# The Winsford Academy

**Issue 1** **Friday 9th September 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of my first week in post here at Winsford, I am writing to thank you all for your support in getting the new school year off to such a good start. Almost without exception, our students have arrived at school in immaculate uniform and with the equipment they need to be ready to learn. I know this does not happen by accident and I am grateful for all the planning (and nagging!) that has gone on behind the scenes to make it happen. With so many students doing so well this week, it almost seems unfair to single out individuals for a particular mention but I want to congratulate the following students have been identified by staff as stars of the week: Carlie (Year 8) who is training with Stoke FC and Kyia (Year 9) who has been selected to represent Cheshire Girls Under 14s football.

It was especially good to see Year 7 parents at our coffee morning on Monday. The move to secondary school is a big step for any child and establishing an excellent relationship between home and school is an important first step in making this transition as smooth as possible. I hope the conversations we had on Monday will be the beginning of really productive partnerships as we work together to support our students through their five years here at the Academy.

It was, of course, with great sadness that we heard yesterday of the death of Her Majesty the Queen. Throughout her long life the Queen has been an outstanding example of many of the values we try and promote to our students here at Winsford. Her work ethic, her service to others, and her determination to be the very best she could be are important lessons for us all. Over the next few weeks, we will be thinking about how we can celebrate the Queen's contribution to our national life as well as joining in the period of mourning both nationally and as part of the Winsford community.

The first week of term has seen some important changes as we have been thinking about ways to make the Academy run more smoothly. For students the most obvious change has been the ending of the staggered lunch break and the move to a single lunchtime. This is intended both to improve the quality of learning in lessons during the middle of the day and to create the opportunity for staff to run clubs and other activities at lunchtime. So far it seems to be working very well. To ensure all students can get their lunch as quickly as possible we will be rolling the pre-ordering app, Fusion to students as quickly as we can.

For students in Key Stage 3, the other notable change has been that we are lining up by year group at the beginning of the morning and afternoon sessions. This enables us to ensure an orderly start to the lessons as well as to pick up any urgent problems before students go to class. This is a big change and there is still a bit of work to do before it is running as smoothly as I would like. However, I have been very impressed with the way that the overwhelming majority of our students are working with us to create the calm and purposeful environment that will help us all to succeed.

Many of our students have already commented, very positively, on the new Class Charts app which enables us to send you real time information on how your child is doing throughout the school day, we are looking forward to rolling this out to parents shortly. As use of this app develops, we hope that it will enable us to celebrate student successes and let you know of any problems much quicker than other forms of communication. Most students seem to be finding using the app very straight forward, but if they are encountering any difficulties please ask them to speak to their Form Tutor.

This week has not just been a new start for our Year 7 students. Several new staff have also joined us, Mr Blackaby (Music), Mrs Brown (MFL), Miss Churchman (Maths), Miss Dolan (TA), Mr Fulton (Cover Supervisor), Miss Harrison (PE), Mrs Leese (Kitchen Assistant), Mr Lindor (Kitchen Assistant), Mrs McEvoy (Kitchen Assistant), Miss Neeld (Science), Miss Palmer (Science), Mrs Palmer (English) and Mr Robinson (Maths). I look forward to working with them all and wish them every success in their time at Winsford.

I would like to end my first newsletter with a few personal remarks. This week has been one of the most important in my professional life. I have a very strong sense of the privilege that being Principal of this Academy and serving this community represent and I am very excited at the thought of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. I am also conscious that I am the Academy's sixth Principal in just over 12 years so maybe it is not surprising that several staff and parents have asked me how long I will be staying! My answer is simple. I am very clear that school leadership is a long term business and requires a long term commitment. I am here to stay so that, working with my colleagues I can make a real difference to the lives of our children. My commitment to the Academy's students, families and the wider community is that I am here for as long as it takes.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

# The Winsford Academy

## Join a book club with a difference!

The Cheshire Schools' Book Award is **an annual book prize facilitated by the Education Library Service**. The award is entirely student-led, with students across the area nominating and voting for their favourite books. As such, we are looking forward to seeing books that are truly *enjoyed* by students, the kind of books that fly off the library shelves, the books that provoke debate, and the books that are inclusive and representative of their readers' lives.

