



Some good news at the end of term:

- We received a letter from **OFSTED** last week which confirmed that, following their interim assessment of our progress, we had maintained our outstanding status and would therefore be exempt from inspection for the next academic year.
- This summer 71 **Cricket** matches were played – with us winning 45 drawing 2 and losing 23.
- Three boys have made centuries – Rikesh Samani (6PPo) 122, Joseph Warren (6CLd) 130 and Josh Mottram (10P) 123.
- The 1st XI had an outstanding year and are undefeated - winning 9 and drawing 2. They also retained the Cotswold 10/10 Trophy.
- Bill Gage 10P, Dhiren Solanki 10N and Sam Bailey 10G have all played for Herts U15s and William Jones 6BBu has played for the Middlesex Academy as well as for Middlesex 2nd XI.
- Both Senior and Junior teams have had excellent **Athletics**’ seasons which has seen 14 school records broken and Johnny Brighton 9T, taking the 200m District record. Johnny also picked up the Find of the Season award in the Under 16 category with the Year 9 records in 100m, 200m and Relay. Elliott Byfield 10B, took the “Most Valuable Athlete” award for dominating in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, 100m and Relay. 100m sprinter and discus thrower Julian Manieson 7P was the Find of the Season in his first year of competing for Watford Boys while Gok Kannan 8G was the Most Valuable Athlete for a new year 8 800m record and excellent triple jumping. The Junior team qualified in 5th place for the County Plate finals after 6 events, just missing out on the Championship final by 19 points. A big thank you must be said to all those boys who have competed this year and to the members of staff who have given up their time to help marshal the events.
- **Sports Day** returned to the Woodside Athletics stadium this year. The sweltering heat made an uncomfortable day for the middle distance runners but it was fantastic to see the majority of the school competing and taking part in some way. There were some excellent performances with a particular highlight coming in the Year 10 100m race with Elliott Byfield 10B and Sam Bailey 10G going head to head, who share the school record of 11.1 seconds. Elliott took the title this time but Sam and his Groves team mates took revenge by winning the 4 x 100m relay. The Boyt mile was eagerly watched with additions of Mr Matthews and Mr Kersey showing the boys how it should be done. George Smith 9G ruined their plans and took home the trophy. We would like to thank ex pupil Arthur Boyt for sponsoring the race and showing his support on the day. The combined result saw Groves House win overall with Fuller just 4 points behind.
- For the first time, students entered an **orienteering** competition against ten other schools from around the neighbouring counties. Two teams consisted of Peter Tunwell 10P , Hamish McGregor-Smith 10T, Alistair Gemf 10P and Robert Noakes 10F (Tortoises) and Tom Durn 9F, George Smith 9G, Charlie Mitchell 10N and Aaron Mitchell 10G (Hares). The Hares coming third and the Tortoises only missing out on first place by one minute, coming a creditable second.
- Well done to the following boys who recently attended **Hertfordshire Hockey Junior Development Centre** assessments and were selected for the programme which will run from next September: Andrew Tunwell 8P, Aneurin Roberts 9G, Arnav Rawat 7N, James Ackerman 8B, Mohammed Ali 10F , Alex Crawford 8N, Simon Guest 8P, Zakaria Khan 8B, Janahan Manivannan 8G, Matthew Sears 7N, Nikhil Shah 8N, Jamie Brenner 9F, Alex Pierce 8B, Miles Brown 10P, Jake Harvey 9F, Alasdair James 10B, Alisdair Sargen 10C, Callum Till 10F, Charlie Yallop 9F, Alex Butler 10N.
- Congratulations to the following boys who, having performed well for **Hertfordshire Junior Academy Centres** in the Spring term, were selected to attend Junior Regional Performance Centres which run during the summer and early part of the Autumn term: Jeremy Swanwick 9G, Stephen Causbrook 10P, Bill Gage 10P, George Thomas 11T, Edward Beak 6TBg.
- On July 12th, 24 boys enjoyed a trip to Nottingham to watch two **international hockey matches**. In one of the matches Great Britain defeated Japan 6-4 and interest was heightened by Great Britain’s selection of an 18 year old schoolboy who played against Watford Grammar School twice last term!
- Well done to Janahan Manivannan 8G who achieved a Distinction and received a medal in the **Junior Mathematical Olympiad**.
- Congratulations to our **Young Engineers** as both teams were awarded CREST Gold Awards. The teams were sponsored by AECOM and Laing O’Rourke.
- One of the **Young Enterprise** companies, Smarta Rotaries, participated in the

Hertfordshire County Finals when several prizes were won.

