

# Wardle Academy

## Headteacher's Update

July 2018



### Headteacher's message

#### **A very good year for Wardle Academy**

I am very pleased to say that Wardle Academy has finished the school year in a strong position with an excellent Ofsted report and very good progress being made by our students. PRIDE, NU-HOPE and the strong starts and finishes are now impacting on overall standards and we look forward to further improvements over the next year.

#### **Keeping our students safe**

In June we sent a text message/email to all parents/carers with lots of safety advice for students over the summer holidays. This included a link to a safe afterschool parent booklet and a ask the right questions parent card which contain lots of useful information for all families. To reinforce all the messages about safety we have had assemblies in the last week of term for all year groups to go over water safety, general safety over the summer and NU-HOPE and PRIDE strategies.

#### **School Shoes, uniform and piercings**

Please note the information about school shoes, uniform and piercings in the 'Uniform and Jewellery Policy' section.

#### **Many exciting events and wonderful achievements**

In this newsletter we have tried to capture some of the events held at the Academy and the many achievements of our students. As headteacher, I am enormously proud of all the students who work hard, all students who excel academically and our students sporting and musical achievements. I am very fortunate that Wardle Academy has many wonderful students and it is a pleasure to see them succeed and do well.

#### **Thanks to all parents/carers and supporters of the Academy**

Can I thank all parents/carers who have supported their children and the Academy by attending the many events held over the course of the year. Your support is much appreciated and helps us in everything we do.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and restful summer and look forward to seeing all our students return on Tuesday 4th September 2018. We will be operating a staggered start as follows: new Year 7 students will come in first at 8:40am, followed by Year 11 students at 9:15am. All other students in Years 8, 9 and 10 should be in school for 10:00am.

Best wishes to you all,  
Mrs C Fisher

# A Year at Wardle

## Open Evening 2017

On Thursday 28th September 2017 we held our annual Open Evening. The event saw record numbers through the door with over 700 people visiting our school to learn more about our on-going success and life at Wardle Academy. The event worked so well that we are over subscribed for this year. Thank you to everyone who attended.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 29th September 2017, we took part in the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. The Macmillan Coffee Morning is the world's biggest coffee morning and Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer. Last year alone, the charity raised £29.5 million and Wardle Academy is very proud of its contribution to this charity every year.

Our school community really supported the coffee morning. Parents/carers, staff and students were treated to a lovely selection of homemade cakes. It was a pleasure to be able to share this fundraising event with the families who were able to join us.

The total amount of money raised for Macmillan this year was: £639.96. This is an excellent achievement for our school community and we are very proud of our charity ethos and contribution to Macmillan. Thank you to all the parents/carers/students who attended and contributed to the event.



## School of Rock

In December 2017 the musical adaptation of the 'School of Rock' hit our stage. All the hard work and dedication that our students and teachers put into the show paid off as each night had an excellent turnout with our final show on Wednesday 20th December 2017 being sold out with over 250 people attending.

We had some great feedback from parents/carers/members of the community who came to watch the show including "We came last night, very talented children, fantastic performance" and "What a show tonight, dedication and commitment pays off, each and everyone was amazing. Well done. Wardle Academy at its very best."

Thank you to everyone who came to watch one of our performances and a huge congratulations to our cast and crew on making the show such a success.

## Christmas Musical Evening

Also in December we had our Christmas Musical Evening which was a sell out. The evening was a Christmas celebration that featured all the school's musical groups: Show band, Wind band, Training band, Junior band, Intermediate band, Youth band, Guitar group, Folk group and Wardle voices. There was also a surprise appearance from our newly formed staff choir.

The evening was a huge success, getting everybody into the Christmas spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped to arrange the evening, to everyone who took part and to everyone who attended.



# Community Christmas Celebration

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Community Christmas Celebration on Wednesday 13th December 2017. We had an excellent turnout with performances from our Junior band, our School of Rock cast members, a special performance from our student magician Jackson and our new singing group Wardle Voices.

We had some great feedback with many people asking if we could make this an annual event.



# RESPECT department trip to Parliament

On the 10th January 2018, Wardle Academy's RESPECT department visited Parliament in London. Having applied on the 12th September 2017, we were selected on the 26th September 2017 to attend Parliament out of all of the schools in the country.

Unfortunately, we were only allocated 29 places and were unable to take all the students who applied to go on the trip. It is hoped that we will be able to arrange future trips.

