This month saw 8 students (Joe Houghton, Alex Wallis, Dominic Storer, Max Derbyshire, Olly Kerr, Josh Metcalf, Freddie Tedstone and David Williams) and 5 members of staff (Mr Morris, Dr Randell, Mr Woodham, Mr Taws and Mr McKinney) complete the National 3 Peaks Challenge in aid of this year’s school charity, Wirral MIND. The climbs were successfully completed and within the agreed timeframe – what a fantastic achievement by all those who took part. Total funds raised so far at the time of going to print is £3,638.87.

On Sunday morning (19th June), the intrepid team of 8 Lower Sixth PSG members set off with 5 staff on the long route up to the Highlands. We arrived in Fort William and still felt optimistic as we ate our fish and chips in the drizzle. After a restless sleep, we woke up at 4.00a.m. to begin our ascent. Despite the forecast, the weather was clearer than expected. We hiked a steep climb up the face of Ben Nevis and after dragging ourselves up the tedious 9 corner zigzag path, we reached the summit cairn, before heading back down. We were slightly behind schedule due to traffic so had to make up time on the English peak. Despite being the shortest of the three routes, the Welsh peak proved to be the slowest and most grueling ascent. The path seemed to go on as fatigue pushed us to the limit. In the end our grit and determination to complete the challenge for the cause of the school and Wirral MIND, shone through the clouds at the top of Snowdon. Mr Hazeldine said he felt moved at seeing the spirit and determination written on our faces despite the trials of the 3 Peaks Challenge. In spite of the pain and exhaustion, we are all so glad that we took part in this challenge. Happy with our victory in completing the 24 hour challenge we would agree that we are most proud of the team work, and impact that the charity donations will have. Seeing the total raised online increase as we went up every mountain gave us the resolve to keep going. We want to thank everyone so much for all the donations and all the support that we have received. Each message of support projected us onwards and upwards. We are very proud of the tremendous effort made by everyone. Donations can be made at: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/WGSB3peaks

Freddie Tedstone 12H/RB
Headteacher’s Welcome

Dear All

The Summer Term has been full of wide ranging experiences and achievements. At the core of the summer term are the school and public examinations taken by all pupils in school and I very much hope that the results prove to be a reflection of each boy’s true ability. Times are changing in all schools with the phasing in of both new GCSEs, with a grading system from 9 to 1 and new A Levels which are moving to two year linear courses with all of the exams at the end of Year 13.

Key achievements this term have included the school gaining a national award for ‘Exceptional Student Progress’ at GCSE; the acquisition of the ‘Enterprising School of the Year’ Award for services within the Wirral Community and gaining Bronze Awards at both Foundation and Intermediate Levels in the Linguistic Olympiad. Within school we have celebrated achievements in a variety of ways. Our Annual GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition took place in June honouring work of students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13; our Music Society Summer concert was a fine celebration of musical achievement with performances from no few than eighteen ensembles; our Annual Awards Ceremony took place towards the end of term where awards were presented for both effort and progress; Duke of Edinburgh participants at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels successfully completed their overnight expeditions and we have had strong performances in Athletics despite bouts of poor weather halting play and cancelling tournaments.

During the Summer Term our new student leaders have been appointed and elected and I wish our new Head Boy Team and School House Captains every success for the next academic year. I have no doubt that all of the students concerned will prove to be superb role models and will conduct their duties with enthusiasm and rigour.

At the end of the school year we say farewell to a number of staff: Dr Bromley (Head of Chemistry) is leaving for a new post at the Alun School after 22 years of service and Mrs Rosin Wolsey (Teacher of Languages and Acting Head of Year) who is leaving after 6 years of service and relocating back to her home town in Ireland. We wish both of them every success and thank them for their outstanding service to the school. Prior to the end of term we said farewell to Mr Sheldon who has taken up a post as Head of Physics at Wirral Grammar School for Girls and Mr McEvoy who has been teaching physics in a temporary capacity this year and again we thank them for their service to the school. Our Catering Manager, Mrs Pat Huish and Mrs Brenda Price, Kitchen Assistant are retiring at the end of this term. Mrs Huish is leaving after 32 years service and Mrs Price 28 years service to the school. We thank both Mrs Huish and Mrs Price for their exceptional service to the school in ensuring that all the boys and staff were suitably provided for at break and lunchtime.

I would like to thank all parents for the excellent support that they have given the school his year and I hope that all families enjoy a relaxing summer break. Our new academic year commences on Wednesday 7th September and parents should refer to our school website for details of our phased return.

Best wishes

D R Hazeldine
Headteacher

A Final Farewell from our Head Boy

This year has been another exceptional year at Wirral Grammar.

I have been totally humbled by the efforts of the House Tutor Groups, House Captains and House Leaders to make this year’s fundraising efforts even stronger than they were last year. I cannot thank you enough for all your support and tireless contributions. It is now with both great sadness and excitement that our year as your Head Boy team is finally complete. It is with great pride that I welcome the new team, led by Haydn Ward, to begin their tenure and I have immense confidence that next year will be as successful, if not more so, than this year and I wish the new team every success and triumph with their year ahead. For seven years I have had the most magnificent time and I wish every single one of you the greatest of success for the future; from Year 7 summer exams to A2 grades. Thank you so very much, best of luck, see you soon.

