



# Wargrave Life

## Introduction & Welcome

Dear parents, families and friends,

I hope you all had a peaceful, pleasant summer. Here at Wargrave we have had another busy start to the new school year. There have been a number of changes, not least that the Transition Department has grown to three classes. We welcomed six new staff members who have joined our residential team, please read inside for a more detailed introduction. Two new



Governors have now been elected—Mr William Duncan whose daughter attends school is now a Parent Governor (above) and Cheryl Hilton, TSA in



our FE Department is now a Staff Governor.

During the summer holidays things are never quiet here at school. Our Facilities Manager, Dave Banks takes the opportunity to carry out all the necessary work required to keep our school in tip top condition and this summer has been no different. There has been an almost endless list of tradesmen including



plumbers, joiners and decorators



who have worked throughout the school and Lakeside and the final results are fantastic. Two lower school classes, LG2 & LG3 now have an entrance straight into the play area with the installation of patio doors and all the classes have a new carpeted area. Every classroom has new worktops, cupboards and sink units fitted in the

kitchen areas helping to provide a pleasant environment which in turn encourages our students to develop their self help and independence skills. The girls' residential bathroom has had a complete overhaul and looks great. The dining room has been redecorated including new lights and curtains and finally Lakeside's main areas were all re-decorated. All in all the school was in pristine condition when the children arrived back in September—well done to Dave and his team.

On another good note Friday 5 October saw students and staff throughout school help raise nearly £100 in aid of 'Jeans for Genes'.

An event like this helps us to help our students understand the difficulties faced by other children and also is an effective way of encouraging them to accept change by not wearing their uniform for the day. Well done and thank you to all those who supported the cause

Sheila Jaeger.



## Wargrave House School

Issue 10—19 October 2007

### Dates for your diary

☺ Industry Week Beginning

**Monday 12 November**

☺ Workshadowing Programme

**Tuesday 13 November**

☺ LG3 to Space Centre

**Friday 16 November**

☺ Anti Bullying Week

**Monday 19 November**

☺ Enterprise Day

**Thursday 13 December**

☺ School Closes

**Friday 21 December**

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## News from Steve

As usual I have been reading through the information I receive through the post and have mentioned a couple of articles below that may be of interest.

The National Autistic Society is planning a book for the siblings of teenagers on the Spectrum. They want to hear from brothers and sisters, of their experiences both positive and negative, of having a sibling with Autism or Aspergers Syndrome. Thoughts (not more than 250 words) can be sent by post to:

**The NAS**  
**393 City Road**  
**London**  
**EC1V 1NG**

Or by email to:

[publications@nas.org.uk](mailto:publications@nas.org.uk)

Entries will receive a free book if they are lucky enough to be

included in the publication!

There are two websites for the parents and their youngsters in the transition and post 16 areas of school.

One provides information on colleges, residential provision, supported living and employment service:

[www.autismdirectory.org.uk](http://www.autismdirectory.org.uk)

Transitional information can be found at:

[www.after16.org.uk](http://www.after16.org.uk)

**Don't forget you can contact me at any time.**

Regards,  
Steve



## FoneAid

Did you know there are 100 million old and unused mobile phones lying around homes in the UK?

As a school we have registered with FoneAid, [www.foneaid.org.uk](http://www.foneaid.org.uk)—leaders in the collection, recycling and re-use of mobile phones and their components. Not only will this ensure we are playing our part in reducing the environmental impact of the disposal of old phone but as a registered organisation with the scheme, we will receive £3 for every mobile phone collected of any age and condition! For every 100 mobiles we will receive an additional £100 of vouchers! If you, family or friends have any old mobile phones that you don't use any more, please send them in to me at school and we can add this to our fundraising efforts.

Once again, many thanks for your support.  
Gennie Hyde, Deputy Principal



## New Staff Appointments

In September six new residential care workers joined our team along with Natalie Harrison who joined us in June. Welcome to you all. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every

success as they start what will hopefully be a long and rewarding career with us at Wargrave House.



Natalie Harrison



Katie Knowles



Alexis Nuttie



Bethan Shaw



Niki Gelling



Susan Booth



Linda Van Den Hoek

## Results

We are proud that we can ensure all of our students have access to appropriate externally accredited courses at Key Stage 4 (Transition) and Post 16 (Lakeside). This year we have had successes at Pre-Entry Level (Transition Challenge), Entry Level, GCSE, Life Skills as well as vocational studies such as CLAIT (Computer Literacy and Information Technology) and covering a range of subjects. This year's results will be published in our prospectus. The school operates an Examinations Policy, available on request to parents, together with a policy for appeals. If you have any queries or questions regarding your child's studies please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher.

Sheila Jaeger  
Deputy Principal  
Curriculum



## Fundraising, Gennie Hyde

As you are aware, we are in the process of raising much needed funds towards the re-development of our senior playground. Despite the £20,000 already secured, we need to double this if we are to provide our students with a fun, stimulating environment for outdoor leisure time. It will also provide an excellent facility for use during PE lessons.