Throughout the day our Year 10 students got the chance to have a full tour of the Houses of Parliament and got to witness members of each party debate, giving them the opportunity to explore democracy in action. Overall, this trip gave students the opportunity to learn experientially and consolidate their prior knowledge on the workings of Parliament.



## GM Bee Ball

On Friday 23rd March 2018 Wardle Academy's Youth Band played at the GM Bee Glitz and Glamour Ball. The event took place at the Emirates Stadium Old Trafford and was in aid of those affected by the tragic events at the Manchester Arena in May 2017.

The night was a huge success and raised a lot of money to help the survivors and their families to continue with their daily lives and we were very proud of our youth band who were invited to play at the event and was the opening act. Our band were very privileged to play at such a prestige event. Well done to all of our students and thank you to our Music department for helping make the arrangements and conducting the performances at the event.



## National and European Youth Band Championships

On Sunday 22nd April 2018 Wardle Academy Youth Band, Junior Band and Wardle Junior Blast competed in the 2018 National Brass Band Championships, which this year were held in Warwick. Each of our bands came first in their categories meaning Wardle Academy Youth Band became National Champions for a second year in a row.

Our Wardle Academy Junior Band are also National Champions for a second year in a row and Wardle Junior Blast won 'Band of the Day' for the fourth year in a row.

On Sunday 6th May 2018 Wardle Academy Youth Band competed in the 2018 European Brass Band Championships in Utrecht Holland, just two weeks after becoming National Champions. Wardle Academy Youth Band competed in the Development Section and came first with 92 points. Winning this competition now means the band have automatic qualification to represent England at next year's European Championships to be held in Montreux, Switzerland.

Winning this is a great achievement as the standard is incredibly high and many hours of practice are required to perform at this high level. This is already turning out to be a great year for Wardle Academy's music department and they hope to achieve yet more in the coming years.

These outstanding achievements show the dedication and passion of our students and the Music department. They represent the school and community brilliantly.

# Wardle Book Day

Unfortunately due to adverse weather conditions we had to postpone World Book Day on Thursday 1st March 2018. We decided to rebrand the day as 'Wardle Book Day' which took place on Wednesday 14th March 2018. We were extremely pleased that many of our KS3 students came in costumes and celebrated the day. The library held a costume parade at break time for students and staff to show off their costumes and all received a sweet treat for taking part.



# Chester Zoo Trip

On Thursday 25th January 2018 and Friday 26th January 2018 our Science department took our Year 8 students on a trip to Chester Zoo. Our students were set tasks throughout the day to complete whilst going to see the animals. All of our Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we hope to take more students to Chester Zoo in the future.



# Geography Trip to Blackpool

In October 2017 our Year 9 Geography students went to Blackpool to complete fieldwork tasks and looked at the regeneration of the town. It was a great day out for our students and something they have asked to do again in the future. Our current Year 8 students will be going on this trip in September 2018. More details will follow in the new academic year.



# Manchester 'Together with One Voice'

Our Wardle Academy Choir, 'Wardle Voices' were invited to play at the Manchester 'Together with One Voice' event on Tuesday 22nd May 2018. This event was held in memory of those who sadly died, were injured or suffered in any way as a result of the bombing at the Manchester Arena last year.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students to support an event very close to all of our hearts and to sing in front of so many people. This was a great achievement as the choir was only set up in September 2017.



# Prom 2018

Year 11 celebrated the end of their time at Wardle Academy on Friday 29th June 2018 with their prom at The Riverside in Whitworth.

During the evening, awards were presented to students for a variety of different achievements including 'Prom King' and 'Prom Queen' with comical awards such as 'Class Clown' also being awarded.

The Year 11 Prom was a great success, thank you to all staff involved and to those who attended.

We wish our Year 11 students the best of luck in the future and we will see them on Thursday 23rd August 2018 when they receive their GCSE results. Results will be available for collection from 10:00am onwards.