Ben Mark Turner

House Captains
2016-2017

We are pleased to announce the results of the House Captain elections:

LEVER HOUSE Chris Murphy (Captain), Jack Font (Deputy); DODDS HOUSE Oubai Ahmed (Captain), Alex Wallis (Deputy); HODGSON HOUSE Harry Hunt (Captain), Ben Dobbin (Deputy); BARBER HOUSE Matthew Dalton (Captain), James Bennet (Deputy). Congratulations to all and thanks to our outgoing House Captains for their services to their Houses and the school this year: Sam Lock (LEVER), Rhys Shakeshaft (BARBER), Matthew Callanan (DODDS) and Druvi Edirisinghe (HODGSON)
Welcome from your new Head Boy Team 2016/2017

Greetings from your new Head Boy Team 2016-2017!

Firstly, I would like to thank the school for giving my team and me this opportunity to represent and lead the student body through the coming academic year. It is with great honour that I have been appointed the role as Head Boy of Wirral Grammar School for Boys and I assure you all that I will strive to my utmost to do an exemplary job. This year has been a resounding success and great credit is due to Ben Mark Turner and his team for the exemplary manner in which they have undertaken the role. They have set an excellent standard, which I aim to uphold and build upon.

It is our intention as a team to strengthen the student body, forming a sense of community between all and to represent the school to a very high standard. Our school charity this year has been Wirral Mind and our charitable fundraising has been monumental! Ben and his team have worked endlessly for this result and I look forward to working alongside you, the student body, to mirror this outcome for next year’s school charity. It is only due to the vast generosity of all students and families within the school community that this is achieved and I would like to thank you all.

The Head Boy Team for the forthcoming years consists of myself, Haydn Ward (Head Boy), Max Derbyshire, Josh Beale (Deputy Head Boys), Joe Houghton, Mathew Bowen and Freddie Tedstone (Senior Prefects). This team is a highly committed, motivated and passionate team who will, in addition, work closely with the House Captains to produce a highly memorable and rewarding year ahead.

Haydn Ward – Head Boy.

Head Boy Team:
Appointments 2016-2017

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of our Head Boy Team for 2016/2017.

The process involved staff and student polls to create the short-list, followed by a morning of interviews. The following students have been appointed:

Head Boy: Haydn Ward
Deputy Head Boys: Max Derbyshire and Joshua Beale
Senior Prefects: Matthew Bowen, Joseph Houghton and Freddie Tedstone

Congratulations to all six on their successful appointment to these leadership roles. We wish our new Head Boy Team every success for their period of office in 2016-2017.

Many thanks to our out-going Head Boy Team for their exceptional services over the last year: Ben Mark Turner (Head Boy), George Watson (Deputy Head Boy), Jamie Norris (Deputy Head Boy), Sam Fisher (Senior Prefect), Oliver Webster (Senior Prefect), John Fieldhouse (Senior Prefect) and Aaron D’Cruz (Senior Prefect).

Head Boys 1976 and 2016

Forty years separated the meeting of two Head Boys at WGSB earlier this year as Bob Davies from 1976 met current Head Boy Ben Mark Turner on a visit to the school.

Bob was making his first visit since leaving to study Engineering at Cambridge and was amazed by the changes made since the mid-Seventies. Bob brought along friend David Herbertson another old-boy from the class of ’76, who was delighted by the progress made at the school since they both left.

Mr P Ronayne

Hodgson Charity Staff Countdown Competition 2016

In April 2016, Hodgson House held a staff countdown competition for charity. Mr Thomason represented Dodds, Mrs Kahn for Hodgson, Mrs Davies represented Barber and Mr Dickinson for Lever. Each teacher was faced with a mathematical challenge in the style of the television show in front of a live student audience one lunchtime.

Mr Dickinson (Head of Music) won the tournament for Lever House. Overall the event was brilliant, filled with laughter and mathematical puzzles. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to organise the event and look forward to repeating the popular event next year. A huge thanks to all of the teachers who took part in the event and a special thanks to Mr Adamson who played the role of Carol Vorderman.

Matt Farrell 83 H/CD
As the curtain draws to a close, as Lever students put their golden tie on for the final time, they can look back at this year with a smile on their face, as it’s been a year of success for Lever house winning The Wilson Cup for top house commendations throughout the year. We have raised a total of over £1600 this year so well done to everyone involved with Lever charity events. I would like to personally thank both staff and students in Lever for their consistent efforts. This has really been the secret formula for Lever’s success this year. It has felt like a real team effort and I would just like to highlight certain forms who have stood out for me this year. Firstly, Miss McKenna’s House Group have raised the most money for charity - thank you and well done to the whole form. Thanks also to Mrs O’Gorman’s form who highlighted the importance of teamwork and endeavour in their Christmas tombola which managed to raise £95, so well done to all members of that form. Thank you to all individuals who helped to run the Fifa Competition which raised a total of £270 and was a fan favourite throughout. Well done to the winner, Oliver Griffiths and everyone who took part and thanks also to William Edmund Hardy, Jack Font, Owen Bristley, and Daniel Bristow for helping run the event. I would also like to thank the other House Captains, Rhys, Matt, Druvi and House Co-ordinator Mrs Davies who have made this year enjoyable and as stress free as possible. Good luck to the future House Captain of Lever and all Lever students ahead of the summer exam season. You have all been a pleasure to work with and have made my role a privilege. I have loved being a part of this great House and will miss it sincerely. No matter how far away, whether you are down the hallway, or halfway across the world Lever students will always be like a family to me. I would like to end on a poem that best describes Lever students.

You might belong in Lever, Where dwell the brave at heart. Their daring, nerve and chivalry Sets Lever students apart. In Lever I believe.

