

# WGHHS NEWS December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

What a term we have had. I am so proud of all that our girls have accomplished and experienced over the course of the Autumn Term. During the last two weeks the girls have shone on stage in so many ways, with the festive Punch and Carols, our Carol Services and the Sixth Form Revue. This year's Revue was the culmination of lots of hard work from our Year 13 cohort who managed to put together a very entertaining series of performances. Thank you, girls!

This newsletter gives an insight into the girls' achievements and contributions to our community. Thank you girls for all that you do.

This term we have also been featured in the publication: *The Parliamentary Review*. It showcases outstanding providers from different sectors and it was a real honour to be selected as a school to feature. In addition, we also received *The Sunday Times West Midlands State School of the year* award. This was another great honour, particularly as this award recognises the well rounded education our girls receive, exam results are only one factor here.

As you are aware we also have received our first Ofsted inspection in nearly nine years. As detailed in my letter to parents and the accompanying report, this was very successful with the inspectors recognising many of the strengths of our school.

As I said to the girls, today in assembly, we do indeed have much to celebrate. It is wonderful to receive such wide ranging external validation of the education at Wolverhampton Girls' High School. Some of the many things that we take for granted are also worth celebrating though. For example the way in which members of our community support each other, the way in which the girls embrace every opportunity and experience that comes their way, and their contributions to their own and others' learning. Well done! May I also take this opportunity to thank parents, staff and governors for all of your contributions in supporting our students.

As the term draws to a close and we look forward, we will be enjoying extended facilities when the new build is complete in the spring.

For now, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable break over the festive period.

Trudi Young  
Headteacher

# The Nutcracker



On Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, Year 8 travelled by coach to the Birmingham Hippodrome to see the Christmas ballet 'The Nutcracker', with music by Tchaikovsky. This particular version of the ballet was created especially for the Birmingham Royal Ballet, our regional professional company. The story of Clara, her naughty younger brother Fritz and their mysterious godfather Dr Drosselmeyer is a story set in C19th Russia, and contains such famous musical numbers as 'The dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy', and 'Waltz of the Flowers'. Year 8 wrote reviews of the production, and some of their comments are printed below:

"It was an amazing experience and I am so glad I was given the opportunity to go and see it."  
- Jaskiran.

"It was definitely a fantastic work of art and all the dancers were exceptional." - Abbie.

"It was my first time seeing a ballet in the theatre and I would definitely go again." - Rhianna.

"The effects in this performance were amazing. There was the growing Christmas tree, the transforming fireplace, the soldiers under the Christmas tree coming to life, and much more."  
- Anamika.

"Personally I loved the trip due to how engaging and entertaining the Nutcracker was!" - Emelia.

"I absolutely loved watching the Nutcracker ballet and found it so inspiring to watch all the dancers bring the story to life, just by dance and no speech." - Gazal.

"I loved the magical feeling of the growing Christmas tree and I thought the orchestra was amazing."  
- Belinda.

"The costumes were so pretty and suited the styles of dance so well. All the scenery and props were stunning. The ballet was the perfect performance to get anyone in the Christmassy spirit!" - Annie.

House Arts. Two words, only nine letters long, but probably the most stressful, enjoyable and rewarding experience of my Girls' High journey so far. Like every train journey there's always a departure which ultimately ends with an arrival, and for the 'Class of Ferrers 2017' this started with picking out *The Railway Children* card and ended with a performance that exceeded all expectations. From the perspective of someone who has only witnessed the masterpiece that truly is House Arts once, I was not completely aware of what the extremely short process entailed. With a total of around 11 Skype calls, roughly 30 hours of script writing, and thousands of edits, by the end of August we were left with 12 pages worth of a script, two dances, two songs, a massive choir finale and a production which we were due to perform in only a month's time. Time has never been more of the essence. At this point, the nerves were starting to kick in - and I wasn't even performing yet. There were naturally bumps and delays along the road, but with much determination, commitment and patience, the house pulled through, delivering a show which was not to be missed. One of the most memorable moments was, surprisingly, the end of our day show when we received our feedback, because although I was crying at the back of the hall like a proud mother, it felt that all of the hard-work had paid off and the judges recognised that A LOT of effort had gone into it. After the Wednesday night performance, and the excitement of *The Apprentice* starting, it felt as if a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders, but then I started to miss it: missing the rehearsals, watching our little play baby grow up and blossom into something that, I'm sure, the rest of the Ferrers' Team will never forget. However, it would be unfair of me to take all the credit for this; I would be nowhere without my fellow Year 13s - actresses, dancers, singers, musicians, stage-hands and teachers. I couldn't thank them all enough for EVERYTHING they did, and I hope that we did them proud, and especially for the Year 13s - I hope that we ended your journey at WGHS with a BANG! In short, our production of *The Railway Children* will be one of my proudest memories and was an incredible experience to be a part of. Ferrers, we smashed it!