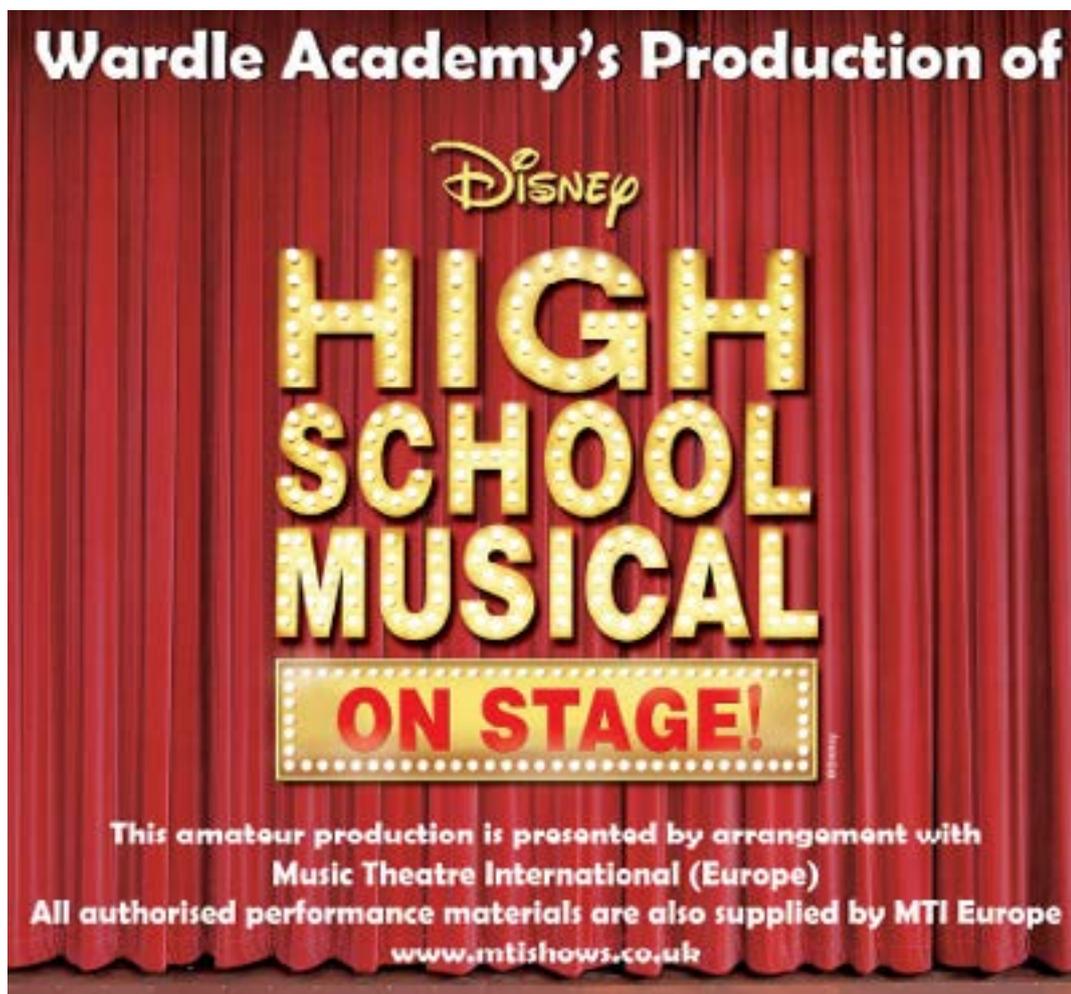


# Variety Performance

Thank you to everyone who came to our Wardle Trust Variety Performance on Wednesday 4th July 2018. The show featured different variety acts from Wardle Academy and our Wardle Trust primary schools, Kentmere Academy, St James CofE Primary School and St Andrews CofE Primary School. The show was a sell-out and the atmosphere was fantastic. Thank you to all of our acts for putting on such a great show!



Our next school production will be High School Musical. Tickets will be on sale in the new academic year.



# Rewards Day 2018

On Monday 9th July 2018 we held a 'Celebration Day' for all of our students to celebrate how well they have done over the academic year. The day included students taking part in a number of different fun indoor and outdoor activities and competitions run by the PE department. The activities included 'It's A Knock Out' and 'Sports Day'.

Headteacher, Mrs Fisher said: "This is a wonderfully inclusive event, it is great that everyone can be involved and enjoy themselves. It is lovely to see everyone smiling. I would like to say thank you to Miss Shepherd and the PE department for organising such a brilliant event."

All the students have behaved brilliantly and really entered into the spirit of the day. We would like to say a massive thank you to all of our students and teachers who were involved in organising the whole day.

## Art Exhibition

On the 28th June 2018 we held our GCSE Art Exhibition here at Wardle Academy. It was a fantastic turn-out and we are bursting with pride over our outstanding students and what they have achieved! Thank you to all who attended and to our students for working so hard over the past year.



## Awards Evenings

On the week commencing Monday 9th July 2018 we held two awards evenings for our students. These evenings were a chance to celebrate students achievements both in and out of school. Thank you to everyone who attended these evenings. It was really good to be able to celebrate the hard work and excellent standards achieved by all our prizewinners.