- Congratulations to Humza Hussain 7N won the **Watford Interfaith Association/Hertfordshire Police Constabulary** prize for designing a poster to represent diversity and equality in Watford.
- Ali and Muhammed Manji of 7G beat Ravi Chauhan and Atharva Abhyankar of 7F in a close contest in the **Year 7 inter-form debating competition**. The motion was: 'This house believes 2 parent families are best'.

Charity Fundraising

- The House Prefects have motivated their Houses brilliantly in this last half term to see the race for the **House Cup** wide open, with a result impossible to predict. Points were awarded up to the last Tuesday of term with the new "House Cup" awarded during the final assembly. Over 163,000 House points have been awarded this year which has raised £ 3,275 for specific house Charities. The Year 7's have lead the way with over 70,000 points and Ryan Khan 7B was the top scorer with 783. The final House event of Tug – of – War took place on the last Monday of term. Each House fielded a 7 man team from across the age groups and the dynamic strength of New House took the title for a second year in a row beating Turner in a well fought contest. The House Prefects have done excellent work this year is elevating the profile for the House system and raising money for good causes so a big thank you goes to them.
- We recently heard that Kisima School in Kenya, was the best performing school in the district and in the top 2% of schools nationally. An excellent achievement for a charity school that only started taking students 6 years ago. Our students on the World Challenge Expedition will be helping there and we will continue to support this worthy cause.

Music Department News

- Many congratulations to all the performers who took part in our **Prizewinners' Concert** on July 1st in the Clarendon Muse. Once again the concert was packed with high quality performances from very talented young students and I have received many favourable comments not only about the soloists, but also about the two featured groups, Friday Band and Crescendo Strings. Paul Shearring, Chair of Governors awarded the gift tokens during the interval and at the end of the concert Danny Lewis 10N received the Rosebowl for his outstanding performance of Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen. The cup for the students who had made the most progress in instrumental lessons was awarded to Mark Ross-Smith 6PPo and William Foster 10P and this year, for the first time, the Kienitz Cup, a cup for the student or

students who had made the largest contribution to extra-curricular music was awarded to Max de Lucia 6CRy and Max Bronstein 6THn. Once again I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone who entered the Competition and made the Prizewinners' Concert so memorable.

- Well done to Jonathan Shapiro 10C, Jamie Wall 10P, Ciaran Chillingworth 11F, Bill Foster 10P and Freddie Stokes 11N, the members of our Brass Quintet. They took part in the inaugural **Chess Valley Music Competition** and performed an excellent programme of music.
- We have many students taking their **Associated Board Examinations** at the end of this term. The results will arrive in the holidays, so students wishing to know their result before September will need to supply Mr Hussey with a stamped addressed envelope.
- **Music lesson timetables** will be issued in the first two weeks of term and then published on Moodle, the school's Virtual Learning Environment. As the year progresses, boys in Year 10 and 11 will be taking their controlled assessments in a variety of subjects. Therefore, to avoid clashes with music lessons, it is very important that students inform Mr Hussey about any potential lessons where this will be the case and then we should be able to move them.
- Any students who wish to use an individual **instrument locker** should see Mr Hussey at the start of term or send him an email and he may be able to help. First come, first served! Those students without individual lockers should always place their instruments in the two large capacity communal lockers and not leave them lying about in the bottom corridor of the Muse as the building is used by the general public in the evenings.
- Our **Autumn Concerts** will take place on December 1st and 2nd in the Clarendon Muse and this year's **Carol Service** will be at St. Michael's on Tuesday December 14th. We very much hope that you will be able to join us at these events.
- **Invoices** for next term's music tuition will be issued in September enabling you to use the new **ParentPay®** system to pay for lessons.