Isha Kumar—Ferrers House Captain

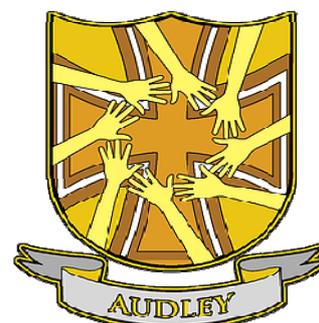


After finding out the overall theme for this House Arts was 'Childhood Adventures', Paget were thrilled to be given the 'Peter Pan' story to put our own spin on, choosing to tell the tale through the novel's author J. M. Barrie. We showed the tragic backstory to the much loved tale about the boy who never grew up after learning Peter Pan was based on Barrie's older brother David, who tragically died when they were kids. Collecting the best drama, music and dance trophies as well as the best overall performance would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment shown by all the girls who took part. In total, 87 girls helped make both performances absolutely incredible and they were a pleasure to work with. Even when we would drag them across the school trying to find a room to practice in, or we would ask them to give up their lunchtimes at the last minute, the girls would come and gave it their all with a smile on their face. I'd like to thank my music, tech, drama and dance captains for all the hours they spent painstakingly composing original music, choreographing dances and scriptwriting, Special mention also goes to all the Paget members of staff who gave up their time to supervise our rehearsals and did whatever they could to support our manic schedule. I know that I speak for Mrs Clarke and Mr Blything when I say how incredibly proud we all are of Paget and I speak for all the captains when I say thank you for making our last House Arts so special, we couldn't have asked for a better bunch of girls to spend it with.

Rachel Hazel—Paget House Captain

This year Audley took on *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*: not a short story to retell inside 25 minutes! Highlights of the show included the amazing dances, a musical trio singing *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, two choir pieces (*Sun Comes Up* by Rudimental and *Light of the World* from the musical *Godspell*) and a brilliant acting performance from Mollie Hughes, winning her the Best Actress award for the house. With dedicated hard work from all of the actors, singers, dancers and technicians, we produced a show that we hope the audience enjoyed watching just as much as we enjoyed performing!

Isobel Sherrington—Audley House Captain





# WGHS' Harvest Festival Collection

The charity prefects would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who bought in cans to donate to The Good Shepherd. We received a phenomenal 720 cans overall, which will help many people in need over the cold winter months. In particular, we would like to thank Hannah Murally who donated the most cans as an individual, and Stafford 1 who donated the most cans as a form. Once again, thank you to everyone who donated or helped out with the collection.

1st individual- Hannah Murally- 100 cans

2nd individual- Mrs Maiden- 72 cans

3rd individual- Kore Ejohwomu- 24 cans

1st form- S1- 140 cans

2nd form- P1- 114 cans

3rd form- A2- 86 cans

Alaina Bullen—Charity Senior Prefect



## Upper School Soloists' Concert.

This event was held in the Hall on Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Seventeen girls from Year 10 - 13 took advantage of the opportunity to perform in an informal and friendly setting.

Some were trying out a piece for a forthcoming graded examination - others performing possible GCSE or AS level items. Items were varied - piano, trombone, guitar, cello and flute amongst others.

Look out for the Year 7 concert next half term - instrumental teachers will be asking students about this in the weeks after Christmas. Mrs F Daniel

On Thursday 12th October, some of the Year 13 Russian students were privileged to be able to go and watch the Mariinsky Orchestra play a selection of symphonic dances at Birmingham Symphony Hall. Listening to 3 prominent Russian composers: Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff gave us an insight into Russian culture throughout the early 1900s. In Prokofiev's Piano Concerto number 2 in G minor form Opera 16 Denis Matsuev played a wonderful solo which was amazing for us all to hear and Valery Gergiev's conducting meant that we were all able to truly appreciate the great work of the orchestra and the composers.

We all had a brilliant time listening to and experiencing the wonders of the Mariinsky Orchestra live and would like to thank Miss Fraser and Mrs Norman for making it possible for us.

Victoria Cowie F5.

# MARIINSKY ORCHESTRA



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

# My Big Gig Experience

As some of you may know, on Saturday 7th October, I attended Big Gig. This is a concert, which is held at Wembley Arena, every year just for members of the Girlguiding association. There is normally one show in the afternoon and one in the evening. It has been my dream to be one of the 20,000 girls who attend this event every year for as long as I've been a girl guide. So when I found out I had won the competition to be a Backstage Vlogger, I was beaming.