Throughout the year participating students in the book club read and vote for their favourite books from the nominated list (normally 8 books are chosen from the shortlist), then in June we come together to announce and meet the winning authors in a celebration evening at the Winsford Academy. **We would be grateful for any parental encouragement!**

Firstly we need to nominate our favourite books. Books eligible for the Cheshire Schools' Book Award must be:

- fiction aimed at 11-15 – year- olds
- published since 1st March 2021
- in print
- written by an author living in the UK
- a stand-alone read

To nominate any titles for consideration please send your choices to: josephine.till@winsfordacademy.org.uk (school librarian) by **Friday 23rd September**. The shortlist will be announced at an event in October.
Alternatively students can pop in to the library and speak with Miss Till (school librarian) about joining or nominating books for the award.

All year groups welcome!

EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE
**Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2023**

ELS
Education Library Service

We're delighted to invite you to the launch of

# The BFG in pictures



**Thursday 28 July**
5.30-6.30pm

**Grosvenor Museum**

Admits two

Please R.S.V.P.
grosvenor.museum@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
01244 972197

Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester, CH1 2DD

*The BFG in Pictures* is an exhibition from House of Illustration, curated by Quentin Blake

Cover artwork for *The BFG* (Jonathan Cape, 1982) © Quentin Blake/Roald Dahl Story Company

House of Illustration

Cheshire West and Chester



# The Winsford Academy

Please remind your child to bring their correct PE kit on the days they have PE.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

| PE Band | Week A | Week B |
|---|---|---|
| 7a | Monday (P4) + Thursday (P1) | Monday (P4) |
| 7b | Thursday (P5) | Wednesday (P2) + Friday (P4) |
| 8a | Monday (P1) + Friday (P2) | Friday (P2) |
| 8b | Wednesday (P5) | Wednesday (P5) + Thursday (P4) |
| 9a | Wednesday (P4) + Thursday (P3) | Wednesday (P4) |
| 9b | Monday (P5) | Monday (P5) + Wednesday (P3) |
| 10a | Thursday (P2) | Thursday (P3) |
| 10b | Tuesday (P5) | Thursday (P2) |
| 11a | Monday (P2) | Monday (P1) |
| 11b | Friday (P3) | Monday (P3) |



THE WINSFORD ACADEMY

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR PE OFFER

September - October 2022

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lunch 13.25-13.55pm | 3G PBT & GHT Yr7, 8, 9, 10 | 3G PBT & GHT Yr8, 9, 10, 11 | 3G MFN & GHT Yr7, 9, 10, 11 | 3G MFN & PBT Yr7, 8, 10, 11 | 3G MFN & DFN Yr7, 8, 9, 11 |
| After-school 3.00-4.00pm | KS3 FOOTBALL CLUB GHT/ PBT / MFN / DRN | *FOOTBALL FIXTURE NIGHT*<br>BODY PUMP CLUB EDY<br>GIRLS FOOTBALL CLUB CBN / KHN | *FOOTBALL FIXTURE NIGHT*<br>BADMINTON CLUB KHN<br>FITNESS CLUB SLN | STAFF MEETING NIGHT<br>*Primary transition sport festivals* | EXAM PE STUDY SUPPORT with GHT in A71 (3.00 - 3.30pm)<br>*YR11 INTERVENTION FOOTBALL* 3.30 - 4.30pm |



## Maxed Out



Back in 2018 one of my presenters told me he had arranged for a ten-year-old young lad and his mother to come into the studios to be interviewed for **Organ Donation Week** and would I be able to do it. The young lad in question was Max Johnson who had undergone a heart transplant the year before.

My immediate thoughts were how do you get a ten-year-old to talk for around four or five minutes. Well, I need not have worried as when I asked him what had been wrong that he needed the heart transplant, he spoke for 13 minutes fully explaining what had been his problem. To say the least, I was blown away by his confidence at such a young age.

The result of the interview was that we decided to enter it into the National Hospital Radio Awards in the category best Speech Package – and it won gold.

The judges said 'The entry was an extraordinary piece of radio, produced by a sympathetic interviewer allowing his interview to flow'. One judge said 'this was an amazing story that drew me in and held my attention all the way'. Another described it as a very engaging piece and what an amazing young man Max is!



