



Wallington County Grammar School

End of Autumn Term Letter

Thursday 16th December 2010

Dear Parents,

This has been another busy and exciting term in the life of the school. With major changes to the Senior Leadership Team and a number of new staff taking up posts, it was always going to be a time of change. And so it has proved to be. WCGS is a very good school but we are keen to improve it further. Therefore, as well as building on and strengthening our culture and ethos, we have made great efforts to enhance the school experience for our students, both in and out of the classroom. Such change takes time but I hope that you and your son or daughter have started to see at least some of the progress that is being made.

One of the highlights of the term was the official opening of the new sports hall, in October, by the England rugby international, Danny Care. As well as being an unforgettable experience for the boys in Y7 and the Sixth Form who got to play with Danny, this was a significant day in the history of our school. Raising the profile of sport within the school is a key priority and this is a necessary step toward achieving that goal. Rugby has dominated the term and our new U12 team is worthy of special mention, having finished the term being beaten just once in the last minute in the quarter finals of a prestigious knock out competition. Cross country has been strong too and netball has emerged as an important sport within the Sixth Form!

Aside from sport, the extra-curricular life of the school has continued to grow. Although we were disappointed to lose the Christmas Concert to the snow, the performance of the school choirs in the Service of Lessons and Carols earlier this week was outstanding. A fortnight earlier, we staged the first Shakespeare play at WCGS in over a decade. I hope it will not be so long before the next one! On Wednesday evening, there was a lecture by the well-known broadcaster and popular science author, Johnny Ball. (Parents of a certain age may remember a television programme called *Think of a Number*.) We have also enjoyed lectures from other scientists and speakers on law and politics during the term.

There have been several notable achievements since I last wrote to you. Foremost among these was the performance of the Sixth Form students who, having been chosen to represent the UK in a design competition run by NASA, went on to win the final at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas. Closer to home, we were pleased to see our debating teams perform a clean sweep at the local debating competition, hosted at Wilson's School and we were the overall winners in the Year 8 Sutton Schools Mathematics Challenge.

I thank the PTFA for their sterling contribution to the School this term for they organised the opening of the Sports Hall, contributed funds to equipment in the new facility as well as purchasing a new grand piano for the School Hall. Generations of students will benefit from their hard work and dedication for many years to come.

Congratulations are given, also, to Chris Bates, an old boy of the School who left in July 2004, who is one of the final two candidates in BBC's programme *The Apprentice*. On Sunday we will find out whether Lord Sugar will hire or fire him.

This term we say good bye and thank you to Mrs Mortreuil who has been covering for Mme Gabrielle who has been away on maternity leave. Mrs Mortreuil has involved herself fully in the life of the Modern Language Department and we wish her well for the future. Mr Favreau, the School Examination Officer, left earlier in the term and we wish him every success in his new career.

During the course of the Autumn Term we welcomed new staff Mrs Skipp and Mrs Glazier have been appointed as Catering Assistants. Mr Sparrow has been appointed as DT Technician and Mr Ackerman as an ICT Apprentice. We wish all them a rewarding career at the School.

I mentioned earlier that ethos has been an area of focus for the school over the last term. In this regard, we have striven to inculcate the core values of EXCELLENCE, ENDEAVOUR and SELF-DISCIPLINE at all levels of the school. It is our belief that these habits will not only ensure that your son or daughter achieves his or her potential academically, but that they are important in all areas of life. Your support is crucial to this aim and I hope I can continue to count on it.

Pupils are dismissed after Final Assembly on Friday 17th December at 12.30pm. The new term begins on Wednesday 5th January at the usual time.

Finally, I wish you every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Smart
Headteacher