As the year is coming to a close and next year’s House Captains are shortly to take over, but the work is not over yet. I’ve enjoyed leading Barber in 2015/16. We have done so much and there’s still more to come. Arguably the highlight of the year was our joint Christmas Fair with Lever, which brought so many of us together to create an event to remember, showing what we can achieve when we work as one. This raised over £250 for our charity this year, Wirral MIND, which helps support people with mental illnesses in our local area. I hope we can finish this year with one final surge to maximise our achievements and show the true power of Barber. This summer’s sponsored walk is a great opportunity in which to do this, so be sure to get your sponsors in early. Sports Day will be upon us in the summer, which will give us the chance to showcase our talent yet again. We always perform well in all events and hopefully we can take the top spot this year as we’ve not managed this feat for a short while. We are also entering exam season and so I would like to wish everybody who will be taking exams this year the best of luck! The imminence of exams means that house activity is likely to fade away for a month or so, but I’m sure next year’s House Captain will ensure that the summer sees us finish the year with a bang. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who’s helped out this year, whether by attending House Council or by running events, as your work has helped make this year such an experience. Without such help, we really wouldn’t have been able to do much at all. Thank you.

This year has been very memorable for me. Being a House Captain has taught me many things about Dodds as a House and the commitment and hard work that goes on behind closed doors. There have been many successful events throughout the year such as the Halloween fair, the One Pound Challenge, and The Easter Extravaganza. The success of these events was solely down to the hard work of the Dodds’ forms that helped run them and take part in them. Dodds House has always been known for its great attitude towards raising money for charity and this year has been no different with 6 forms raising over £100 and 3 of these forms raising over £200. The competition between forms to see who can raise the most money has been tremendous with events such as “Paper Toss”, “Fantasy Football” and “Cake Tuesdays”. It is this ‘healthy’ rivalry and competition between forms that makes Dodds such a success and this year’s House winners for fundraising. Thanks to everyone in Dodds, both staff and students alike. As the year comes to a close, I’d like to thank Mr Harrison, all the form tutors and all of the pupils for the support they have given me and all the hard work they’ve put in. I have truly enjoyed my time as House Captain! Best wishes to Matthew Dalton, the new House Captain for next year and I hope you’ll enjoy your role as much as I have.
Welcome to Your New House Captains

Lever House

Christopher Murphy – Lever House Captain

I shall be doing my best to honour your belief in me. Lever has been very successful over the last few years and I do not intend for that to change on my watch. In fact I want to build upon the success that Lever has enjoyed over the past few years, implementing fresh ideas for charity fundraising and resolving any issues which face Lever House next year!

Jack Font – Lever Deputy Captain

As the first ever Deputy House Captain for Lever, I just want to thank everybody who voted in the election. We should be especially proud as a House as we had the highest overall turnout on the day, with 89% of the House voting. I know Chris and I will make a great House Captain Team as we embark on our journey to build on the success which Sam brought to Lever this year. Ultimately, though it is a team effort and therefore I would like to ask all members of Lever House, both staff and students to endeavour to get involved in more charity, sports and team events than ever before. Hopefully 2016-17 will be another very successful year for Lever!

Barber House

Matthew Dalton – Barber House Captain

I don’t think I can express my appreciation for being selected for the role of Barber House Captain enough. I am eager to embrace the challenges we face next year but, more importantly to take the opportunities to create memorable moments for pupils and staff, whether it be charity events or sporting competitions. I’m confident and proud that our achievements will not be limited to our house or even our school. Through our charity work we can really make a difference. I want to use the competitive nature of the house system to fuel our enthusiasm and get Barber on top. I also look forward to us working with the other houses to build on the excellent reputation of our school. I can’t think of a better way to show my appreciation to Barber in my final year at the school and I hope to make a longstanding impact on what is already a great house.

James Bennett – Barber Deputy House Captain

It is an honour and a privilege to have been selected for this particular role. I am immensely grateful for all those who shared my vision for a better Barber – a Barber in which we can share prosperity, reward hard work, and ensure our continued success for the year to come. Through our collective effort as a house, we can achieve more than we could do alone, so as to create the means to realise Barber’s true potential over the coming year. Despite the challenges that the next year will present, I am confident that we can work together to overcome them, in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect for we have nothing to lose, and a house trophy to gain – so, students of Barber, unite!

Hodgson House

Harry Hunt – Hodgson House Captain

I would like to start by saying how thankful I am to everyone who trusted me with their vote and I promise to work to my full potential in achieving everything that I promised in my campaign. My aim as House Captain is to improve Hodgson’s performance on an individual level and encourage greater participation within the house, achieving a sense of house pride which I personally feel Hodgson has recently lost. I plan to work in co-ordination with other House Captains, and my deputy Ben Dobbins, in order to reach our greatest possible outcomes in charity, house points and participation.

Ben Dobbins – Hodgson Deputy House Captain

First of all, I would like to thank all the pupils who voted for me and it is a huge honour for me to be a part of this great house captain team. As deputy, I aim to work very closely with our Captain, Harry Hunt. I believe that Harry and I are the right people to take Hodgson to new levels and I believe that this year will be Hodgson’s year. During the year ahead we aim to improve Hodgson house as a whole but we need your help to achieve this, so I want to encourage all pupils and staff in Hodgson to take part in more charity, sport and house events. With your help, we can make Hodgson great!