A lot of people have asked how I got to do this amazing opportunity. It all started back in August when I saw a competition on Twitter to be a showbiz reporter. I had to write about why I wanted the role and I simply told them my story. Since joining girlguiding, I have seen a huge change in myself. I'm more confident, have friends outside of school and take more risks. I told them that I want to return the favour.

Getting to visit Wembley Arena was amazing. Meeting and interviewing the stars was even better. I got to meet Caspar Lee, Pixie Lott, Louisa Johnson, Five After Midnight (5AM) and more. Whilst being in the press room, I learnt a lot about journalism. It's harder than it looks! I have the utmost respect for journalists after this. It's hard to keep the conversation flowing. But I have to say, interviewing 5AM was so easy as they were banterful and down-to-earth.

The best part of all this was getting to meet and even be interviewed by Caspar Lee in front of 10,000 people. I have been a huge fan of his YouTube videos for 4 years and so it was unreal to see him in person. It's safe to say that this was the best day of my life!

Nicole Lawrence Y11

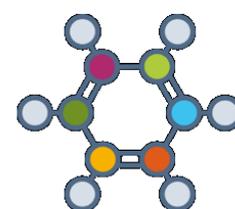
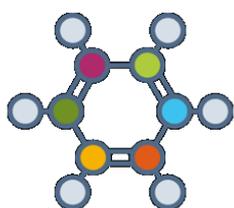
Pictured right with 5 After Midnight

Pictures far right with Pixie Lott



On the 30th November a team of our Year 13 students attended a quiz event at the University of Wolverhampton. It was the University of Wolverhampton Faculty of Science & Engineering Chemistry Quiz for Sixth Form Students. They came away as **Quiz Winners!!!!**

The quiz team members were - Nadia Singh, Elisabeth Jones, Victoria Cowie and Hardeep Bhamra Mrs Clarke is extremely proud of their accomplishment and Congratulations from us all.



On the 15th November, the English Department took those studying 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' to the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton. The adaptation of Stevenson's dark psychological fantasy was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with some students claiming it was better than the book. The introduction of a female into the traditionally male world of Cavendish Square was certainly thought-provoking and provided a less disturbing

motivation for Jekyll's transformation. Having witnessed Hyde's brutality through superb slow motion stage combat, we were a little concerned that history would repeat itself with the birth of his child- a modern interpretation perhaps of Stevenson's original message that whilst we hide our inner demons, they threaten to be born at any moment.

Back in October, Year 12 Politics and History students had the opportunity of visiting Westminster in order to assist the respective A-Level courses, and to give students a wider understanding of the significance of Parliament and the surrounding areas both historically and in the modern day. The visit was a wonderful experience which provided students, including myself, with a personal insight into the politics in the UK, and Parliament's historic wider role in governing society.

Departing from WGHS at 7:30am, we arrived in London at around midday, and were treated to an impromptu coach tour of Central London before arriving at Westminster, seeing sights such as Oxford Street, Marble Arch and Buckingham Palace. As we arrived at Westminster the party were split into two. One group toured the Supreme Court first, while the other went on a walking tour of Whitehall led by Ms Platt.

The Supreme Court was a very interesting experience. The building was grand and old, however some of the court rooms where the cases took place were very modern. Despite their modernity, the courtrooms themselves had an air of authority about them. It was hard to believe the Supreme Court had only been established in 2009, after the Brown Government separated the institution from the House of Lords. While in the court, we had the opportunity of exploring the courtrooms and even sitting in the Justice's chairs, apart from the Chief Justice's chair, which we were told by a security guard, was not permitted.

After visiting the Supreme Court, it was time for the tour of Whitehall. This was also very fun. We walked through Parliament Square, where we saw a protest protesting the treatment of a Kurdish Prisoner in Turkey. Then we walked down Whitehall, passing the grand exteriors of the Foreign Office, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence and Horse Guards. While walking, we came to the end of Downing Street and managed to peer through the gates. We didn't see Theresa May, as she was in Brussels at the time debating Brexit negotiations with the EU. When heading back towards Parliament Square, we passed Banqueting House where Charles I was executed, which was very interesting to see.