'Oliver' Review July 1st – July 3rd

- This year, the Lower School staged a fantastic production of 'Oliver!', complete with a live sixteen piece orchestra and a cast of seventy. Brothers Matt 10G and Tom Jacobs 7G and Calum Littlely 10T and Ross Calder 7C respectively made the perfect Fagin and Oliver. The complicated sound and lighting requirements were also very competently handled by a Year 10 group – Hugo Medcalf 10N, William Case-Toussaint 10T and George

Lynch 10G. Mention must also go to Chris Robb's (10T) chilling Bill Sikes and the wondrously energetic Dodger of Jack Wagman 8F.

- We also included a large cohort of very talented girls to play all the female roles, organise the costumes and above all, choreograph the numbers. The two Yr 10 dance experts – Ellen and Freya – were magnificent getting a huge number of boys to all move in the same direction at the same time. As Nancy, Becca Arlington was truly outstanding, and would grace the West End production.
- The packed houses, including the 120 pupils from Chater Junior School who came to our dress rehearsal, really enjoyed every aspect of the production – from the elegantly painted sets (thanks to Matthew Yip 6PW1 and his team from the Art Department), to the interval ice-creams!
- Thanks should also go to Pete Cregg, whose vision inspired the set, and whose organisation led to not only a professional DVD of the production (available soon), but also draught lager in the foyer, another first! Overall, a tremendous musical extravaganza, ably produced and directed by Miss Callow and Mr Newman, with valuable assistance from Michael Segalov 6CRy and Corey Hanson 11C.

Art Department News

- The Art Department is proud to announce that two students will be exhibiting their work at the Mall Galleries London on 12th – 17th July as part of the **National Students Art Exhibition**. They have been selected from hundreds of submissions and will be exhibiting alongside other professional artists. Matthew Gregorowski 6NSW has again had his work selected alongside Harry Thorogood 11F. Two other students Tom Calver 11B and Mark Guest 11T received commendations for their submissions.
- On Thursday 8th July, Alex Price, one of our ex-students, delivered a talk to the year 12 boys studying Art and Design. He presented his own portfolio as a means of exploring the approaches favoured by some of our top art colleges when they make their selections for their Art and Design Foundation and degree courses. It was a great opportunity for the boys at exactly the right time, to start planning ahead.
- On Thursday 24th June, the Art and Technology departments presented an Exhibition in the main hall of the **'best of the GCSE, As and A2 work'**. It was a perfect opportunity to celebrate all the successes of the year with, students, family, governors and local schools supporting the event. Thank you to all involved in making this a truly memorable evening.