Max *is* an amazing young man and it was decided at the time to present the award to him which I did on one of his regular visits to the Freeman Hospital where he had his operation.

I have stayed in touch with Max and his family, who live in Cheshire. Unfortunately, because of Covid, it wasn't possible to meet up as much as I would have liked, but I am pleased to say this did happen earlier this year. The nurses still remember him and you could see the love he had for them.

Max is now 15 and catching up with his studies. He tells me he is feeling really well and is even playing football. He says the award we gave him is still on display in his bedroom.

He is such a nice lad and very confident and I look forward to see what he plans to do once he leaves school.

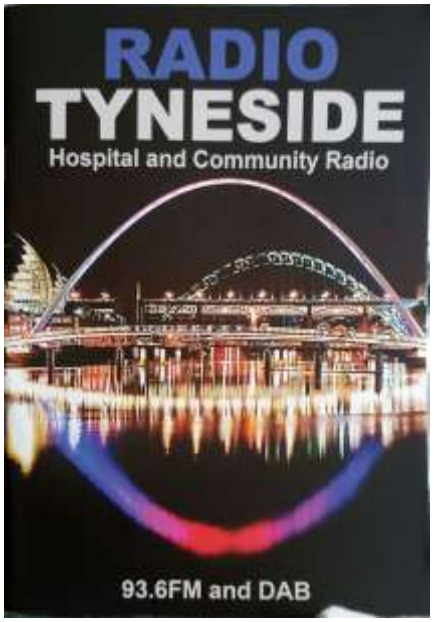
**Dave Nicholson, Chairman**




If you are interested in organ donation, please call us on **0300 123 23 23**




70 years of broadcasting to the hospital wards of Newcastle & Gateshead







A pharmaceuticals provider in Runcorn received a special visit from a 14-year-old heart transplant campaigner.

Phoenix UK, one of Europe's largest medical suppliers welcomed Max Johnson, founder of 'Max and Keira's law' and his mother Emma on their visit to raise awareness of the importance of organ donations.

The visit coincided with the company's recent partnership launched with the British Heart Foundation, where they have set a committed donation goal of £20,000 by June 2023. [Runcorn business welcomes special visit from 14-year-old heart campaigner]





Jess Purvis and Tom Harrison attended the summer rowing school at Northwich Rowing Club

Jess has joined the club full time and will continue to row weekly.

# Camp Kenya 2022

After a difficult couple of years of trying to fundraise during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, the Camp Kenya Team departed for their expedition on 22nd July 2022. The trip took them from the barren, red terrain of Tsavo to the lush green landscape of Muhaka, Shimoni and Diani and the sun scorched plains of Athi River, allowing students to experience more of this diverse country in 4 weeks than most Kenyans get to see in a lifetime.

Macey, Raya, Will and Bel, all ex-students from the Academy, took part in life-changing, sustainable projects including house building, various school refurbishments, livestock deworming, marine conservation, and tree planting to name but a few. As well as work projects, the team experienced much of the rich cultural traditions that Kenya has to offer. They visited the village medicine man and the Maasai, made chapatis and elephant dung paper (EDP) and worked with a local women's group where they learned beadwork and traditional dancing. Numerous women's groups have formed following the extensive efforts of Mama Mercy, an inspirational pioneer who works tirelessly to empower women, ensuring they have the knowledge and the means to support themselves and their families through local initiatives.

The team were also given the opportunity to complete their PADI Open Water diving qualification whilst in Kenya. During their open water dives (or snorkelling for those who did not do the scuba diving), the team were given the opportunity to see man-made reefs that are thriving with marine life. The REEFolution Foundation, based in Shimoni, aims to restore and protect coral reefs. Active coral reef restoration involves coral gardening, artificial reef placement, coral fragment out planting onto artificial reefs and the establishment of marine protected areas. The students were able to see this work in action and the impact it has had on marine populations already.

Winsford Academy formed part of a composite team with students from Ansford Academy in Somerset. The students have formed lifelong friendships and have shared experiences they will never forget. They have returned with a wider knowledge and appreciation of the world beyond our town as well as a love for the truly amazing people of Kenya.













