



Dear Parents

### Some good news at the end of term

- Over 100 rugby matches have been played over the term, with over 60 victories. We were able to field teams at A,B and C levels for Years 8,9 and 10.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> XV had an excellent season, winning 11 of their 13 matches, losing 1 match by a point to Berkhamsted and drawing with Queen Elizabeth's. The centre pairing of James McLeod, an inspiring captain and Liam Nicol, who represented Hertfordshire Under 18 were outstanding, scoring 25 of the 50 tries scored. Jack Haddow played for Middlesex Under 18's.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV performed very well winning 6 of their 10 matches. 2 of their 4 losses were against 1<sup>st</sup> team opposition.
- The Under 16 team won 7 of their 9 matches with Harry Thorogood, Rory Akers, George Sillwood and Lawrence Armitage-Brain representing Hertfordshire. Several of the team combined with Year 12 players to play the Verulam 1<sup>st</sup> XV, winning comfortably.
- The Under 15 team performed very well and reached the 3rd Round of the Daily Mail Cup before losing to Bishop's Stortford College. They then progressed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of the Vase competition before losing to St. Columba's College. They won 9 out of 16 matches played. Elliot Byfield, Charlie Mitchell, Alex Butler and Dominic Toon represented Hertfordshire, whilst Gregor Allan played for Middlesex.
- The Under 14 team were undefeated, winning all 13 matches. They deservedly won the Team of the Season award. An outstanding team excellently captained by Giorgio De Lucia.
- The Under 13 team improved as the season progressed beating Haberdashers' and Hitchin whom they had lost heavily to the year before.
- Over 200 were present at the Rugby Supper which was held in the Main Hall, with awards presented to the Most Improved and Player of the Season in all age groups by Don Barrell. He also presented to the school a Saracens shirt as one of their Partnership schools.
- Well done to the following hockey players who have been attending Hertfordshire Junior Development Centres during the course of this term: U16: Ed Beak, Harry Benjamin, Dan Joseph, Kiran Whelan, Mark Guest, Harry Thorogood.
- U15: George Thomas, Tom Hall, Lawrence Armitage-Brain, Phil Ratliff, Stephen Causbrook, Bill Gage, Aaron Mitchell, Michael Burgess, Jeremy Swanwick.
- U13/14: Amar Baines, Russell Barnett, Ben Cross, William Dare, Sam Groves, Liam Hall, James McBride-Wilson, Hamish Rawbone, Dhiren Solanki, Jon Luke Summerfield.
- Following the success of the recent table tennis tournaments, the U13 (James Evans, Nick Aldersley, Austin Bailey, Elliott Harris) and U16 teams (Jordan Olney, Aron Zolnai-Lucas, Ishan Bairolina, Pryesh Kotecha) qualified for the National finals.
- During October half term holiday, Stuart Patrick won the Hertfordshire U15's County Golf Championships with a gross 71 – he has also been selected for the Hertfordshire U16 squad for 2010.
- The cross country teams have had a busy half term with events nearly every week ranging from year 7 flat races to senior relays over the Richmond hills.
- The year 7 and 9 teams won the Cross Country challenge at the Roger Bannister Stadium, while the Year 10 team took Gold at the District Championship with the year 9's in 3<sup>rd</sup> and year 8's in 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Our senior relay teams have shown great improvement against the private schools with great times coming from Jake Rainsford in Year 11 and George Ryan in the Lower 6<sup>th</sup>. There are a few more events still to come next term so all are encouraged to attend training as well as anyone wishing to improve their fitness.
- Congratulations to Tim Winward 6NCh and Tim Hillel 6BCo who won the first round in the ESU Mace Debating Competition. There were six competing schools. They will therefore progress to the East of England Finals Day in the New Year.
- 82 students took part in the Senior Mathematical Challenge. Of these, 13 were awarded a gold certificate, 26 silver and 20 bronze.
- Ashley Page 6FDs, Ben Sampson 6FDs, Thomas Wicken 6FDs and James Hall 11G have further qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1.
- Ashley Page 6FDs, Lewis Wright 6BCo, Richard Kilkenny 6CLd and James Hall 11G came fourth out of the twenty five teams who competed in the regional finals of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge 2009. The team was beaten only by Harrow, Eton and Habs Boys.