School Trips and Visits

- On Tuesday 13th July, the LVI English boys and Mrs Rafferty went to the **Tate Britain** to see the 'Rude Britannia' exhibition of British Comic Art through the centuries. It was a fascinating collection - stimulating and amusing at once. We look forward to inspired and creative satirical coursework in September from our talented students!
- The Science department ran a very successful Year 7 trip to the **Science Museum** and took Year 8 to the **Natural History Museum**.
- This Summer term groups of year 7 boys from German, French and Spanish classes went to practise their language skills in a mock town setting in Essex, otherwise known as **'The Europa Centre'**. Boys had much fun carrying out tasks such as haggling over fruit sales at the market or ordering cinema tickets ALL in the target language with native speakers who could speak no English! Prizes were won for filling in a 'Missing Person' questionnaire and boys enjoyed tucking into the snacks they ordered at the café. The day was rounded off with some football fun in the park and boys were also able to experience the new aerobic gym equipment. The excellent behaviour of the boys resulted in three successful and positive days out.
- Year 8 visited **Watford Synagogue, Mosque and St Mary's Church** on 10th June as part of their RS studies. Well done to the entire year group on their outstanding behaviour despite all the walking!
- 34 students from year 7 and 8 visited **Cuffley Camp**, as part of their PSHE program, where they did a variety of team building activities.
- **Ski Trips 2011** – Two trips are planned. The first in February will be to Austria with the second going to the New England resort of Jay Peak in the USA. Places are still available on the Ski Austra trip, but the Ski USA trip is full.
- Information is now available for the **2012 Ski Trip** to the **USA**. It is intended to run another joint Watford Grammar Schools ski trip to Brighton in northern Utah. The group will stay in Salt Lake City. The cost will be £1250, this includes a 5 day lift pass with 5 hours ski lessons per day plus all the evening activities which includes night skiing. If you are interested, log onto www.brightonresort.com The trip is open to those in Years 7, 8 and 9 (in September 2010).
- **Sail France 2010** was again very successful with the group enjoying some excellent weather and sailing. The trip will run again in 2011.
- **Iceland 2011** – only a few places remaining on the trip. For more information on all the above trips, please contact Mr Talbot on talbotm@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk

- A reminder to all parents and students going to Holland in October that the Information Evening is on **Tuesday 14th September at 7pm** in the main school hall. Parents must bring an up to date passport photo of their son, a photocopy of their son's passport and their son's EHIC card with them. If a parent cannot attend, please contact Mrs. Charlton.
- Sixth Form Study Visit to **Berlin 21-24th October 2010** – There will be an Information Evening on Wednesday 8th September 2010 at 6.30pm in the Main School Hall. If you haven't returned your medical/contact information forms and £15 airport transfers fees then please send them in before or bring them along to the meeting. Good luck with all your Berlin research and reading/viewing.
- Watford Grammar School played host to Gifted and Talented pupils from Watford Girls and the Royal Masonic School at a **Climate Change Conference** on 6th July. The event was led by the Geography Department and was organised by Mr Carrera. The speakers included Lord Teverson, the Lib-Dem spokesman on climate change and representatives from direct action group Plane Stupid. In addition several workshops were held, run either by staff from school departments including Geography, Science and Economics or by other organisations including Veolia, RES Renewables and Oxfam. The day was a great success due to the tireless work put in by staff and 6th form, to the enthusiasm and inventiveness of the pupils taking part and to the excellent support from the distinguished visitors.

Governing Body

- Mr Rafferty has replaced Mr McDermott as the new teaching staff Governor. We welcome Mrs Shahedian as a Foundation Parent Governor. There will be a vacancy for a Parent Governor from October. Nomination forms will be sent out by Parentmail at the start of the Autumn Term. Anyone interested, please contact the Parent Governors for more information. Their contact details are posted on the school website.
- On behalf of Governors, staff and students, I would like to thank parents for their continued generosity to the school through **Parental Contributions** which benefit the educational experience of all our students. In order to update our records at the start of the 2010-11 financial year, I should be grateful if you would complete the contribution form and return it at the beginning of next term. If your employer operates a matched funding scheme, please discuss with them the possibility of donating to the Watford Fuller Foundation – registered Charity # 1062184.
- The Governors will be meeting in the holidays to consider the responses to their consultation on **Academy Status**. Meetings have been held with

the Trustees and with staff, student and parent representatives about the process. We have received a letter from the Secretary of State agreeing, in principle, to the conversion, subject to the Royal Assent being granted to the Academies Bill. I will keep parents informed about the process by parentmail over the holidays.

