22nd and Thurs 23 March

Hockey Supper – Monday 27 March



**Watford Grammar School for Boys
TERM DATES 2017/18**

Spring Term 2017

Half Term - Mon 13 Feb – Fri 17 Feb

End of Term – Friday 31 March

Summer Term 2017

Start of Term – Tuesday 18 April

Half Term - Mon 29 May – Fri 2 June

End of Term – Friday 21 July

Autumn Term 2017

Start of Term – Tuesday 5 September

(Years 7 & L6)

Start of Term – Wednesday 6 September –

(All year groups)

Half Term - Mon 23 Oct – Fri 27 Oct

End of Term – Friday 15 December

All these dates and more can be found in the calendar section of the website.