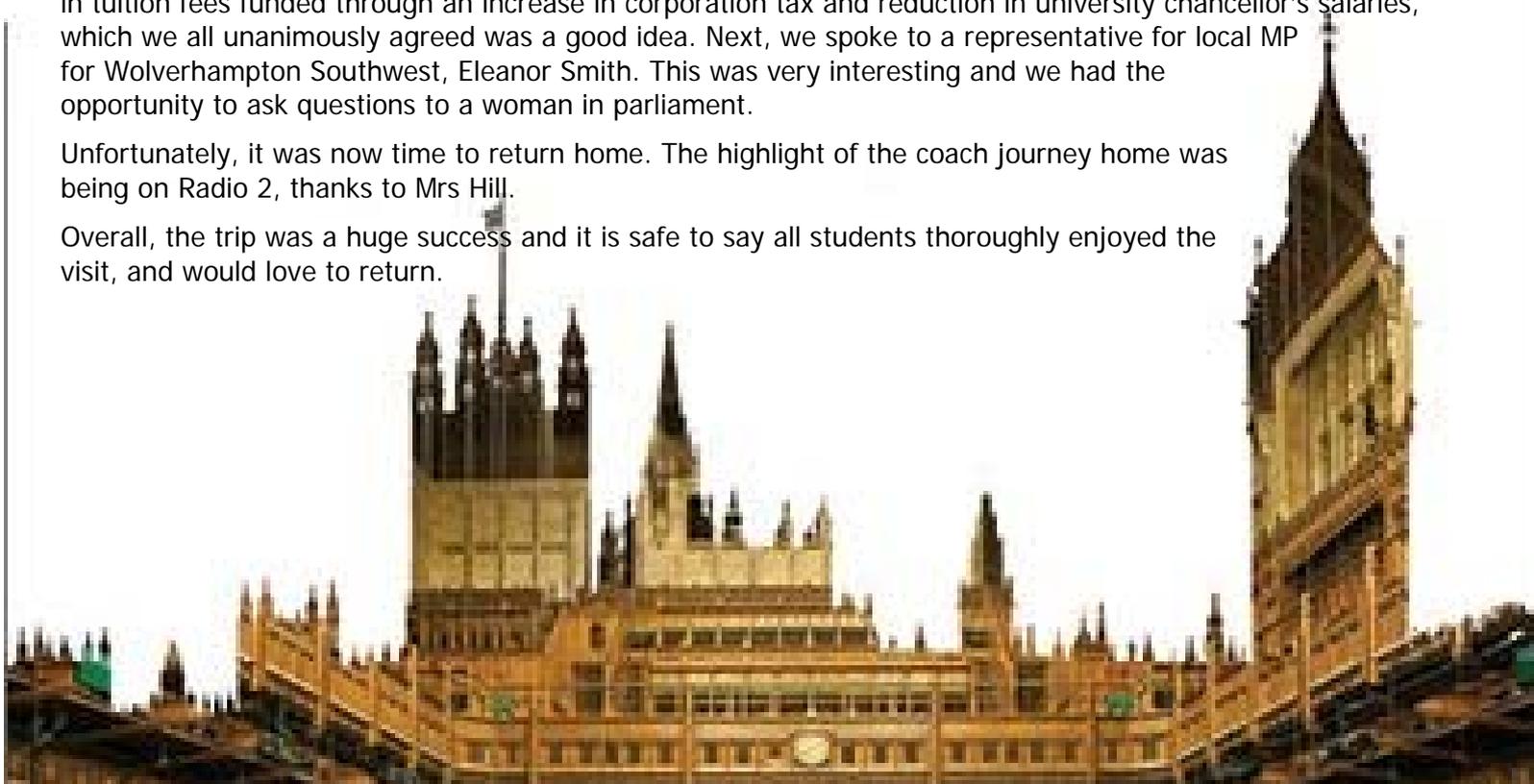
At this point, it was time to embark on a tour of the Houses of Parliament, which was by far, the highlight of the day. After going through security we were toured through magnificent halls and up grand staircases, the Palace was absolutely beautiful. We entered the central lobby, before going up to the gallery in the House of Commons, where we sat in on a Private Member's Bill, in which they were debating issues surrounding the possession of WWI medals. Next we visited the House of Lords, and stood in the actual seats where the Lords sit, we stood because only the Lords can sit in the seats in the House of Lords. After that, we visited Westminster Hall which really was breathtaking, the history and grandeur of the hall really made it magnificent.

While we were inside Westminster Palace, the parliamentary bells rang, we were informed that the bells sound to call the MPs to vote, and to dismiss Parliament. Interestingly, after the parliamentary bells ring for a vote, MPs only have eight minutes to enter the voting lobbies because eight minutes is the time it takes to walk from Downing Street to the House of Commons.

After the insightful tour of Parliament, we were taken to the education centre. Here we undertook some Parliamentary activities, such as proposing and debating new laws. Our new laws included proposing a reduction in tuition fees funded through an increase in corporation tax and reduction in university chancellor's salaries, which we all unanimously agreed was a good idea. Next, we spoke to a representative for local MP for Wolverhampton Southwest, Eleanor Smith. This was very interesting and we had the opportunity to ask questions to a woman in parliament.