- So far, 168 UCAS applications have been processed, of which 39 were for Oxbridge. We wish the boys success with their applications.
- David Ramsbottom 6THn was successful in gaining an Army Scholarship Award after attending the Army Officer Selection Board at Westbury this year.
- Our catering contractors were recently awarded four out of five stars by the Environmental Health Inspector recognising their excellent standards of food safety and kitchen hygiene.
- Year 8 recently raised £588.50 for LEPRO, the leprosy charity. Many thanks are due to all who were involved in raising the money.
- Well done to the Fuller Boys team consisting of Mark Guest 11T, George Thomas 11T and Kieran Whelan 11F who took part in the London to Brighton Bike Ride and raised £1498.71 for the British Heart Foundation. Anyone interested in joining the WBSB team next year, should contact Tony Whelan on [tony\\_whelan@btinternet.com](mailto:tony_whelan@btinternet.com)
- Concerts next term include the Lower Sixth Form Chamber Concert on March 4<sup>th</sup> and our two Spring Concerts on March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The new timetables for Music Lessons have been issued this week. If your son did not receive one, then he will need to see a member of the Music Staff at the beginning of next term. For the first time, the timetables will be available to view on Moodle. Your son will know how to log in to find them. Please note that some lessons will be starting on the second day back, Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup>. Year 11s will resume their instrumental lessons when they return from study leave.
- Boys in Year 7 have been composing fanfares in their music lessons with the chance of having some of them performed at the Royal Opera House. Any students in years 8 and 9 who also wish to compose a fanfare for the Royal Opera House should look at the information at [www.roh.org/fanfare](http://www.roh.org/fanfare) and get writing in the holidays!

### Music Department News

- The term has been extremely busy for the Music Department. Many congratulations to the 300 students who turned up regularly each week to prepare for the two sold-out Autumn Concerts held in the Muse Auditorium at the beginning of December.
- On the Wednesday evening there were excellent performances from the Brass Band, Crescendo Strings, Friday Band, Fuller Sound and Senior Choir.
- On the Thursday evening there were excellent performances from the Brass Ensemble, Senior Strings, Big Band, Senior Wind Band and Senior Orchestra.
- A further 40 students prepared musical material to play at our three student recitals held in December and this gave them an excellent opportunity to trial their pieces for forthcoming examinations.
- The Carol Service took place on Tuesday evening. Thanks to the musicians, readers and parents who took part in the event. It was a most enjoyable finale to a busy term.
- We say goodbye to Jonathan Gale who has taught piano for many years and given a number of students an insight into opera through his workshops. We wish him all the best as he takes up a career as a barrister in Leeds.
- A number of students have taken Associated Board or Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations in the past few weeks and we hope to have all the results available at the start of next term. Any students wishing to enter for exams at our next session in February should let Mr. Hussey know as soon as possible in the New Year.

### Trips and Visits

- On 8<sup>th</sup> December 45 yr 8 boys went to Cadbury World and the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham. Much fun was had as boys witnessed the chocolate manufacturing process and then off to taste the smells and sounds of the authentic German stalls selling their Gluehwein and Frankfurter. All boys behaved beautifully and as one pupil said 'It was a wicked trip Miss!'
- 60 Lower Sixth Physics students attended a lecture by a Thorpe Park engineer on the mathematics, design, and safety of modern rollercoasters. This was followed by the chance to have a go on some of the newest attractions at the Park and experience the science in action!"
- The term's programme of Friday lectures for the 6<sup>th</sup> form included thought provoking talks from outside visitors Barry Gardiner MP, Evan Davies, Peter Tatchell and Peter Saunders. Mr Curwen and Mr McDermott also made sterling contributions with lectures on areas of their specialist knowledge – respectively, *Code Breaking* and *Cuba*.
- Year 9 students visited Amravati Buddhist Monastery in Hemel Hempstead in December as part of their RS studies to learn about Buddhism and the life of a monk.
- Some of our 6<sup>th</sup> formers attended the annual Holocaust day at the Girls school in November and met with survivors.
- Parents of students going to Holland in October 2010 should note that their next instalment for the trip is due by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

- Students in year 7 will soon receive a letter about the RS trip to Neasden Hindu temple on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### **Race for the House Cup**

The House prefects have been working hard this term motivating their Houses for house points and charity fund raising. Events have included film sessions, a Christmas themed Battle of the Bands and a car wash. The current totals see Fuller ahead by a nose with over 9000 house points collected. The charity money raised, where 1 house point will equal 2p, sees the Year 7 group topping the table with just over £480! House prefects have also conducted their first assemblies this term showing off an excellent variety of talent in the school including the Junior Choir and a Bob Marley classic performed by Johnny Lines 10C, Michael O Malley 10C and Jake Kalisch 11C. A speaker from the Barnardos Charity was also on hand to talk to the Fuller House on their fund raising.

One of our Young Enterprise companies called **Smarta Rotaries** is selling rotary mobile phone chargers, allowing you to simply wind up to charge your phone. For more information, go to [www.smartarotaries.com](http://www.smartarotaries.com)

### **Gifts & Talents**

We are once again updating our files in respect of the talents of our students. We know that many boys are gifted musicians, actors etc but would like to include this information on our gifted and talented register. Please email [lewisk@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lewisk@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk) to keep us up to date with courses, summer schools or any activities attended by the boys outside of school hours. As always, Dr Gunton is available to discuss any gifted and talented issues you may have.