# Dearnley Methodist Church Flower Festival

In July 2018 a flower festival at Dearnley was held for 3 days and culminated in a "Songs of Praise" on Sunday 1st July. The flowers were arranged by many organisations including all local churches, flower shops, undertakers and Wardle Academy. There was a stream of visitors who were really impressed and moved by the amazing arrangements. There were three arrangements from Wardle Academy which made use of some excellent work from the Art and Technology departments.



## Head Prefects

Over the past few months our current Year 10 prefects have been going through a selection process to become head prefect in Year 11 which involved assemblies, school council interviews and speeches to staff and we are pleased to announce that this year we are appointing three head prefects. These head prefects are Sally, Adam and Evie.

Congratulations to our head prefects. Our other prefects have been given leadership roles and will play a huge part in school throughout Year 11. We are extremely proud of all of our students involved in the process.



# Mrs Holden's Message

NU-HOPE and PRIDE has changed our learning environment for the better and following our successful OFSTED visit in December 2017 the system was praised

Staff, parents/carers and students who responded to questionnaires during the inspection, and those who took part in discussions with inspectors, told us that behaviour in and around the building is good. They were extremely positive about the school's 'NUHOPE' behaviour management system. OFSTED December 2017.

We have made some minor adjustment to the system following a full staff, student and school council review. NU-HOPE sanctions for equipment and uniform have been reduced to 20 minutes. Please can we ask families to remember that students will need to have an alternative plan to get home if they are in a NU-HOPE Reminder as they miss their regular bus.

Student attendance has been good overall this year, despite the Australian Flu bug after Christmas and Scarlet Fever which we experienced early in the year, when many students were poorly.

Developing a resilience to feeling a little unwell where ever possible is an attribute all students need to develop, coming to school a little under the weather and giving lessons a go is the right decision. This is a skill for later life. Often once at school a student rallies, enjoys the company of their friends and is fine for the rest of the day. If a student feels too poorly to continue in class they are to go to their Form Tutor to make a decision about whether to go home, or perhaps a few minutes time out would be better.

Lateness to school can be an issue for some students and when students are not in their form room at the start of the day 8.40am. when the music has finished playing, they automatically have a 30 minute NU-HOPE at the end of the day. All students who are late to school, for any reason, must sign in on the screen at the front of school when they enter the building.

Student Council this year has gone from strength to strength and as our academy develops and moves forward the impact of the council is becoming greater and greater, they are at the heart of all decisions and changes we are making. The students on the School Council take part in the interviews for all new staff, we have also been working with the PE Team on the Rewards Day and the football competition this week.

School Council played a key part in the Head Prefect selection process this year and each candidate had to present their reasons to the School Council as to why they would be the person to choose. This was a really hard process, where friendships and allegiances had to be put aside. The council members were mature and reflective in this task and made some great decisions – well done everyone.

Fundraising activities were once again at the heart of our Student Council work, with the charities we have raised money for this year being voted for by all students at the start of the year. Spring Hill Hospice, MacMillan and Save the Children were the charities that our students chose this year. Student Council also made pink ribbons for students to wear on the anniversary of the Manchester Arena Attack, and organised the one minute silence during the day. We are currently selling iced lollies and running a football competition at break time in aid of Jolly Josh.

Activities pencilled in for next year include looking at rewards and how to develop them along with PRIDE, we are also looking at trips and the variety on offer. All members of the school can suggest items for discussion and development through their Form reps.

## Mrs Adrio's Message

Key Stage 4 have approached this year with real determination and desire to achieve. Our Year 11 students sat their final GCSE exams in May and June in a commendable fashion. We are now looking forward to celebrating their successes this summer. Major milestones along the way have included mock exams, college applications and interviews as well as various different revision clubs and initiatives.

Year 10 students have begun their GCSE's and are showing real promise. During the last half term they have experienced their first set of mock exams which they have approached in a very mature manner considering the hot temperatures at the time. They have had the opportunity to attend a taster day session at either Hopwood Hall or Rochdale Sixth Form College as well as their first mock results assembly. On Tuesday 26th June 2018 we held a "Welcome to Year 11" evening for our Year 10 parents/carers. The turnout was excellent. Parents/carers were able to obtain information on what to expect during the Year 11 journey looking at aspects of careers/college applications, stress and well being, how to achieve in English and Maths as well as some revision tips and advice. If you missed this event please get in touch.