Dodds House

Oubai Ahmed – Dodds House Captain

It is truly a privilege to be Dodds House Captain. I would like to thank my predecessor Mat Callanan for his efforts for Dodds last year. Whilst I would love Dodds to win the Wilson trophy next year, I first and foremost aim to be a leader that they can follow and respect. My deputy, Alex Wallis, and I hope to get you involved in the House in the hope of making next academic year a profitable and productive one. Be prepared for something that you’ve never seen before. Next year will not be the same. Our aim is to ensure that Dodds win the Wilson trophy year by year.

Alex Wallis – Dodds Deputy House Captain

It is an honour to be elected as Deputy House Captain for Dodds and I am thoroughly looking forward to being able to work with Oubai. Following the efforts of our previous House Captain will not be an easy task to achieve but I believe together we will be able to follow in his footsteps and work together in order to make Dodds into a better house, allowing us to be top of the charity and commendation table. I believe that rewards should be given to students excelling not only academically but also in extracurricular activities and I know this is a view Oubai shares. Together we will do the best we can for Dodds and hope that we can inspire greatness.
Parents’ Association 2016-2017

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday 15th September 2016 in the dining hall at 7pm.

Following the AGM, there will be a Committee Meeting at which officers will be appointed. All parents are welcome to attend. Extra support is always welcome.

Details of the 2016-2017 meetings can be found on our website.

Open Evenings

Parents of boys who will be in Year 5 at their Primary School in September are invited to attend one of our Open Evenings on Wednesday 28th September and Thursday 29th September 2016 at 6.30pm.

Our Open Morning will take place on Friday 30th September from 9.30am until 12 noon. Mr David Hazeldine, Headteacher, will talk to parents in the school hall. Talks will be repeated at intervals during the evening.

The whole school will be open for parents to view the work and activities of all Departments and parents and pupils will be able to talk to current pupils about life at Wirral Grammar School.

SSAT School Leadership Award

Our first cohort of pupils have recently received their SSAT Gold and Silver Leadership awards.

The pupils have worked on a range of skills from organisation, communication, management, delegation and self reflection across a year and received management and leadership training from a leadership consultant.

In total 10 pupils gained their award this year with an increased cohort of pupils taking part next academic year. Well done to all involved!

Mrs H Davies

Enterprising School of the Year

We are delighted that Wirral Grammar School has achieved the Wirral Globe ‘Enterprising School of the Year’ Award for 2016.

This has been sponsored by Wirral Chamber of Commerce. The Award is in recognition of innovative peer support work that saw the school’s Peer Support Group achieve the Princess Diana Award earlier in the year.

Exceptional Student Progress Award

The school were very pleased to receive the ‘Educational Outcomes Award 2015 for Exceptional Student Progress’.

The award, presented by the School, Students & Teachers Network is in recognition of the fact that our school was in the top 20% nationally for progress made by pupils between their Key Stage 2 results and their Key Stage 4 results. Headteacher, David Hazeldine said “In a Grammar School it is only right to expect that pupils achieve excellent results because of the very nature of the selective intake. What is significant about this Award is that it focuses on progress. It means that pupils gain results that are higher than would be typically expected, allowing for their academic ability. The reward reflects well on the impact of teaching, the enthusiasm of the pupils and the support that parents give at home.”

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‘Our House’

This year the Wirral Grammar School Drama Society, under the direction of Mr Geoff Hinde MBE and Musical Director, Ben Mark Turner (Head Boy) embarked upon the Madness inspired production, ‘Our House’.

The story follows Camden lad Joe Casey (played by Daniel Carter) who, on the night of his 16th birthday whilst trying to impress the girl of his dreams (played by Felicity Parry), breaks into a building development overlooking his home on Casey Street. But things take a turn for the worse when the police turn up. Joe’s life splits into two; the Good Joe who stays and gives himself up and Bad Joe who flees and leaves Sarah to run from the police. The plot reveals how Joe Casey’s life develops depending on a decision he made in his youth to lie or tell the truth.

This production incorporated suspense, drama and a repertoire of seemingly nostalgic Madness hit songs, such as ‘Our House’, ‘My Girl’ and ‘It Must Be Love’ and ‘Baggy Trousers’. Packed with comedic innuendo, this play delved into Joe’s inner struggle to choose the ‘right path’ (apparently it’s a pretty ‘simple equation’ according to the song). The show was played to packed audiences across five nights and was met by a chorus of the audience humming the songs, during and long after the show’s curtain finally fell. ‘Our House’ was a huge success.

The choreography was flawless and the big numbers produced rapturous applause. Well executed comedic timing was met with laughter and to complement all of this we gained a standing ovation on almost every night which truly cemented many months of hard work and dedication.

The truth is that no matter how good the play was, the production success was truly a reflection of the talented cast who brought enthusiasm and energy to every rehearsal. In my very biased opinion I believe that the cast should honestly look back on these performances with immense pride and of course thanks to Ben Mark Turner our musical director, Claire Cooper who shone as our choreographer and Mr Hinde, our director, for once again giving us this terrific opportunity which I personally will never forget.

David Noble 11D/KMH

‘Footloose’ 21 – 25 March 2017

When teenager Ren McCormack and his family move from big-city Chicago to a small Midwestern town, he’s in for a real case of culture shock.

Though he tries hard to fit in, the streetwise Ren can’t quite believe he’s living in a place where rock music and dancing are illegal. However, there is one small pleasure: Ariel Moore, a troubled but lovely blonde with a jealous boyfriend. And a Bible-thumping minister, who is responsible for keeping the town dance-free. Ren and his classmates want to do away with this ordinance, especially since the senior prom is around the corner, but only Ren has the courage to initiate a battle to abolish the outmoded ban and revitalize the spirit of the repressed townspeople. Fast-paced drama is filled with such now-famous hit songs as the title track and “Let’s Hear It for the Boy”.