### **School Lettings**

To increase revenue and ensure the long term sustainability of our facilities, we are keen to increase school lettings. Many of the School's excellent facilities are now available for hire including the sports hall, fitness suite, astroturf, playing fields and cricket pitches and nets. The Clarendon Muse and James Theatre are excellent venues and the recording studio is a specialist area for technically advanced recording and mixing. The new Sixth form Centre is ideal for meetings or conferences and the state-of-the-art kitchen can be hired out for cookery classes and workshops. Please contact David Carley, our Site Manager, at the school.

**Watford Film Society** is starting up in the Muse on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January, and will be followed by a six month season of films starting off with 'Man on Wire' which is an Oscar-winning documentary about a French high-wire walker who committed the

'artistic crime of the century' by wire walking between the two World Trade Towers. For further information, visit <http://watfordfilmsociety.org/>

Aviv Dance Studios, based in the sports block, is starting **Hip-Hop classes** just for boys. The sessions will run on Saturdays, 2.30-3.30pm and will be taught by top international dancer/teacher, Tomas Simon, who most recently danced 'Bad Boys' for X-Factor winner Alexandra Burke. A free trial class will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January followed by a free trial Breakdance session. It is an excellent way to keep your child interested in fitness and will improve coordination, rhythm and confidence. To book please call 01923 250000.

**The Gym** – get fit in the New Year! Email [gym@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:gym@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk) to book yourself onto the next induction on 11<sup>th</sup> January at 5.45pm.

### **Parental Contributions**

Once again, I would like to thank parents for their continued generosity. I would be very grateful if you would complete and return the attached form to me via your son, at the start of term, to ensure that our financial records are up to date. Watford Fuller Foundation Gift-Aid forms are available from the School Finance Office for anyone who would like to contribute in this way. Our other fundraising activities have been successful in raising over £50,000 from a major London-based trust for a project that supports GCSE excellence for 15-16 year olds from olds from the local community.

Using grants we have been awarded as well as funds from the Watford Fuller Foundation, we are able to start work on the **English Block development** in January for completion by September 2010. This essential building project includes extra classrooms, improvements to the teaching and learning environment of existing classrooms, an area for Learning Support as well as major refurbishment to the kitchen and catering facilities.

**Friends of WBGs** have had a busy term raising over £8,000 thanks to the generosity of parents and friends who supported the Quiz Night and Christmas Raffle. Details of all their activities can be found in the latest Annual Report which can be downloaded from the School website. If you'd like to join the Committee or wish to become one of the parent volunteers, please email [sharonmontywbg@ntlworld.com](mailto:sharonmontywbg@ntlworld.com).

For your chance to win up to £100 per term and help raise money for the boys, sign up to the

Friends 100 Club for just £15 per year, email:  
fiona.loomes@aol.com.

### Parentmail

A small number of parents still have not registered. Please email your son's name and form to brownc@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk. If you are experiencing any problems receiving information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The **Fathers Book Club** is still going strong. The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 5th January at 7pm when Embers by Sandor Marai will be discussed and on Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm The Best Short Stories of Guy De Maupassant (Wordsworth Classics) will be discussed. All Welcome!

### Governing Body

This term we were delighted to welcome Mrs Dawkins and Mrs Blake, our new parent governors, to the Governing Body. Dr Whiteley, an old boy of the school, joined us as the Oxford University Governor.

### Student Safety

Can I remind you once again not to drive into the school grounds when dropping off or collecting your sons from school.

### Emergency School Closure

If there is excessive snow or other severe weather, the closure will be announced on local radio BBC Three Counties (103.8FM/630AM) and Mercury Radio (96.6FM). A message will be sent out via parentmail and posted on the website. Otherwise school is open and pupils are expected to attend.

### Diary Dates Spring Term 2010

**Year 11 A Level Taster sessions** – Tues 5<sup>th</sup>, Wed 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**Fathers Book Club** – Tues 5<sup>th</sup> January 7pm

**Year 11 Mock Examinations & Study Leave**

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010 inclusive

**Senior Prize Giving** – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Old Fullarians' Annual Dinner** – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Fathers Book Club** – Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> February 7pm

**6<sup>th</sup> Form Chamber Concert** Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

**Friends of WBSGS Sportsman's Dinner** – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Spring Concerts** - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

### Term Dates 2010

**Start of Spring Term** - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Half Term** - 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**End of Spring Term** – 12.30pm Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April

**Start of Summer Term** – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**Half Term** – 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June

**End of Summer Term** – 12.30pm Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July

**Start of Autumn Term** (L6 and Year 7) –

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September (Rest of School) –

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

**Half Term** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

**End of Term** – 12.30pm Tues 21<sup>st</sup> December

*Have a wonderful Christmas holiday.*

*Best Wishes,*

*Mark Jost.*

