



Wargrave Life

Introduction & Welcome

Dear Parents, Families and Friends

As usual, our last term has been busy and eventful and I do hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Transition department held a successful Industry Week in November, in support of the Key Stage 4 (14-16 year olds) Work-Related Learning curriculum. Students took part in a range of experiences including Bisque-it pottery painting workshops at Earlestown, cinema and other leisure visits encompassing the tourism and Leisure industry.



Derek Paravacini was special guest at our Christmas Carol Service.

Derek's talented performance accompanying our choir and carols was made all the more exceptional because of his



disabilities. Derek is blind and has autism. He can accompany a musical piece on piano after hearing it just once. He was

thrilled to come along to our Service with his carer, Dr Adam Ockleford and John Biddulph of the Music4Autism team. A big thank you to all those who supported this event—it was a truly special occasion.

I am sure you are all aware of the deeply saddening death of Shirley Whalley in December. Shirley was a dear and trusted colleague and friend and will be greatly missed. As Business Manager, her hard work and commitment to the school, accompanied with financial and business finesse has set Wargrave House on a solid footing for the New Year. Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy go to her husband, Steve, and young son, Paul.

The Residential Department was inspected by Ofsted in December. The whole team are to be congratulated on their outstanding achievement, with the highest award across the board and no recommendations—well done to all. The report will be published shortly on the Ofsted website. In December, we sent our best wishes to Jacqui Wennington, LG4 class teacher, who started a new job as Assistant Head Teacher at Fox Wood School in Warrington, and in January, we welcomed new teacher, Stephen Hogarth, who replaced Jacqui in LG4. We look forward to working with him. We also



welcomed a new student, Nicholas Leyland into LG4.

Fundraising has been high on our school agenda of late. Donations so far have reached over £14,000! This means that we have been able to go ahead with our Upper School playground/leisure project which is due to begin around Easter when the weather hopefully improves. A big thank you to parents, grandparents, friends and local groups who have helped us reach our target.

2008 promises to be a very exciting New Year, with many events to look forward to. The eagle eyed among you may have already spotted our new logo above which is fresher, more modern version of our current logo. We are currently working in partnership with a local business, who are giving their time and resources at no cost to the school, to re-design our website. This should be on line towards the end of May, and we will keep you posted on progress. A particular focus for 2008 is on extending our provision and I would be very interested in your views on what you would like us to provide, in support of your children and young people and your families. After School club has proved very popular throughout the last academic year and as a result we are looking to extend this service. A flyer will be sent home in the next half term seeking your input to enable us to plan for future provision.

Sheila Jaeger, Director of Services

Wargrave House School

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Dates for your diary

☺ Transition Dept to Walker Art Gallery

Wednesday 20 February

☺ History Week

Monday 3 March

☺ T3 Science & Industry Museum, Manchester

Monday 3 March

☺ T2 Lancashire Museum

Tuesday 4 March

☺ LG3 Space Centre

Friday 7 March

☺ FE3 Formby Point

Monday 10 March

☺ Lower School Street Party

Monday 10 March

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Person-Centered Planning

The Government 'Valuing People' white paper is based on people having:

- ☉ Their rights as citizens
- ☉ Inclusion in local communities
- ☉ Choice in daily life
- ☉ Real changes to be independent

It was written with help from people with learning disabilities, family carers, and people who work in services or other organisations for people with learning disabilities. Central to this plan, is the idea of 'person-centered planning'. Person-centered planning is a process of life planning for individuals, based around the principles of inclusion and the social model of disability. It comes mainly out of early work in building 'circles of support' for children and young people with disabilities. Person centered

planning tools are alive and active, always ensuring the focus person is central and in control. They are flexible, setting no limits to the person's wants, needs and dreams for their life.

In person centered planning the process, as well as the product, is owned and controlled by the person (and sometimes their closest family and friends). As there are no prescribed forms, tick boxes or checklists, the resulting plan of support is totally individual. It creates a comprehensive portrait of who the person is and what they want to do with their life and brings together all of the people who are important to the person including family, friends, neighbours, support workers and other professionals involved in their lives.

At Wargrave House we are conscious of the difficulties many

parents and young people face in planning for the future, at 14+ and transition to adult services, and for us, the importance of a clear and person-centered plan tailored to individual needs is essential. Since September, we have been working to improve our leavers' transition document to ensure relevant placement is secured for our young people, with input from agencies like Connexions, Social Services and Health. Next term, I would like to involve you, as parents and carers, in designing a booklet to support your child and represent their own views and aspirations. If you are interested please contact me either via your child's home school book, email or telephone. I would like to organise a coffee morning to explore and develop some planning materials.

Sheila Jaeger
Director of Services

FoneAid



We have had a great response to our appeal for old mobile phones which are no longer used or even broken. For each phone we recycle with 'FoneAid', we receive a minimum of £3—no matter what age or condition. If we manage to collect 100 phones, we will receive an additional £100 in vouchers. We are part way towards achieving this target so please ask friends, family and work colleagues for any mobile phones they no longer use—we can recycle them for cash.

www.foneaid.org.uk

Charity Support

Whilst we all work hard at raising funds for our projects in school, we continue to support other charities through a variety of activities—Christmas was no exception.