AUDITIONS for ‘FOOTLOOSE’ will take place in September. Please collect an audition piece from the Office. Previous experience is not required!

Drama Cup 2016

The Drama Cup is awarded each year to the student who has made the most outstanding contribution to drama productions in Wirral Grammar School.

This year’s winner is Ben Mark Turner. Ben has been involved in four productions. In ‘South Pacific’ he was in the chorus. In ‘West Side Story’ he played the tragic lover, Tony, and the audience became aware of his remarkable vocal qualities. In ‘Evita’ he played the lead role of Che, the narrator. He was on stage virtually all the time and the part made enormous physical and vocal demands on him which he overcame triumphantly. It was one of the greatest dramatic performances the school has seen.

Finally, this year, he did what no other student has ever done and took on the challenge of Musical Director of the hugely successful ‘Our House’. This required Ben to train the entire cast in the music, prepare the score and to conduct the band in performance. This is a task usually taken on by staff members and it is to Ben’s enormous credit that he was totally professional. The final result was immaculate in the singing of soloists and the playing of the band.

Ben is going to pursue a career in musical theatre. It has been the privilege of those who have worked with him, and the audiences who have witnessed him, to have been there at the start of his career. We all wish him the best of luck.

Mr G R Hinde MBE
Linguistics Olympiad Success

The WGSB Linguistics Society, which has been training for the UK Linguistics Olympiad since September, is proud to announce the acquisition of a collection of Bronze awards at both Foundation and Intermediate level.

Congratulations to the members of the Linguistics Society who achieved Bronze award at Intermediate: Naseem Veevers, Matthew Kowalski, Connor Johnson, Daniel Carter, Jacob Bradshaw, Freddie Tedstone and Owen Salem.

Every Thursday, pupils of all year groups and abilities are welcome to come along to EN5 to have a go at deciphering a range of intriguing codes and puzzles at many different levels. To be a Language Detective you don’t need to speak any foreign language (except English!), but you may find yourself accidentally picking up a bit of Japanese or Armenian on the way! If you want to find out more (or just find out the answer to the puzzle below), come along and have a go.

Opposite are three phrases from the Tajik language (from Tajikistan, Central Asia) with their English translations. You don’t need to know this alphabet to to solve this puzzle – just use your common sense! One thing you will quickly realize is that words in Tajik are not arranged in the same order as they are in English.

Your task is to give the English translations of all four Tajik words. The possibilities are simply “good,” “friend,” “neighbour,” and “your.”

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Freddie Tedstone 12H/RB

UK Linguistics Olympiad

Congratulations to the following pupils who have attained Bronze certificates at both Foundation and Intermediate in the 2016 UK Linguistics Olympiad:

Matthew Kowalski D/IPT,
Connor Johnston D/IPT,
Owen Salem L/LW,
Jacob Bradshaw L/BDO,
Naseem Veevers B/RR
Freddie Tedstone H/RB

Dr Warren
English Department

Gothic London

To support pupils preparing for the new GCSE Literature Curriculum, 48 year nine and ten pupils were taken to London to watch the Young Vic’s production of ‘Macbeth’.

Other activities included a visit to Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, the Dickens Museum, the Foundling Hospital, a ‘Jack the Ripper’ walking tour and an ‘all you can eat’ lunch at Pizza Hut, which certainly brought out the competitive side of some of our boys!

Mrs K Campbell, English Department
**World Book Day 2016**

Our annual celebration of this event was held on March 7th, with staff dressing up as literary characters and pupils in years seven, eight and nine being treated to a session with a published author.

We were lucky enough to have three of our favourite writers of young adult fiction in attendance; Caroline Green, Bryony Pearce and Steve Tasane, who talked to boys about their work.

Mrs K Campbell, English Department

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**Reading Matters**

Each term, the school awards raffle tickets for extra-curricular reading in years seven and eight, drawing them out of a hat in assembly to furnish six lucky pupils with a £10 Book Token.

Last terms winners were Gavin Gao, Lewis Hayes and Adam Whitehead from year seven and Oliver Howard, Joseph Pennell and Jack Fitzsimmons from year eight. The awards were presented by Mr Taws (Senior Deputy Headteacher).

Mrs K Campbell, English Department

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**Wirral Paperback of the Year Award**

This Book Award used to be run by School Library Services here on the Wirral, with most Wirral schools participating.

Since School Library Services’ closure, the award has been run by the schools themselves. 25 boys in lower school have formed a special reading group to get through as many of the 16 shortlisted titles as possible and will be invited to cast their vote in July. The scheme invites the nominated authors to meet and engage with pupils. Our boys were fortunate enough to meet them last month.

Mrs K Campbell, English Department
Sunday Afternoon at the Philharmonic

In May I spent an enjoyable Sunday afternoon at the Philharmonic Hall listening to the Crosby Symphony Orchestra performing Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, known as the ‘Resurrection’. The work was first performed in 1895 and features huge orchestral forces, soloists and a mixed choir.