Further to our pleas for help, I am delighted to inform you of events and activities which have been organised in support of this. Mrs Bostock, whose daughter is in the transition department, raised £50 at a recent car boot sale.

Mandy Topping (teaching support assistant at Lakeside) organised a 'Northern Soul Night' in Ashton-in-Makerfield in September. Many of the staff at school attended this evening and along with the raffle on the night, managed to raise £376.

Mrs Burton who has two sons at WHS is bravely undertaking a sponsored walk across the Humber Bridge in Tyne & Wear. This is due to take place in the half-term holiday and I will keep you informed of her success. Many thanks to those parents who have already pledged their sponsorship for Mrs Burton's walk. In addition to this, Mr & Mrs Burton have also donated £103 which was collected in place of

flowers at a recent family funeral. Our thoughts and thanks go to them.

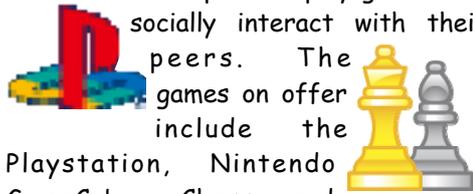


Nicola Stagg and Joanne Harrison (TSAs) have volunteered to organise this year's Christmas social event for the staff. Instead of the usual meal at a local hotel, they are putting their efforts into an evening of entertainment at St David's Club which will also generate money for the playground project. I will be able to give you an update on funds raised in the New Year. Once again, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in this. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you have any further fundraising ideas.

## Extra Curricular Activities, Jacqui Wennington

We currently offer a wide selection of extra curricular activities throughout the school. All clubs are offered on a weekly basis to all pupils wishing to attend.

**Games Club** run by Mrs Hitchen and Joan - Pupils can play games and socially interact with their peers. The games on offer include the Playstation, Nintendo GameCube, Chess and games on the PC.



**Conservation Club** run by Danielle and Nic - The pupils are currently working on producing a Conservation Club newsletter. In November there is National Tree Week and the club will be purchasing trees to raffle to raise funds for the club. They will also be planting trees in the school grounds.



**Sports Club** run by Mr Thompson, Sarah and Sue - Pupils can try out a selection of different sports activities.



**School Choir** run by Mrs Bennison, Sarah and Sue - The choir are currently learning two part songs in preparation for the Christmas Carol concert.

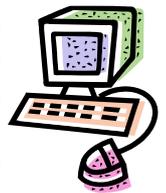


**Film Club** run by Mrs Bailey and Nikki - Pupils negotiate which film they would like to watch and then view it over a number of weeks. At the end of the film pupils are given the opportunity to discuss the film.

**Art Club** run by Mrs Smith and Anne - Pupils are given the opportunity to use a variety of different medium to create pictures, portraits and 3D models.



**Computer Club** run by Mr Baker - Due to its popularity this club is run on a rolling programme pupils use the ICT suite to complete projects of their own choice.



**CAD/CAM Club** run by Mr Baker - Pupils use the computer to design an artefact and then visit a local high school to produce their design.

**Voice Recognition Club** run by Mr Baker - Pupils use the computer to speak into and the programme types out what has been said.



# It's Fun

## Parents Evening, by Gennie Hyde

It was once again a pleasure to welcome you all to our parents evening on Wednesday October 10. Despite the fact that we are only just over a month into the new school year, there was already plenty of pupils work on display. The Lakeside students did us proud once again with a beautiful display of their goods from the horticulture



project. Verbal feedback throughout the evening was very positive and this has been further reflected through much valued written evaluations. Comments included:

**'Brilliant!'**

**'Thanks for all your hard work'**

**'We would welcome information on the extra curricular activities on offer'.**

An extensive programme of lunchtime clubs has been established in both the lower school and transition departments. I hope the

article about this in the newsletter gives an idea of the activities on offer.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me at school with any questions or suggestions. Many thanks again to you all for your support. I look forward to seeing you later in the year for our second parents evening, if not before.



## Web Autism

Web Autism, University of Birmingham's Certificate course is currently accepting applications for places starting January 2008. This modular distance education course is unique in that it accepts adult students from a range of backgrounds including professionals working in the field of ASD, parents of children and adults with autism and individuals with ASD themselves.



Once enrolled, students receive supporting materials (course reader, CDROM, essential reading list) and access the online learning environment via their own home computer, contributing to online discussion and networking with other students. The course requires students to submit three portfolios over the year. From January 08 two staff members will be accessing the course as part of their continuing professional development. I have been a tutor on the course for five years and can be contacted for further information. Details can also be found on the University's website <http://www.webautism.bham.ac.uk/>

Sheila Jaeger.

## Sharing Good Practice

Our 'outstanding' school continues to attract a great deal of interest from a variety of students and professionals wanting to develop their knowledge and understanding of the strategies which ensure success for our pupils. Student/volunteer placements are planned or are already underway throughout the school. These include:

**Naomi Webb**, a GCSE student, who is currently undertaking a 2 week work experience placement with LG3.

**Lisa Brown**, who is studying for a NCFE classroom assistant qualification, will be supporting LG4 staff and students on Monday mornings after half term.