Next year we will be offering some parent/carer drop in sessions on "how to help your child revise" with practical activities and would love to see as many parents/carers there as possible.

All staff and students involved in Key Stage 4 have worked tirelessly this year and I would like to thank everyone involved in Year 10 and Year 11 this year.

## Mrs Hope's Message

The focus for Teaching and Learning this year has been Strong Starts and Finishes. In order to increase the learning time in lessons pupils have been given a task to complete as soon as they enter a classroom. This has been extremely successful with pupils expressing how much more learning they are consolidating in the hour. These tasks are often knowledge questions or green pen tasks aimed at increasing the depth of understanding or skills that will increase the progress of students. We are now working on increasing the amount of structured talk in the classroom. Learning through Talk will be a central part of our Teaching and Learning strategy. This will increase the amount of time that pupils are talking about their work, either giving their opinions or using their new knowledge. In the increasing digital age in which we live the importance of talking in order to resolve issues and support our mental well-being is increasingly important. We have started already with looking at our 'Talk rules' such as making eye contact and taking turns.

Year 10 student Rosa is the new Teaching and Learning prefect and she will be primarily responsible for the whole school Pupil Voice. This means that she will be interviewing a variety of students weekly in order to gain their views about how Learning through Talk is progressing.

# Mr Shaw's Message

Reminder to all students, parents/carers that we are working on a 25 period timetable for all students next year. The school day will finish at 2:45pm for all year groups. Timetables will be issued on the first day back, however, over the holidays, lessons may start to appear in our student's online calendar. Don't worry if there are any gaps here, it will all be complete and correct by September as we constantly work on our software over the summer break. Also, a move to mixed ability setting in certain KS3 lessons will see some group changes for Year 8 next academic year. These will be in addition to the usual alterations we would apply in recognition of individual progress, so no need to worry if your class code has changed from this year, it is perfectly normal.

## Upcoming Events

### Mayor of Greater Manchester's Question Time

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham will hold a question time event in the week before every Combined Authority meeting, in the area in which the meeting will be held.

The question time event for Tuesday 24th July 2018 will be held at Wardle Academy in Rochdale. Partnered with key regional media, the event aims to highlight and answer questions on local issues, posted by members of the public.

This is your opportunity to have a voice on the concerns that matter to you.

- You can attend the session and pre-ask your question when you apply for tickets.
- You can join in remotely by either emailing your questions to [questiontime@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:questiontime@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk) or through twitter on #AskAndyGM
- You can attend the session and ask your question in person

This event opens at 7pm. You will need to be seated by 7:20pm as we will be starting promptly at 7:30pm. The session will be live streamed onto @MayorofGM twitter feed.

We may run out of time to ask all questions that have been raised. If this is the case, we will try and combine similar or related questions together.

If you would like to book your free ticket please [click here](#). Tickets are open to book until Monday 23rd July 2018.

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# Uniform and Jewellery Policy

Uniform creates a purposeful learning environment and all students wearing the same uniform prevents some students feeling victimised by individuals due to their school wear. Students feel safe and happy at school, our corporate image reflects our high standards both within school and in the wider community.

Students should wear:

- Standard green blazer with the academy logo.
- Plain white shirt.
- School tie (green with yellow design).
- Black skirt with the academy logo.
- Plain black trousers (boys), plain black trousers with the academy logo (girls).
- Plain black tights, plain black or white socks.
- Black jumper with the academy logo (optional).
- A plain black hijab can be worn, with a plain black cotton cap beneath.



Our students are transitioning from children to young adults, however we do not allow body art, piercings other than earrings described below, fake tan, make up, false nails or lashes, nail varnish, hair colours or hair extensions.

A small stud earring worn in the lower part of the earlobe is acceptable, one per ear. No other piercings are permitted, even if the piercings has been done recently and we do not allow students to cover piercings to be covered with plasters. School advises that any piercings are made at the start of the holidays to allow time to heal.



Wrist watches are allowed, however smart watches with mobile phone connectivity need to switch onto a 'time only' mode and cannot be worn for any examination.



Students can wear black, brown, green hair accessories such as hair bands, bobbles and clips. No decorative accessories, ribbons should be worn. If a student is unsure if an item is appropriate they should seek advice and take it as a 'no' until a decision has been shared. Hair colour should be natural and hair styles should not include very short / shaved heads, hair art with lines and patterns, hair extensions, beards and moustaches, tinted brows and lash extensions.