School Staffing

- Earlier this year we said a fond farewell to Mrs Dunleavy who worked in the Finance Office for over 22 years and we welcomed Mrs Mitchell who joined the reception team.
- At the end of this term, we will unfortunately be losing the the following members of staff: Ms Hamilton, Mrs Marshall, Mr Murphy. Mr Cunningham will be leaving us for promotion to Assistant Head. Mr White will be retiring after 11 years teaching Spanish here, Mrs Redman will be retiring after 17 years in the science department and Mr Martino, after 16 years in the Site Management team. Congratulations to Mrs George who became Mrs Rafferty during the May half term.
- We are delighted to welcome Mr Roberts and Mrs Hewgill to our ICT teaching team. Mr Meldrum and Mr Costii will join the Religious Studies department. Mr Roy will return to teach English, Mrs Ali will teach in the Science department and Ms Thomas will join the MFL team. Mr Webster and Mr Sanders join the Learning Support team.
- **Heads of Year** will move up with their respective year groups, except Mr Shafe will take over responsibility for Year 10 and Mr Panter will be responsible for our new Year 7 intake.
- **Student Planners** will be subsidised again next year to keep the cost down to £2. Please ensure your son has money at the start of term to purchase one.
- Our new **canteen** will be opening in September. It includes a refurbished canteen area and a new coffee bar area in the theatre foyer. The cost of the school meal has been slightly increased to £1.90 from September.
- From the start of term, we will be able to accept payments online for school meals and other items such as schools trips, music lessons etc. Using a secure website called **ParentPay®** you can use your credit or debit card. A letter with you username and password details has been posted to your home. Please contact the school if you require further assistance.
- We are pleased to announce the following accreditations awarded to the school. The **National Healthy Schools Award**, which

recognises developments in food provision and education at the school, the promotion of healthy lifestyle choices in assemblies and in PSHE and the vast array of sporting opportunities on offer. **QISS (Quality in Study Support)** which recognises the multitude of ways in which students are supported and encouraged to flourish outside of the classroom.

- The **Fathers' Book Club** has met each half term over the past year. The next meeting will be at 7pm in LO8 of The Clarendon Muse on Tuesday 7th September when we will be discussing *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger and *The Wasp Factory* by Iain Banks.
- Mr Allchorn last weekend successfully and safely completed the **Etage du Tour**, in other words, a stage of the Tour de France, over a distance of 108 miles and 12k feet of climbing. In completing this 'challenge of a lifetime' over £2,000 was raised for the National Autistic Society.
- At the same time, I completed the **tandem Sky Dive** from 10,000 feet raising money for the School. I'm not sure what the next extreme challenge will be but white water rafting or a 500 mile bike ride to Mainz, Germany, has been mentioned.
- The **Friends of the School** Year 6 Fun Day and Skydive has raised over £6,000 this term, which is a fitting end to another successful year. On behalf of the Friends' Committee I'd like to thank all families for their continuing support of our efforts to raise money for all the boys here at the school, your support really does make a difference. In particular, I'd like to thank the army of parent volunteers who consistently lend a hand and make every event a success.
- Future FOS events include **Quiz Night, Saturday 13 November 7.15-10.15pm**, School Hall, Tickets just £15. Please reserve your tables by emailing carol@tunstall.com.
- **Annual Dinner Saturday 19 March 2011**
Black tie event with three course meal, casino and live band. Details will be confirmed next term

Please use our website to check out the new **2010-11 Calendar** for use by all members of the school community. It includes all school dates and will be regularly updated.

GCSE and A Level Exams Results

GCSE Results - Tuesday 24 August 10am – 12pm.

GCSE Results Surgery – Thursday 26 August 10am.

A Level Results – Thursday 19 August 10am



Watford Grammar School for Boys TERM DATES 2010 – 2011

Autumn Term 2010

Start of Term – Thurs 2 September (Yr 7 & L6) Fri 3 September (Rest of School)

INSET Day – Monday 20th September

Occasional Day – Friday 22 October

Half Term – Monday 25 – Friday 29 October

End of Term 12.30pm Fri 17 December

Spring Term 2011

Start of Term – Wednesday 5 January

Half Term Monday 21 – Friday 25 February

End of Term – 12.30pm Friday 8 April

Summer Term 2011

Start of Term – Wednesday 27 April

Half Term – Monday 30 – Friday 3 June

End of Term – 12.30pm Fri 22 July

Have a good summer.

Best wishes to you and your family

Mark J. Post.