At one point during the symphony an off-stage brass section plays in tandem with the main orchestra. The school was well represented amongst the performers with Mr and Mrs Thomas and Philip Powell as orchestra members and Ms Razbully, Mrs O’Brien, Mrs Craze, Mr Tattersall and Ben Turner as choristers. The symphony lasts for a monumental 90 minutes and has been enormously influential on other musicians. During the early 1960s the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic gave the first British cycle of Mahler’s symphonies and audience members included John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Mr P Ronayne

Salters’ Festival of Chemistry

Julian Nodet-Owers, Reece Kirby, Matthew Byrne and I when we were chosen to visit Liverpool John Moores University for the Salters’ Festival of Chemistry on 10th May.

Throughout the day, we participated in a variety of experiments, from ink chromatography to reactions with potassium peroxodisulfate. We solved a mystery murder, primarily using our knowledge of forensic science. Testing inks and salts (with a range of pure liquids), we were able to connect the dots and match samples to a control found at the crime scene. We were given background information on 5 suspects in code - when the double hour slot came to an end, we cast our verdict on who we thought committed the crime. The afternoon proved difficult, different and a challenge as we used time as a resource to solve an investigation. We attempted to produce a chemical reaction at 30 seconds, with the use of 2 solutions and equipment provided such as Bunsen burners, ice, and a thermometer. This experience has taught us vital skills such as teamwork, the importance of keeping a tidy bench as a scientist, and the danger of mixing certain chemicals. We made mistakes, but we learnt from them. Although we didn’t receive an award, at the end of it all we enjoyed it – and that’s all that matters!

Logan Wade 8/4 B/KC

Year 8 Geography Trip to Ingleton

At the end of March, Year 8 pupils visited White Scar Caves and the limestone areas in Ingleton, North Yorkshire.

The day consisted of trips around a forest, venturing through a cavern, and gazing at waterfalls. During the morning we visited a quarry and identified ancient base rocks, along with the nature of birds, and rare plants. The trail took us through the banks of a river, past a coin embedded tree, and observed Pecca Falls and Thornton Force, two jaw-dropping waterfalls. We spent the afternoon underground wandering through a cave that extended into a cavern which gave us the opportunity to see stalactites and stalagmites. As we entered the realms of the below-ground karst, we discovered different areas of water and were told stories about cavers that escaped massive rocks. Mannequins were carefully placed around the cavern to help us visualise what the caves used to be like. This was a very enjoyable day, and I am glad that I had the chance to go.

Logan Wade 8B/KC
Music Department Update

Wednesday 27 April saw another outstanding collection of solo performances in the summer Chamber Concert. All 26 boys performed admirably and were well received by an appreciative audience.

A particular mention should go to the 12 boys who performed for the first time – never an easy thing to do – including the following boys in year 7:

Oliver Cooper-Shone (oboe)  Callum McKenzie (flute)
Sidney Lewis (piano)          Elliot Storer (French horn)
Andrew Marriott (clarinet)   Paddy Dobins (voice)

Over a dozen boys, parents and music staff joined forces with Crosby Symphony Orchestra & Chorus on Sunday 8 May in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to perform Mahler’s gigantic 2nd Symphony. With an orchestra of over one hundred and almost 90 in the choir it was an occasion that both performers and audience will not forget again in a hurry. Next year, on Sunday 2 July 2017, William Bracken L6D/NM will be performing Rachmaninov’s epic 3rd piano concerto on the same stage with the same orchestra. Put the date in your diary - this will be the last chance to hear Will perform locally before he leaves to pursue a career as a concert pianist.

For the first time this century, the Music Department has recorded a CD! All 18 school ensembles came together for 7 hours on Wednesday 11 May to record music they had recently performed in the Spring concert, and with almost 80 minutes of music of an exceptional standard, the disc really is a bargain at just £6 - £5 if you order more than one!! Remember they make excellent birthday and Christmas presents …..

The Samba band added Flixton Girls’ School to the list of places they have played this year, as Flixton’s Annual Sports Award Evening on Tuesday 21 June had a distinctly Rio Olympics slant. The band played with its trademark accuracy and flair, whilst the brightly coloured tops and the pizza beforehand were definitely new and much appreciated.

Continuing the Department’s visits to primary schools during the summer term, we were able to visit 4 schools on Wednesday 22 June. The Junior Brass Group, String Group, Woodwind Group, Fiddle Group, Guitar Group, Yr7 Choir and Pop Choir, as well as a number of soloists performed at Pensby, Prenton, Willaston and Woodfall primary schools throughout the day, and over 70 boys in years 7-10 were involved. 71 local primary schools have now received performances in the last 16 years, and this is now one of the Department’s most important annual events.

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Finally - and as I always say - as the long summer months get under way with a vengeance, remember that 7 weeks without music lessons does not mean 7 weeks without practice!

Mr P Thomas, Music Department
History trip to Belgium and the Netherlands 2016

On Thursday 31 March, 47 boys and 5 staff set off from school on the annual History trip.