Family "Fun"draising Day

Winsford Academy, Grange Lane, Winsford CW7 2BT

Saturday 10th September 2022 1pm-5pm

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and help boost our crowdfunding campaign.

## 100 Shots Challenge

No previous experience necessary. Just come and have a go.

Take 100 shots and see how many baskets you score. Raise sponsorship and ask your sponsors to pledge their support directly to the Crowdfunder Page

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/northwich-basketball-club---new-facility



Jamal Tahraoui is joining us.
Can he make 100 3 pointers? Or how many 3 pointers can he score in a minute?
What would your guess be?
Can you beat him?

## Cake Sale

Fabulous range of homemade cakes for sale on the day. Bring your whole family or take some home for tea.

## Raffle

Raffle tickets can only be purchased on the day from the venue. We have a range of prizes donated by local supporters. (Please contact us if you would like to donate a prize as well)

# The Winsford Academy

## Change to Persistent Absence Criteria

The DfE have stated that a new persistent absence threshold of 10% will be introduced. This means any student who has under 90% attendance is considered a Persistent Absentee and this will need to be addressed accordingly.

It is very important that children attend school regularly and are punctual if they are to take full advantage of the education opportunities available to them. We fully expect parents/ carers to support and encourage their child to attend school 100% of the time and whilst this isn't always possible it is their duty by law to ensure they attend whenever possible.

The impact of low attendance upon pupil progress is now well proven. Students with low attendance generally make significantly less progress than their peers with high attendance.

It may be useful to know what attendance figures mean for your child:

- 98% - 100% excellent
- 97%-98% - Good
- 94% - 96% Average
- 92%-94% Below Average/Low
- 90%-92% - Very Low
- 85%-90% - Exceptionally low

Under 90% - Considered very poor/persistent absentee. (If you child is off for 3 day or more one half term this could mean your child is at risk of being a persistently absent student. If they have 3 days or more off in every half term they will definitely be a PA student).

**Medical Appointments**

You can help your child maintain good attendance by booking doctors, dentist and a optician appointments either in school holidays, after school or at weekends. If this is not possible, unless there are expectational circumstances, a maximum of half a day will be authorised. Unless the appointment is at the beginning of the school day students should always attend school before and return as son as possible afterwards. This ensures the minimum amount of disruption of their learning. If parents/carers haven't contacted school regarding this absence/lateness it will be unauthorised and a sanction may be applied. If a student is absent due to illness and their attendance is under 90% medical evidence will be required to authorise the absence and this can be given by providing:

- A GP appointment
- A copy of prescription
- A copy of a letter from consultant

You will not be sent a separate letter informing you of this but you will always be informed of your child's attendance in a letter with their school report. It is the responsibility of the Academy not the parent to decide whether absence is authorised and any unauthorised absence will appear on your son/daughters record.

**Term time holidays**

The government changed their legislation in September 2013 and holidays during term time are no longer authorised. If you still intend to take your child out of school a letter should be written to the Attendance Manager at least two weeks before the holiday to explain the special circumstances for the request. The only exceptional circumstance which the government recognise for schools to authorise holidays is for parents who have leave of absence from the armed forces.

If a pupil is absent for more than 4 days due to illness, medical evidence will need to be provided to authorise this period. If this is not provided the absence may be coded as an unauthorised holiday following which a fixed penalty fine will be issued from the local authority. You will be sent a letter prior this giving you the opportunity to provide evidence if this was not the case.

Absence will be not authorised on the first or last day of any half term without medical evidence.

**Female responsibility**

Whilst the Academy is sensitive to the needs of our female students they must take responsibility for keeping sanitary wear with them at all times. The Academy keeps a small supply for emergencies only. Please be aware that students will not be sent home to change or bathe and showers are available at school if this is necessary.

**Our Expectation**

Students will attend school 100% of the time as we prepare them for the world of work. We understand there are expectational circumstances. If you child is absent from school for any reason please inform us on the first day of the absence and keep us updated on a regular basis. I hope you will support us in maintaining good attendance. If you wish to discuss anything related to your child's attendance or punctuality, please ring the Attendance Manager on 01606595925.