

Our Ref: CE/JSm

17 November 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a number of events that are taking place at this busy time of year.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the Pub Quiz Night which was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 23 November 2011. This is due to Mr Barnett, Drama teacher being absent from school. We very much look forward to rescheduling this event in the early spring term and can only apologise to those parents who had supported the event.

Thank you very much to all parents who have supported our Christmas Shoe Box Appeal this year. The Samaritans Purse Charity are collecting all of the boxes from Wednesfield High School next week to distribute to the needy children across the world. Yet again we have beaten last year's record and can only thank parents and students for their kind donations. You will also be aware that Children in Need happens this weekend. There have been a number of fundraising activities that the sixth form students have organised throughout the week. We would also like to arrange a non-uniform day for the last day of term, which is Friday, 16 December 2011. Students may wish to use Christmas as a theme but monies raised will go to Children in Need.

*Year 11 students are now starting to plan for the next steps in their education. One of the things that we organise is a Year 11 Options Event for students to find out what the school has to offer in its sixth form. This coincides with the Year 11 Parents Evening which takes place on Thursday, 1 December 2011 from 4.00 – 7.00 pm. Year 11 students will attend a briefing session in the afternoon and then have the opportunity to talk to staff about the various courses that are on offer in the sixth form. In order for us to facilitate this event, **students in Years 7 – 10 will finish school at the end of Period 4 which is 1.15 pm.** This ensures students and staff have the opportunity to discuss the appropriate pathway for each child at the end of Year 11. If this arrangement causes any difficulty for parents regarding child care arrangements please contact me at the school where alternative arrangements can be made.*

Can I please remind you that our next full staff training day takes place next Friday, 25 November 2011. Our annual Celebration Evening takes place on Thursday, 8 December 2011 where we celebrate the success of our past Year 11 and Year 13 students. If you have been invited to this event I look forward to seeing you. Our latest newsletter will be sent home shortly with students and I hope you take the opportunity to share some of the many exciting things that are happening at Wednesfield High School.

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I would like to draw your attention to a number of incidents that have happened to Wolverhampton children in the past few weeks regarding Facebook. I am aware of two very serious grooming incidents involving both boys and girls which have resulted in prosecution. Both these incidents relate to serious sexual assault in another city but have links to Wolverhampton children. At school we are working really hard to educate students about the dangers of cyber bullying and inappropriate contacts with strangers. I would appreciate parents supporting school by reinforcing the messages surrounding student safety on the internet. It scares me to realise just how many young people divulge personal details to complete strangers via Facebook and other social network sites. We are very clear with students that they should not give their address, date of birth, school or telephone numbers to people on these sites, unfortunately this is still happening. We have very close working relationships with the Police regarding the safety of our students and I hope you are aware that I am equally concerned about student safety outside of school as I am when they are here. We will be providing some further guidance for parents regarding support in these situations. If any parent is concerned about the internet safety of their child please do not hesitate to contact me in school. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing co-operation in these matters.

Yours sincerely

*Miss C E Evans
Headteacher*