This year the destination was Belgium and the Netherlands. This is the seventeenth history trip in a row and once again was a great success. Having travelled to Dover to catch the ferry to Calais we headed for our first accommodation venue in the lovely town of Ypres. We spent two days in this historic town visiting the Flanders Fields Museum to see the effects of World War One on the town and surrounding areas. On the Friday, we visited a number of war graves and later in the day we went to the Menin Gate, where two boys, Ethan Gibbons and Alex Gurr laid a wreath on behalf of the school. This was done with pride and precision. We were all proud of them! The minute's silence carried out at 8pm on every day of the year was truly moving. On the Saturday we moved on to the Netherlands. En route we visited the Vught former Concentration Camp where Jews and others were kept. For the Jewish inmates, this was a transit camp that led ultimately to the death camps at Auschwitz and others. We then stopped off at Arnhem, the scene of a failed attack on the bridge by British soldiers in World War Two. Sunday was a break from the History visit by going to a superb theme park, Walibi Holland. The boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves here as did some of the staff. Monday was spent visiting a local Jewish synagogue with an afternoon visit to the Anne Frank House, which were both incredibly sad as well as informative. On Tuesday we began the return journey to Bebington which we made back by early evening. I would like to thank all the staff involved with this trip and especially all 47 boys for their tremendous ambassadorial role in representing themselves, the school, the staff and their parents to great credit. Next year’s trip is to Berlin for boys in Years 9 and 10 at that time and there will also be a trip in 2018 for boys currently in Years 8 and 9.

Mr McKibbin
History Department

Annual GCSE and A-level Art Exhibition

To celebrate the hard work of the art pupils in years 10, 11, 12 and 13, the Art department held its annual GCSE/A Level art exhibition private view on Wednesday 22nd June.

A wide variety of work was displayed showing the diversity of our students’ work and allowing us to celebrate the hard work by both the pupils and art department staff.
Czech Mate!

On the 22nd-29th of March I travelled with the England Chess Squad to play a tournament in the Czech Republic.

The chess tournament was held in Frýdek-Místek, a small city in the Moravian-Silesian Region. We spent the first and last days of the trip exploring the surrounding area and learning about the industry of the city, which was greatly affected by WW2 and subsequent communism. There were 58 entrants to the tournament, with Czech Republic, England, Belarus, Croatia, Denmark and Slovakia all represented. I finished 15th with 5/8 points, and was lucky enough to play 4 Czech, 2 Belarus and 2 England players. This placed me 4th out of the 15 England players who went. I also played a grandmaster in a 15-man simultaneous exhibition and won on time. Unfortunately we weren’t competitive in the team competition; Team Poland won it with good scores in the younger sections. This was my first trip with the England Squad, and I enjoyed every minute of it!

Thomas Carroll 9H/GE

Europe: ‘In’ or ‘Out’

Along with the rest of the country, WGSB held its own referendum into the ‘In’ or ‘Out’ question. The polling station opened before school and remained open at break and lunchtime. In the end the outcome proved to be a significant majority remaining in the European Union with 312 votes for ‘remain’ and 121 votes for ‘leave’. Thanks to the Politics Department for arranging this.

Question Time

Our Question Time debate took place at Wirral Grammar School for Boys on Friday 27th May and was attended by students, staff and members of the public.

As we were in the late stages of the EU Referendum campaign the whole event was turned over to the question of Europe.

Panellists included Mr John Bickley (UKIP Party Treasurer) and Caroline Stephens (Vote Leave) who campaigned to leave the EU, with Dr Stuart Wilkes-Heeg (Head of Politics at the University of Liverpool) and Mr Paul Ronayne (Community Manager at WGSB) campaigning to remain. Former Head of History & Politics at WGSB Mr Clive Cooper took on the role of Question Master, taking questions from staff, pupils and the general public. Topics ranged from the economy to immigration, security to international relations. Overall, the debate was held in a positive, measured tone and many members of the audience commented that they had learnt much about the Europe debate on the night. Special thanks to Mr Edwards and Mr Ronayne for organising the event as well as to Mr Cooper and the panelists for their insightful contributions.

Thomas McCormick Year 12 L/DW

International Visits

Congratulations and well done to the following students:

Lower Sixth student Andrew Pilkington has won one of only 5 places at a very prestigious summer school in Hong Kong this summer. The competition was run by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade office in London with the British Council. The brief was to submit a piece of work which outlined how Hong Kong could develop as a smart city, considering its existing strengths and possibility of partnership with another Smart city. Andrew’s winning entry was a blog which can be found at: andrewpilkington.wordpress.com

We are delighted to report that William Bracken of the Lower Sixth has been successful in his application for the Ettingen International Competition for Young Pianists to be held in Germany this summer. He is the only successful applicant from the UK. William has also recently appeared on television as an accompanist in the televised percussion final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in Cardiff. He is clearly a very talented young man and hopes to go to a Conservatoire after his A levels. William has an ambition to be a concert pianist.

Thomas McCormick Year 12 L/DW
Year 8 Basketball

The year 8 Basketball Team have had a really pleasing year this year.

Having won their group games in the Wirral Schools’ League, they were victorious in the final to become Wirral champions. This allowed them to qualify for the Merseyside Schools’ Competition in which they played all winners of the Merseyside boroughs. After an excellent day’s basketball, the boys were successful in winning all 6 of their games to become Merseyside champions. A fantastic year. Well done.

Mr Atkinson
PE Department

House Duathalgon

On the 1st April I organised and participated in the sponsored row and cycle for the school charity.

We managed to raise over £300 in under 8 hours. I would like to say a massive thank you to everybody who participated as we sweated our way to success and enjoyed ourselves in the process! This sponsored row and cycle was also a mini house competition to see which House had the highest levels of participants. This was comfortably won by Lever House! Thank you particularly to all the staff who donned their trainers in aid of a good cause. I will hopefully be doing another one in 2017 and would like more students to join in the fun. GOOD LUCK!