Outdoor wear such as hoodies, scarves and gloves should not be worn in school and must be removed as students enter the building. Badges on blazers must be ones awarded by school.

Shoes should be traditional black leather / faux leather designs with no coloured trim or decorations. Trainer styles are not acceptable and although these styles may be sold from the 'school wear section' of a store they do not comply with Wardle Academy shoe criteria. Any colourful decorations, tabs or stitching on shoes will need to be coloured black for school. At the end of term in July when shoes may be getting a little small or worn out.



**All students will be expected to change into their PE kit even though they may not be taking part in the lesson due to injury or illness. The PE department have a clean kit facility for anyone who has forgotten their kit. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in sanctions. Goggles, towel and swimming costume with minimal logo should be included in your PE kit.**

# Important Notices

**Trespassing:** We are extremely concerned that a very small number of students and adults have broken the law by trespassing on Wardle Academy grounds at times when the Academy is not open. A part from the fact that these students and adults are breaking the law, we are also very concerned about their safety. Can we ask that all parents/carers ensure that their children do not enter Wardle Academy grounds when we are closed.

**Swimming Pool and Car Park Update:** Work on the swimming pool is nearly complete and everything is on schedule for a re-opening of the pool in September 2018. This is an exciting time for the Trust and it won't be long before the pool is back in use.

**Attendance Reminders:** A reminder that families should avoid booking holidays during term time and the headteacher will not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Family holidays do not qualify as exceptional circumstances. Students that are planning on being absent from school for anything other than medical/dental appointments, need to collect an Absence Request Form from Reception and submit it at least two weeks before the absence. In the case of an unplanned absence such as illness, parents/carers must contact the school by telephone on the first day of absence, before 9:30am. A phone call is needed for each day of absence. Students with attendance below 96% will discuss catching up missed work with their form tutor.

**Turning Circle Closing Times:** The turning circle is closed during the following times; 8:30 - 8:45am and 2:35 - 3:00pm to ensure safety for our students allowing them to have a safe entry and exit in and out of school. The only vehicles allowed in the turning circle during these times are vehicles for our SEN students for transport purposes. It is important that we respect our community by parking considerately and where the safety of our students is not compromised. It is also vital that we allow for emergency services access, and therefore please also be mindful regarding the entry to the hospital grounds.

**Time Out Cards:** Some students have a temporary leave lesson early card due to an injury where they need extra time to travel the corridor. Other students have cards for a variety of reasons and these are reviewed annually and will be re-issued in September 2018. If a student in our opinion no longer needs a card but feels they are struggling without it, we will discuss this with them if they let us know. As students mature the important reasons for leaving class early in Year 7 have diminished and lost learning time becomes more of an issue.

**Uniform:** As the term draws to a close a number of students had incorrect footwear, as advised by their family, as they had grown out of this years shoes, shoes had broken or were in Year 11. Together we have agreed a way forward for the last few days and at the start of next year, whatever the year group, everyone must be in school shoes as described in the uniform and jewellery policy.

Temporary reasons as to why a student is not in full school uniform must be shared with the Year Leader before school starts, on the first day of non-compliance. Working together we can usually resolve most problems such as a misplaced tie, broken shoes can be replaced with black pumps from Pupil Reception and we do have a small amount of uniform that can be loaned, when issues arise. Please let us know if there is a problem and we can work out a solution together. All borrowed uniform should be returned on the agreed date, items that are not returned for any reason will be charged for.

# Key Dates for July - December (subject to change)

Friday 20th July 2018 - **School breaks for the Summer Holidays.**

Monday 3rd September 2018 - **Staff INSET Day.**

Tuesday 4th September 2018 - **School starts 8:40am.**

Thursday 23rd August 2018 - **Year 11 GCSE Results Day.**

Thursday 27th September 2018 - **Open Evening.**

Wednesday 17th October 2018 - **Year 7 Parents Evening.**

Friday 19th October 2018 - **School breaks for October half term.**

Monday 29th October 2018 - **School starts 8:40am.**

Wednesday 21st November 2018 - **Year 10 Parents Evening.**

Monday 26th November - Wednesday 28th November 2018 - **School Production of 'High School Musical'.**

Thursday 29th November 2018 - **Year 11 Prizegiving.**

Friday 30th November 2018 - **Staff INSET day.**

Friday 7th December 2018 - **Musical Evening.**

Friday 14th December 2018 - **Community Christmas Party.**

Friday 21st December 2018 - **School breaks for Christmas holidays.**