Unfortunately, it was now time to return home. The highlight of the coach journey home was being on Radio 2, thanks to Mrs Hill.

Overall, the trip was a huge success and it is safe to say all students thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and would love to return.



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 8 Y7 and Y8 students went to the Sir Jack Hayward Training ground just across the road from our school to take part in a football tournament hosted by the English Football League association. Altogether, there were 12 other teams from the Wolverhampton Area there so it was a chance for us to play in a competitive tournament for the first time as a team. We played in leagues against 2 other schools, playing Heath Park and Morton twice each, for 10 minute matches. After playing our four games we came second in our group and went on to play Kings and St Edmunds providing us with an overall finish of 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams. This was a great finish for us and we enjoyed the tournament very much.

Alice Reade

Congratulations to the U18 football team. Runners up in the Wolverhampton Schools' League football competition. Well done girls!!

Congratulations to the U18 football team. They have battled it out on a weekly basis at the Wolverhampton schools league against a high standard of competition. They went from strength to strength each week and played some excellent football. They came runners up overall attaining a SILVER medal to show for all their hard work and dedication.

Well done girls!! Team: Tsvetslina Ivanova, Gurshaan Sahota, Esme Gee, Olivia Morgan, Abbie Birch, Priya Daley, Maddie Smith, Lauren Davies, Nancy Beddall, Alice Bennett, Tanvi Rana & Laura Duckett.



## 'This Girl Can' Day

On November 9<sup>th</sup> Wolves Community Trust came into school to do football based sessions for a 'This Girl Can' day in association with "Premier League Kicks" and "Premier League Girls Football". The sessions took place in PE lessons and everyone was encouraged to join in and be enthusiastic. The sessions started with an introduction before moving onto soccersize. This involved multiple stations where a football was incorporated into an exercise so everyone could join in, from toe taps to headers. Once each group had done every station the girls were put into teams to play a few mini games of football. Everyone who participated enjoyed the sessions and received a certificate for taking part.



# TEACHERS AND BASKETBALL... WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

13 willing teachers and 1 sixth form student took part in a fierce competition of basketball on November 9<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Royal British Legion. The Royal British Legion is an organisation that helps members of the armed forces, veterans and their families all year round by providing support and advice. The work this organisation does is invaluable and essential, as it brings members of the armed forces together, helps families of soldiers and veterans, and offers a range of welfare services to ex-soldiers. In total, WGHS has raised over £455 in the 30 minutes of fundraising – an incredible achievement!

The two opposing teams: the reds and the blues consisted of some of WGHS's most well-loved teachers and a few anticipated new arrivals.

The RED team consisted of: Mrs Connell, Mr Jones, Mrs Young, Mrs McStay, Mr Blything, Mr Shepherd, Mrs Dhamia and Miss Truelove.

The BLUE team included: Mr Bowdler, Mr Lees, Miss Price, Miss Bannister, Mr Morris, Mrs Hill and Mrs Pataki, alongside Taran (Y12).

The fundraising event provided teachers with an exceptional chance to show off their basketball skills and competitive natures. Despite some of the teacher not having played basketball ever before, they all tried their best to provide the students that had gathered much entertainment and excitement.

Hundreds rushed in at 1:00pm and the sports hall was soon packed. With the girls sat down, music turned up and referees in position, the first 12 minute half began with a massive cheer from the students.

Mr Jones and Mr Lees competed for the toss up, and unfortunately for the BLUES Mr Jones was just too good gaining the advantage for his team. However, the BLUES turned it around and thanks to Miss Price scored the first basket with an incredible shot 5 minutes into the game. The match continued with the REDS hungry for their first sight of success.

Mrs Dhamia was a dark horse, surprising us all by being an incredible asset to the RED team and consistently attacking the BLUES successfully. Her presence and sporting ability did not go un-noticed by all the students there. Alongside her, Mr Blything came on after 6 minutes and immediately began to bias the game towards the REDS. The REDS came ever so close to the goals a number of times; however, the BLUES defence was almost unbreakable. Just moments before the end, both Miss Bannister and Mrs Connell provided their respective teams with another basket taking the score to 4-2.

At half time, with scores standing at 4-2 to the BLUES, the teachers discussed tactics and recovered from an exhausting first half before preparing themselves for the gruelling 12 minutes to come.

The second half starts quickly and favours the REDS once again thanks to Mr Jones. However, Mr Bowdler's incredibly skilled shot early on was met with an immense noise created by the students as he took the BLUES into an extended lead. The score was now 6-2. Mr Blything took it upon himself to close this gap and after some time scored a perfect basket. Scores were now 6-4 with 5 minutes to go, and the teachers were more competitive than ever. The ball was passed around in an effort to score; however, it was Miss Price who scored yet another goal helping the BLUES secure an undoubtable victory against the REDS.