This year the staff made a donation to Sarah Lodge, a supported housing scheme in Bolton which provides a place of safety for homeless women and their children. A total of over £182 was raised via the staff's Christmas party raffle and staff making a donation in place of spending money on individual Christmas Cards for each other. Our thanks go to Mel Smith (TSA in Lakeside) who did a great job of organising this. We hope the money will go some way towards ensuring the good work at Sarah Lodge continues.

Gennie Hyde,
Acting Head of Education

Baby Boom

Our best wishes go to Karen Counce and Nicola Breslin, two of our TSAs who leave use this Friday to start their maternity leave. The new arrivals are due in March—Good Luck to them both



News from Steve

Recently I was reading the Winter copy of the Trafford areas Link Newsletter and came across an article that may be of interest to some of you, especially if you want to have a say in future provision for autism.

The government is to fund a new initiative called the Autism Education Trust and is to hopefully improve education for students with autism. This trust was launched last month and is funded by what was formerly called the Department for

Education and Skills (DfES) and co-ordinated by the National Autistic Society.

The aim of the Trust is to bring people together and look how future services can be developed.

More information is available by emailing:

autismeducationtrust@nas.org.uk

From time to time parents contact me when one of our students has lost a relative, particularly a grandparent who has played a

significant role in the young person life. The NAS has recommended a useful book for such circumstances, titled:

'When Someone Dies'

by Michelle Mansfield, Peter Auckland and Anita Evans.

Speaking Up £4.99.



Steve Bentley,
Family Support
Worker

Playground Project

I am delighted to inform you that we have placed our order for the re-development of the senior playground. Work is due to start during the Easter holidays and (fingers crossed!) should be finished in time for the pupils return to school.



Again, many of our friends, families and staff of Wargrave House School have been busy raising funds to enable us to go ahead with our project. These include:

☺ **Mrs Burton** who has two sons at Wargrave House finally braved the difficult task of completing her sponsored walk across the Humber Bridge in October. This has raised a total of £508. Many thanks to all of you who supported this event.

☺ **Through Anne Marshall** (Senior TSA in LG4) David Smith of David Smith Independent Travel visited school in January to present a cheque for £1,200. These funds had been raised at the travel company and David was keen to support our work at school.

☺ **Mr & Mrs Whitelaw** (who have a grandson at Wargrave House) raised £100 by running a library at their weekly dance class.

☺ **Terry Birkenhead** and the members of the Newton-le-Willows United Reformed Church raised £85 through the Christmas Card project—giving one single card to their congregation with a donation rather than individual cards to each person.

☺ **Mrs Owen** (who's grandson attends Wargrave House) donated a total of £75 which was raised by friends and the mums and toddlers group at her church—Christchurch United Reformed in Haydock.

☺ **Ann Handslip** who is a TSA at Lakeside raised £100 with her friends and congregation from the Church of the Good Shepherd, West Derby, Liverpool.

☺ **Karen Maloney** of Renaissance Skincare and Beauty, St Helens donated £50 in memory of Shirley Whalley.

Whilst this level of support is fantastic, and the order for equipment has been placed, we hope to further our fundraising efforts to support additional developments—phase 2 of the senior playground project—watch this space for further details.

Gennie Hyde,
Acting Head of Education

Please note

The date of the
Secondary Dept
production is now
Thursday 19 June

NOT

Thursday 25 June as
stated on the Year
Planner.

We Look forward to
seeing you there!

Attendance

Monitoring attendance continues to be a key part of the school objectives as we work towards our target of sustaining whole school attendance at 96% for the 2007–08 year. As you can see from the figures in the table, we are well on our way to achieving this as we review percentage attendance for the autumn term:

By class these are:

LG2 96%	LG3 91%
LG4 99%	T1 96%
T2 99%	T3 98%
FE1 98%	FE2 98%
FE3 97%	

Congratulations to LG4 and T2 who are currently in the lead for highest attendance!

Whole school attendance for the term is 97% so we are on our way to success!

Please may I take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

Authorised or Unauthorised Absences?

Authorised absence is absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absences for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (e.g. illness, days of religious observance). If your son/daughter is unable to attend school, please inform us at the earliest convenience, by telephone. Confirmation of this in writing through the home school book upon their return to school will

ensure no unauthorised absence is recorded.

Family Holidays It is recommended that holidays should be taken out of term time however, under education law, parents may request absence for pupils from school due to a family holiday. School may authorise absence for this purpose for up to 10 school days in any school year. Please contact me at school should you wish to request such absence. A form has been introduced to manage this process and will be forwarded upon request.

If you have any questions or queries regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Gennie Hyde

Acting Head of Education

Soccer Stars Shine in City Tournament

On Friday 31st of January two teams of footballers representing Wargrave House School took part in the annual Merseyside soccer championships at Liverpool's Greenbank Sports Academy.



Raring to go!

Teams from all over the region were present at the prestigious tournament which would eventually see one team crowned Merseyside Champions.

Wargrave House knew they were up against it in a very tight competition,



Excellent technique

and though they had many talented players in their teams they were unable to triumph against a very well organised side in Palmerston school in Liverpool.

As always however the students representing Wargrave House were a credit to the school and made a good impression on others with their sportsmanship and fairness.

A good day was had by all and many thanks must go to the staff who were

able to make this trip and event possible.



Team Spirit