**Rebecca Cleary**, a psychology undergraduate at Manchester University has volunteered her services, taking a weekly placement in LG3.

In addition to this we have recently run the first of our new Workshadowing Programmes. On Tuesday 9 October teaching and support colleagues from a variety of mainstream schools in the North West attended school where information was shared through a

combination of presentations and classroom based observation. The training was very well received and feedback reflected a recognition of the value of such a service and the excellent practice which continues at Wargrave House.

**"Very calm atmosphere, positive attitude. A very hands on lesson. I like the way the teaching support assistant modelled what the student had to do"**

TA, Wargrave CP School

**"This was an invaluable experience... would have loved to have stayed for the day!"**

Teacher, Dallam CP School, Warrington

Our commitment to student placements and training recognises the important role we have to play in sharing good practice in ASD and investing in the future support of our young people.

Gennie Hyde  
Deputy Principal,  
Pupil & Family Support

# Caroline Bulmer, Sensory & Well-being Co-ordinator

## Well Being Day

On Tuesday September 4, the focus of the second staff inset day was 'Health and Well-being.' The aim of the day was to raise awareness of different relaxation methods and to encourage staff to be proactive in looking after their own health and well-being. All school staff were involved and participated in a range



of activities including African drumming, Yoga, Aromatherapy and



Holistic Therapies, Life Coaching



and Salsa Dancing. Fresh fruits and other healthy food and drink options were on offer to keep everyone going, many thanks to Twinings who donated tea bags from their well-being range and to Tropical

Wholefoods who donated healthy Fairtrade snacks. The day culminated in an uplifting gospel singing finale leaving staff energised and ready to face the new term.



## Parent Workshop

Towards the end of the Summer term a number of parents attended a workshop run by Caroline (Sensory & Well-being Co-ordinator) and Jackie (Head of Speech and Language Therapy) which focused on understanding sensory issues in ASD.

Feedback from those who attended was very positive and was aptly summarised by one parent who wrote:

**"It was really interesting to find out the various sensory issues and how they relate to the ASD child. It gives a new outlook on why my son behaves the way he does and I now know how to help him to cope better."**

Due to popular demand this workshop will be repeated in the evening in the near future. Details will be sent out to those who have expressed an interest. Any enquiries can be made to Caroline via home school books.

## Research

**"Making sense of mental health - the emotional wellbeing of children and young people with complex needs in schools"**

In October 2007 the Sensory & Well-being Co-ordinator was very pleased to become involved as a research associate in a project commissioned by the National



Association of Independent Schools and Non-maintained Special Schools (NASS). This project which has been a collaboration with the University of Northampton has focussed on a number of NASS schools across England and Wales including Wargrave House School.

The aim of the research project was to examine issues of mental health in young people with special educational needs, including rates of incidence and levels and types of support provided in schools and from external services.

Research undertaken this year has included questionnaires being sent to all NASS schools, visits and follow-up interviews with staff in a sample of schools and supporting services and a review of relevant documents.

It is intended that this research will promote further development of support procedures and resources for schools, the need for which has been highlighted in the first stage of the research. Copies of the report can be accessed at: [www.nassschools.org.uk](http://www.nassschools.org.uk)



I look forward to seeing you soon,  
Caroline.

## The Back Page by John Thompson

With the new academic year at Wargrave House School fully underway pupils have learnt two new words that will strike fear into the heart of every couch potato - 'Bleep Test', more formally known as the 'Multi Stage Fitness Test'.

This test involves continuous running between two lines 20m apart in time to recorded beeps. For this reason the test is also often called the 'beep' or 'bleep' test. The time between recorded beeps decrease each minute (level). There are several versions of the test, but one commonly used version has an initial running velocity of 8.5 km/hr, which increases by 0.5 km/hr each minute.



There are some unconfirmed rumours that some athletes such as David Beckham (football), Lance Armstrong (cycling) and Neil Back (former England

rugby player), have completed the test, which is 21 levels on the commonly used version.

As this is a field test of endurance that is often used to test large groups, the best endurance athletes in the world would probably not have even tried the test. If they had, there would more likely be many athletes who can reach the maximum score.

Whatever the truth the beep test is not only a measure of aerobic fitness but also a measure of determination as you have got to keep going until you can go no more to get a true reflection of the individual's fitness.



Pupils at Wargrave House have been running the test over a slightly shortened course but have still been putting in a great effort when completing the activity both during lessons and during sports club where this term it has become a regular feature.

## Tesco Vouchers For School Sport

Once again Tesco are running their vouchers for school sport promotion and we would be very grateful if any vouchers could be saved and donated to the school via the front office, the collection box in the foyer or directly to any member of staff who will forward them.

Although we are a small school we have managed to obtain equipment from such schemes in the past so any donations would be very warmly received.