The 12 minute halves were over. The game was tough and literally breath-taking; however, in the end the BLUE team powered through to be crowned the champions with the score of 8-4. A well-deserved win.

I'd like to take this opportunity to commend all the teachers on both teams for their efforts and dedication to the cause and the charity event. We have raised over £455 with the event, all thanks to the co-operation of the teachers and student volunteers. This was an immensely important chance for the staff and students at WGHS to show their support and appreciation for all servicemen and women have done for us and our country. As someone who is planning a future serving in the armed forces, this charity may come of some need to me in the future; therefore, I am glad to see some many students and teachers supporting the cause, especially as it supports the very people that have sacrificed so much for our safety and country.

Written by: Taran Khangura (Year12)

## ABRSM High Scorers' Concert- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, a number of Girls' High students along with other young musicians were invited to perform at a concert hosted by the Mayor of Wolverhampton, which was held in the Georgian Room at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. This was to celebrate recent high scores achieved in musical examinations. All of those taking part had been awarded distinctions or high merits.

Following a welcome opening from the Mayor, Councillor Elias Mattu, the evening's entertainment commenced and each performer gave a fantastic display in front of the audience to great appreciation and hearty applause.

Performers in Act 1 included a clarinet recital from Mary Rowe in Year 9, and a vocal performance from Ella Morgan in Year 10. The second half saw piano performances from Charlotte Pincher in Year 13, and Alice Bennett from Year 11 concluded the evening with a saxophone rendition.

All performers showed why they had achieved such high scores in their recent ABRSM examinations, and were presented with their certificates by the Mayor who explained what a talented group of young musicians there are in Wolverhampton, who have achieved great success through their dedication and hard work.

All contributions collected from the evening were donated to the Mayor's chosen charities.

Ella Morgan - A6



## ABRSM Examinations

These eventually took place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, having been postponed from the original date due to the illness of the examiner. Candidates had the task of gearing themselves up all over again, and should be congratulated on dealing with this situation - a lesson in resilience and determination!

At the time of writing, the results have not been received, so will be published in next term's newsletter.

**Grade 5 Theory** - well done to the following four girls. Grade 5 Theory is necessary to be able to progress to Grades 6 - 8 in the ABRSM practical examinations.

Holly Anderson (Merit), Lily Croft (Pass), Amritpal Matharu (Distinction), Poppy Whitmore (Merit).

### Trinity College of Music Examinations - Summer Session Results

Coming too late for inclusion in the Summer Newsletter, congratulations to the following girls who achieved success in Trinity College Music exams:

Grade 1 - Gazal Choudhary - Singing - Merit,

Blaize Harris - Drumkit - Distinction,

Amirah Linton - Drumkit - Distinction,

Keara Uppal - Singing - Merit,

Megan Winter - Drumkit - Pass,

Charlotte Watts - Singing - Merit

Grade 2 - Eesha Bhardwaj - Guitar - Merit,

Divine Makangou - Singing - Merit,

Davianna Prescott - Guitar - Merit,

Tamzin Young - Guitar - Merit,

Grade 3 - Latisha Cheuka - Singing - Merit,

Bieren Ghateaura - Guitar - Merit,

Grade 4 - Samiha Ahmed - Piano - Pass,

Sara Syed - Singing - Merit,

Grade 5 - Ryesha-May Lee - Singing - Grade 5,

Hanna Wood - French Horn - Pass,

Grade 7 - Amritpal Matharu - Trumpet - Merit,

Kathryn Safrany - Flute - Merit,

Grade 8 - Cydney Beech - Singing - Merit,

Angharad Daniel - Singing - Merit.

**Results from the Winter session, held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, are as follows:**

Grade 2 - Daisy Keeling - Singing - Distinction

Grade 4 - Annabel Roberts - Drumkit - Distinction

Pallavi Srikanth - Singing - Distinction

Grade 5 - Ella Newman - French Horn - Merit

Grade 6 - Ella Davies - Singing - Merit

Kate Lilley - Singing - Distinction.



## Friends of Wolverhampton Girls' High School

This is an organisation of retired staff and parents of past students who wish to maintain contact with the school. They raise money for school and have two meetings each year. Traditionally, the Music Department puts on a short concert at the Autumn Social Evening and AGM. Many thanks to this year's performers - Holly Beason (year 7), Alice Bennett (Year 11), Gabriella Bachynsky-Bilas (year 10), Kate Lilley (Year 13), Emma Parker (Year 10) and Lydia Stephenson (Year 13). The Friends very much appreciate you giving up some time on a Friday evening.

## Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra - WGHS members.

This orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings and puts on three concerts a year which are free to school students in full time education. The orchestra's next concert is on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Wolverhampton Grammar School and is an excellent opportunity to hear live classical music locally, but also a chance for music students to hear the full range of orchestral instruments played live. There are opportunities for instrumentalists to take part as well - speak to Holly (bass) and Ella (oboe) if you would like to find out what it is like, and Mrs Rayner (leader) if you think you could commit to Thursday evening rehearsals from 7.45 -9.45pm and are of a suitable standard.

## Play Day Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

An annual event run by Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra at the Music School, this is a chance to play in a large scale orchestral work for the day. No auditions - just come along and try it out. This year, the music was Mahler's Symphony no.1, and the orchestra was pleased to welcome several WGHS instrumentalists. If you would like to know more, speak to Grace or Hannah (violins), Charlotte (flute) or Mrs Rayner and Mrs Daniel (violin and cello). An enjoyable day of rehearsal was followed by an informal concert for family and friends.



## Punch and Carols

Despite the best efforts of the weather, Punch and Carols took place - even though one of the performances had to be postponed.

This year, the Upper School night came first, with contributions from Concert Band (Radetzky March), String Orchestra (Prince Caspian), Senior Choir (Mary Did you Know) and Vocal Ensemble (Joyful, Joyful). Thursday's concert included items from Rock and Pop (Imagine Dragons and Muse), Intermediate Strings (A Jolly, Merry Christmas), Beaux Electrix (Interstellar) and Wind Band, in which sharp eyed observers spotted Mrs Young playing in the clarinet section. Thank you to all those who changed their arrangements so that Thursday's event could take place - it was much appreciated.

Both nights ended with the traditional 'White Christmas', and it was lovely to welcome a number of old girls who joined our choirs singing on stage at the end!

Mrs F Daniel

## Punch and Carols Programme Design Competition

Thank you to Mrs Atwal for running this again on behalf of the Music Department.

This year's winners are as follows:

Year 7 - Shaira Bashir, Elizabeth Burnett, Hannah Munson, Holly Southall,

Year 10 - Alina Axinte, Ayshin Mohammedy - Yengejei, Elisabeth Stuart and Lauren Tolson.



## School Carol Services

Now that WGHS has expanded, this is the first year that the Carol Service, at St. Jude's Church, has been held twice, once on Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> for Years 7 - 9, and the following day for Years 10-13. Since this occasion is a chance to reflect on the meaning of Christmas, Year 7 students were asked to write prayers for the service as part of their RS work this term. Five students were chosen to read their prayers at the Monday afternoon service. At both occasions, the Christmas story was recounted through readings given by students from every year group. Traditional Carols were sung, accompanied by organ and band, and the opportunity to stop, listen and reflect amid the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations was provided by the Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Vocal Ensemble.

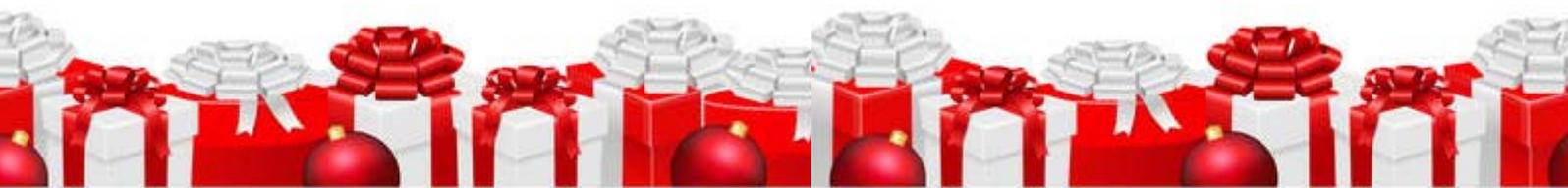
Mrs F Daniel

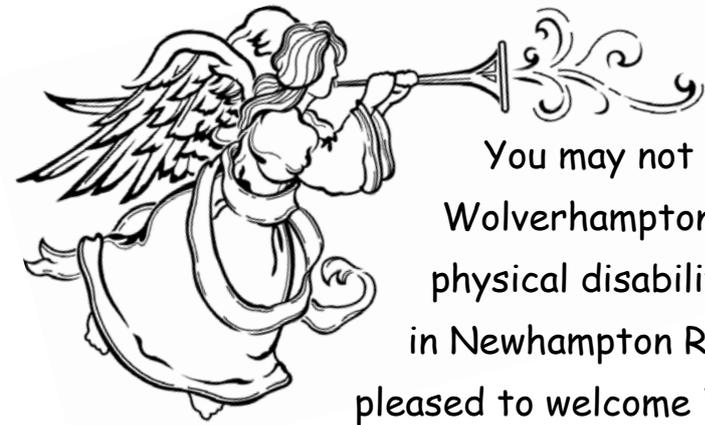
## Gifts for 'The Haven'



