

Wixams Academy

Newsletter

Principal's Welcome

Season's greetings to all! I hope this newsletter finds you well and you are ready for Christmas.

Progress with Wixams Academy continues at a pace and this newsletter will focus on a few of our exciting developments including: a spotlight on our new Chair of Governors; a building update; a feature on the new Wixams Tree Primary School; a uniform update and a date for your diaries in January.

I would just like to say how lucky we are to have appointed Heather Bliss as our Chair of Governors. She brings significant experience of school governance and is currently working in an outstanding school in the region. Heather's passion for education at Wixams really shines through and I very much look forward to working with the Governing Body to provide the very best experience possible to our pupils.

Attention now turns to our search for talented academy staff, with adverts beginning in January. I have been

inundated with enquiries from brilliant teachers and dedicated support staff who are extremely excited about coming to work in the academy with your children.

Our next newsletter will come out in January. Until then, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a peaceful holiday season.

Paul Spyropoulos

Principal, Wixams Academy



Partnership with Wixams Tree Primary School

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our Trust BCAT has been selected to sponsor the new Wixams Tree Primary School which also opens in September 2017, next door to Wixams Academy.

Strong links between the Wixams Tree Primary and Wixams Academy will bring advantageous benefits for the children in both schools, including shared specialist staff and facilities; opportunities for important peer mentoring and role model relationships and joint purchasing power to give better value for money for both schools and ultimately a better learning experience for all children.

We are committed to working closely with Wixams Tree, Lakeview and Wilstead Primary schools to continue to develop a thriving and sustainable educational environment in which the whole community flourishes.

Admissions to Wixams Tree this year is entirely separate from the Bedford Borough or Central Bedfordshire

processes. Therefore, parents can apply direct to Wixams Tree Primary and also to another primary school via the Borough process if they wish, without affecting their chances of a place through either system.

Wixams Tree is accepting applications for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 places only for its opening in September 2017 and these can be made direct via the website: www.wixamstreeprimary.co.uk

The next Wixams Tree information event will be held on Tuesday 10 January 2017, between 3.30pm - 6.00pm at Lakeview Village Hall.



Wixams Tree
Primary

School Uniform

We are pleased to say that after an extensive tender exercise, we have chosen 'Uniform Direct' to provide our school uniform. They scored best on cost, quality and the service that they will provide to parents and the school.

Many of you have contributed your views on the uniform already and the basic foundations are now in place - a

dark navy blazer for example. However, there are some final decisions still to be made and those of you who attend our Saturday morning event on the 21st of January will be the first to view samples and add your views into the final uniform.

Pupil and Parent Engagement Morning

Saturday 21 January 2017, 10.00am-12.30pm

This event is designed for pupils who have already applied for a place, to come together and work on some interesting and enjoyable activities for their new school. The main activity will centre around agreeing on the contents and plans for a Time Capsule which will be buried under the new school building.

Parents and carers can leave children with us, or stay and take part in a consultation session about our new uniform.

We will be running this event from 10.00am-12.30pm on Saturday 21 January 2017 at the Trinity Arts and Leisure Centre on Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2QD.

You will receive a formal invitation in the New Year, after which you will be able to register your intention to attend.



Spotlight on our new Chair of Governors – Heather Bliss

Having moved to Bromham when I was three years old I attended Bedford High School from the age of 7 to 18, and moved away from Bedford when I was 27. After many years in Northampton I moved back to Bromham in June where I live with my fiancé and my two sons who are in Year 9 and Year 12.

I am self-employed and spend all my time devoted to education in its various forms. I have a strong education background and teach GCSE Business Studies and PSHE at key stage 4, as well as delivering apprenticeships to 24 apprentices at a Borough Council in Berkshire. I have spent 12 years as a School Governor, of which 2 have been as Chair,

and in addition I mark School Leaders' professional qualifications, which means that I gain knowledge of various improvement initiatives in schools across the country from other middle and senior leaders, and am able to share my knowledge with the school.

In my current Governor role in an outstanding school I am the link Governor for Able, Gifted and Talented (AGT), which is a particular interest of mine, and I would hope to bring some of that expertise to Wixams. My outside interests are very specific and in my 'spare' time I am a karate instructor, which I also hope to bring to Wixams as an additional extra-curricular activity!



School Clubs and Enhanced Curriculum

We believe all children should have opportunities to develop beyond the classroom. There will be numerous opportunities to take part in an exciting and engaging extra-curricular programme, giving pupils the chance to learn new skills and enhance existing ones.

As well as a range of after-school clubs run by our academy staff, we are also meeting with some specialist partners who will further enhance the opportunities for your children: A very positive meeting with the 'Bedford Music Cooperative' centred on ensuring that all pupils who are currently receiving music lessons can continue at Wixams Academy and also on creating new opportunities for children to start learning to play a musical instrument.

We are also beginning to work with the Bedfordshire School Sport Partnership to establish a range of sports clubs and coaching opportunities.



Building update

Building work continues to make excellent progress. A trip to the site on Wednesday 7 December with Year 6s from Lakeview Primary School was a great success and the children were able to see their school beginning to take shape.

You can keep an eye on the latest progress by viewing these live webcams:

Wixams Academy
<https://timelapse.regenology.co.uk/api/embedded/7aO/>

Wixams Tree Primary
<https://timelapse.regenology.co.uk/api/embedded/2Eq/>