William Critchley 7L/PC

Year 7 Charity 5-A-Side

On Monday 8th March Barber House ran a Year 7 charity 5 a-side tournament

It was a tough, well contested event in which 35 pupils took part, but Team 6 eventually won: Sam Caswell (GK), Will McEvoy, Joe Cormack, Joel Tabner and Lewis Fleetwood. Our thanks go to event organisers: Ted Hopkins, Zak Kirk and Mrs Davies

Lewis Fleetwood Year 7B/KJ
Rugby Update

The second half of the Year 11 rugby season was one of success and mixed fortunes. The team played very well to reach both the Floodlit and Cheshire Cup finals. Both finals would be contested against St Ambrose College.

First came the Floodlit Cup Final in drizzly conditions. A quick and high tempo start saw Wirral take the lead early on before an almighty battle ensued. Wirral tried to play rugby but were pinned back and put under pressure by the St Ambrose kicking game. It was a very close match that was finally won by St Ambrose and, on reflection, it was a fair result.

In the second Cup Final of the season, Wirral U16 performed strongly and scored a try to take a 5-0 lead. Wirral were then pegged back by the excellent kicking of St Ambrose which, with 10 minutes to play, saw the team trail 6-5. Again Wirral showed their character with a try in the corner to retake the lead 10-6 with 4 minutes to play. Wirral played outstandingly throughout the game and, to the heartbreak of the players, coach and supporters, conceded a try in the final play of the game to see victory snatched away, losing the game 13-10.

7’s Season

The 7’s season saw mixed results but ultimately was one of success.

Knocked out in two semi-finals to strong opposition, Wirral claimed the Merchant Taylors’ 7’s Crown with a hard fought victory over Birkenhead school in the final. It was a gruelling day and the whole squad did themselves proud. All in all the season has been an excellent one. In general the boys have been a pleasure to coach and I wish them luck on their upcoming tour of Australia. My only hope is they continue to push themselves and reach their full potential as a team and as individual players.

Mr Atkinson, PE Department

Year 7 Cricket

The Year 7 Cricket Team have enjoyed a very successful season thus far, remaining unbeaten in their school fixtures with wins against St Ambrose, Caldy, St Anselms and Liverpool College.

They were unlucky to come up against a strong Kings Chester team, who narrowly edged them out of the Cup. The boys have trained well through the Summer Term, often with 30 plus boys training, which is really encouraging for School Cricket moving forward. Particular thanks to Sam Thomas and Louie Evans who have captained the A and the B teams respectively, and to all the boys who have showed such enthusiasm towards training sessions and matches alike. Well done!

Mr Griffies
Year 7 Cricket Coach

Annual Rugby Club Dinner

In May, over 200 boys, parents and staff attended the 49th Annual School Rugby Dinner in the School Hall.

The Guest Speaker this year was Mr Matt Cairns, School 1st XV Captain 1996-97, Saracens, Harlequins & England. He received an excellent welcome and spoke very warmly about his time at Wirral Grammar School. Team Captains gave their annual reports which were very well delivered. Colours were awarded and individual trophies were presented as below:

INDIVIDUAL TROPHY WINNERS

G Noonan Novices Cup (U12 Player of the Season)
Harry Leech

E Langton Junior Bantams Trophy
(U13 Player of the Season)
Lucas Jackson

E G Hodgkinson Bantams Cup
(U14 Player of the Season)
Che Hannigan

The Colts Cup (U15 Player of the Season)
Euan Alldis

Wirral RUFC Under 16 Cup (U16 Player of the Season)
George Manger/Lucas Titherington

2nd XV Player of the Year
Chris Murphy

West Trophy 1st XV Players’ Player of the Season
Jamie Norris

J P Howarth 1st XV Cup (1st XV Captain’s Trophy)
Will Hardy

Thompson Cup (Top Captain)
James Parnell

Kent Trophy (An Outstanding Contribution to Rugby Football)
Will Hardy

Mr P Crowley, Head of Physical Education

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Mr Griffies
Year 7 Cricket Coach
Visited our website recently?

Over the last two terms, our website has grown into a very important source of information about the school: news, forthcoming events, guidance materials, sporting achievements etc are all to be found on the website

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Parent Mail: Is your email address up to date?

The majority of parents with computer access have registered an e-mail address with us and ‘Parent Mail’ is proving to be a fast and effective means of getting letters and messages to parents. To remain effective, parents need to keep their e-mail address information up-to-date. If you have not registered, or if your e-mail address has changed, this can be amended by logging into the Parent Mail website: www.parentmail2.co.uk and following the ‘parent login’ link or by contacting the school Finance Office.

Parents’ Surveys - The 2015/2016 Analyses

Many thanks to all parents who have reported through our Parents’ Evening surveys which are always available at our Parents’ Evenings. The full analyses for all year groups will be available very shortly. Please follow the link from our website home page.

Absence Requests

Parents are reminded that the rules have changed regarding parental requests to take boys out of school during term time. The new regulations now clearly state that “Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time”.

Admission Enquiries

Enquiries relating to admissions should be directed to our Admissions Manager, Mrs Tanya Fry on 0151 644 0908 or by visiting the school website: www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Cashless Purchasing

Accounts are available for ‘top up’ at the relevant paying stations but parents are also able to ‘top up’ their son’s canteen allowance through our on-line service via ‘Parentmail2’.

Using our on-line facility means that boys do not need to queue up at the payment point in school.

Ways to Keep In Touch...

Wirral Grammar School for Boys has a Twitter feed and we can be followed @WGSB

Those with Facebook can be kept up-to-date with achievements, developments and events through our secure, school managed Facebook page: Wirral Grammar School for Boys (Education).

To have our up-dates in your Newsfeed, simply ‘like’ this page.