Mention must also be made of the school's collective act of giving for Christmas, previously as part of the Carol Service. Each form collects for Christmas gifts for the mothers and children of 'The Haven', Wolverhampton's refuge for families who have experienced domestic violence. This was organised by our school Charity Prefects, led by Alaina Bullen, and representatives of each form presented gifts in the final assembly of term. The gifts received by The Haven, which is one of the largest refuges in the country, are removed from their packaging (that's why we are always asked to put them in gift bags, not paper), and each mother chooses a gift that is suitable for each of her children. That gift is the only one which the child will receive for Christmas. A sobering thought, and one which makes the gifts an important part of our Christmas. We always receive very warm thanks from 'The Haven', in the form of a letter to the Charity Prefects in the New Year.

Mrs F Daniel





## Carol Singing at Cranmer Day Centre

You may not be aware that the only day centre in Wolverhampton for adults and young people with profound physical disabilities is run from Cranmer Methodist Church in Newhampton Road. The staff at the centre were very pleased to welcome WGHS Vocal Ensemble, whose members went to sing carols on the afternoon of Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The choir has been in previous years, and has enjoyed the visit very much. It's good to have an opportunity to give back by sharing our music with people who have few opportunities to hear live performances.

Mrs F Daniel

## Youth Orchestra and Youth Wind Orchestra

The Christmas concert for these groups took place on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> at St John's Church.

As well as items by Tchaikovsky (Waltz of the Flowers from 'The Nutcracker' and selections from 'Wicked'), there were the traditional audience carols, with mince pies in the interval also helping to make the evening a fun and festive occasion. WGHS was well represented in both groups, with Alice Bennett, Grace Cameron-Douglas, Reet Duhra, Henna Mattu, Amy Pullan, Holly Sides and Yen Tran (violins), Poppy Whitmore (viola), Angharad Daniel and Frankie Clarke (cello), Holly Anderson (double bass), Charlotte Pincher (flute), Ella Pearson and Abigail Yates (oboe) and Ella Newman (French Horn). Youth Wind Orchestra members include Alice Bennett and Abigail Yates (saxophone), Ellesha Blower (clarinet), Victoria Cowie (Baritone Saxophone) and Charlotte Pincher (flute).

Mrs F Daniel



## School Terms and Holiday Dates 2017-2018

### **Autumn Term 2017**

Students return to school Wednesday 6th September on a staggered start

Monday 4 September 2017- Friday 20 October 2017

(Half Term: Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October)

Monday 30 October 2017 – Wednesday 20 December

### **Spring Term 2018**

Tuesday 2 January 2018 – Friday 16 February 2018

(Half Term: Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February )

Monday 26 February 2018 – Thursday 29 March 2018

### **Summer Term 2018**

Monday 16 April 2018 – Friday 25 May 2018

(Half Term: Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June )

Monday 4 June 2018 – Friday 20 July 2018

### **Non-Pupil dates**

Monday 4th September

Tuesday 5th September

Monday 18th September (Entrance Test)

Tuesday 28th November

## **School Terms and Holiday Dates 2018-2019**

### **Autumn Term 2018**

Monday 3 September 2018 – Friday 26 October 2018  
(Half Term: Monday 29 October 2018 – Friday 2 November 2018)

Monday 5 November 2018 – Friday 21 December 2018

### **Spring Term 2019**

Monday 7 January 2019 – Friday 15 February 2019  
(Half Term: Monday 18 February 2019 – Friday 22 February 2019)

Monday 25 February 2019 – Friday 12 April 2019

### **Summer Term 2019**

Monday 29 April 2019 – Friday 24 May 2019  
(Half Term: Monday 27 May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019)

Monday 3 June 2019 – Friday 19 July 2019

# “ WGHS Twitter @wolvesgirlshigh “

You can follow the school twitter to get the latest news and information about what’s happening at WGHS

**WGHS**  
@wolvesgirlshigh  
Official Twitter of Wolverhampton Girls' High School  
Wolverhampton  
wghs.org.uk  
Joined January 2015  
111 Photos and videos

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

**Pinned Tweet**  
WGHS @wolvesgirlshigh · Nov 21  
Sixth Form Open Morning - Thursday 11th January from 10:15am - 12pm, For September 2018 entry. We welcome students new to the school in the sixth form.

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- Sunderland 3,092 Tweets
- High Court 11.7K Tweets

MERRY  
Christmas