



26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has been particularly successful at Wexham with improvements in many areas of the school's work. I would like to thank all parents and students for their continued cooperation. As you will have seen our new building is coming along nicely and has started to tower over the rest of the school and it is ahead of schedule.

## Upcoming Important Dates and End of Term Notification

- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – End of Half Term 4 – School will operate a compact day and close at 1pm.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Start of Half Term 5 - Students should arrive at 8.30am for 8.40am start as normal.
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Year 7 Parents' Evening – 4-7pm
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – End of Half Term 5 at 3.10pm
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Half Term Holiday
- Monday 4 June – Start of Half Term 6 - Students should arrive at 8.30am for 8.40am start as normal.

## Uniform

The overall standard of uniform is very good and thank you for ensuring this. Should parents whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals require financial assistance for School Uniform please contact your child's Leader of Year to discuss this. In certain circumstances the School may be able to assist.

## Ofsted

Last term the School was graded by Ofsted as GOOD in all categories. Ofsted recognised the following key areas as real strengths of the school and I thought I would share these.

- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.
- Many integrated elements of the curriculum contribute to the school's excellent work to prepare pupils for their lives beyond school.
- Pupils and sixth-form students now make good progress.
- Pupils are sensible, considerate of others, and get on well together and with staff.
- Pupils respect the diversity of their backgrounds and lifestyles.
- Pupils participate enthusiastically in the rich range of extra-curricular activities.
- Pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, including those in the autistic spectrum disorder resource base, receive the best possible physical, educational and emotional support to flourish.
- Wise changes to the curriculum have raised pupils' aspirations at the same time as giving them more choice in what option subjects they can study for GCSE.
- Governors rightly describe the school as aspirational, rapidly improving and socially cohesive.
- Pupils who speak English as an additional language, some of whom arrive from overseas with no more than a few words of English, are taught by experienced and skilful teachers. They make rapid progress and join in mainstream lessons as quickly as possible.
- An above-national proportion of students are in education, training or employment after leaving, something that the headteacher rightly believes to be an important outcome.
- The Years 12 and 13 retention rate and the completion of study programmes are strong. In 2017, over three quarters of students went on to university, and practically all the others into work or apprenticeships.



**Steel signing ceremony held for Wexham School – Press Release – In The Slough Express** - Students, teachers and governors marked the latest stage of work at Wexham School with a steel signing ceremony on Friday 12 January. Headteacher Lawrence Smith was joined by the school's students, teachers and governors, as well as representatives from Slough Borough Council Property Services, Slough Urban Renewal (SUR), and Morgan Sindall Construction to celebrate this major milestone in the school's expansion.

The school group visited the construction site where Morgan Sindall made a presentation to the group. The work at Wexham School is part of the council's ambitious school places programme – a multi-million pound investment in primary and secondary school buildings, extensions and new schools – to provide enough places for Slough's current and future young people.

The Wexham School expansion will include a new 3,000 square metre three storey teaching block that will house 29 new classrooms for English, Humanities and Languages, three of which have dedicated ICT facilities. The new block will also provide staff workrooms, group rooms, a new student reception and welfare facilities, a new library and a sixth form study centre. The existing library will be converted into two new science laboratories and external landscaped areas will be provided, along with new car parking, to complete the site.

Lawrence Smith, Headteacher at Wexham School, said: "I am exceptionally proud that Slough Borough Council chose Wexham to invest in. Redeveloping and adding these fantastic facilities to our already impressive Science, Technology and Creative Arts – and of course Sports facilities – we will really have a school fit for 21st century education. This combined with our recent Ofsted inspection in November 2017, where the school was judged Good in all areas, will give us the launch pad we need to be a truly great school."

### **Highlights of Half Term 3 and 4 – 2017/18**

- All Year 9 students attended the Slough Aspires Careers Event. Congratulations to Bilal Fazeli, Nergis Doka and Amaan Ikhlaq who entered a competition and won.
- A group of year 9 students entered the Magistrates Mock Trials competition, on the day they did themselves and the school proud, they represented Wexham with a real determination, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one.
- Year 9 are visiting the Cheddar Gorge in Somerset this week. Snow permitting!
- Sport Relief on Tuesday 20th March saw over 300 children in Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in a sponsored skipping event and inflatable obstacle course challenge. The sponsorship money is still being collected!
- Ten of our Year 8 Sports Leaders completed their 'Beyond the Baseline' recently, successfully coaching a group of twenty Year 4 students from Wexham Court Primary School.
- Year 9 GCSE PE students participated in an emergency first aid workshop. Led by Stephen Hale of 1st Aid 4 Schools, the workshop was an excellent curriculum enrichment activity combining theoretical learning with practical application and the students have developed knowledge, skills and understanding that can help save lives.
- Year 11 Drama students attended a Theatre Trip to the Lyric Theatre (Hammersmith).
- Our Year 7 nurture groups recently visited the Natural History Museum.
- On Wednesday 14 March, Year 12 students studying A Level subjects and Finance attended the UCAS Exhibition at Brunel University.
- We have secured a grant from "Active Slough" to introduce Street League on Friday nights from 4 - 6 pm with the support of Wycombe Wanderers Sports & Education Trust. We plan to run the programme from Friday April 20th until Friday 25th May aimed at our Year 10 and Year 11 students.
- A group of 12 Year 9 students visited the University of Reading to experience a day in the life of a University student. Our students took part in a programme called "Find Your Future". The pupils were involved in three sessions of Classics, Biology, and Philosophy as well as a student life talk and a student panel.
- DJ workshops DJ Miss Tyson (Julie) has been busy running DJ workshops for all students in music.
- Year 10 students have taken part in a six week course on the Lawyers for Schools Program.
- We have received a letter from the Slough Foodbank to thank us for our generous collections.
- The year 11 History students had an excellent visit to the Science Museum, this has really supported their revision for their Health and the People GCSE unit. They were able to see examples of the medicine and science that they have been studying this year and consolidate their understanding of the topics.



- On Tuesday 6th February twelve Year 12 students will be attending the Powering Potential workshop in Dell's office, Reading.
- On Wednesday 7th February 24 Year 8 Students took part in a whole day Progression Conference at Kingston University.

### Wexham School App

In order to help communication the school has launched an App. To access this please follow these instructions.

- Firstly, you will need to download the app from either the iTunes App Store , Google Play or Windows Store by clicking on the relevant buttons below or by loading up the app store on your phone and searching for '**School News**'.
- Once you have located and downloaded the free app, launch the app and you will then be able to either click on the '**Find my school**' button which uses the phones GPS to locate all the schools in the surrounding 20 miles, or you can type in the schools postcode and click on '**Get my school**' button. The school's postcode is: **SL2 5QP**. You will then see a list of schools that use the app. Click on Wexham School to view news and events.
- You will then be able to click on the '**News**' button to view all of the latest news items that have been added to the Wexham School Website and also all of the upcoming calendar events by clicking on the '**Events**' button.
- Clicking on '**My Schools**' will display a list of schools that you view news and events for. Clicking on one of the schools will the display the school address, telephone number and email address which you can click on to either phone or email the school directly from the app.

Please do remember that letters will not always be posted to you. When a new letter is placed on the website parents will be texted or emailed so please do check.

### Wexham School Twitter Feed

To follow us on Twitter please go to @Wexham\_School alongside our new website this really does give you an amazing insight into daily life at Wexham.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish all parents and students a happy holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final term of this academic year.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr Lawrence Smith**  
Headteacher