

19 July 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by at Barnes Wallis Academy. As we approach the summer holidays, I would like to share some of the highlights of the year and update you on staffing changes for the next academic year.

Students were rewarded with a bowling trip in term 3. Trips to Fantasy Island took place yesterday and a good time was had by the students who received an invitation.

This term has also seen Year 10 Geography students attend their field trip in Skegness. Our Young Carers also went on a residential trip to Skegness and Year 7 & 8 recently visited Warwick Castle as part of their History learning.

The Year 11 Prom was held at the Dower House in Woodhall Spa on 27 June. 42 students arrived in a variety of vehicles, such as: tractor, Aston Martin, Limo and a Mustang. Students dined and danced away the night in their finery, celebrating a fantastic 5 years at BWA. The students were a credit to themselves and the Academy. We look forward to seeing them all again on Thursday 22 August when they get their GCSE results. Hopefully their hard work and the support provided by their teachers and Academy staff will show through in their results.

Students who have taken part in the Interact Club for over a year are nominated for a Group Diana Award in recognition of their fundraising. So far 50 pupils have received this prestigious award over the last few years. The Diana Award, set up in memory of Princess Diana, is given to young people who have shown a commitment to changing their world through volunteering and fundraising. One of the members was chosen to represent the Interact Club and received her award at a ceremony at the House of Lords recently.

We continue to update our followers of upcoming events via Twitter @Barnes_Wallis and on Facebook. We will be transferring from MyEd to MCAS in September, and you should by now have received your new log in details and passwords. This should address the inconsistencies with the information that has been available on My-Ed and lead to a much more effective communication system.

Our new intake of Year 7 attended two days of induction on 8/ 9 July following their induction evening on the 4 July. We are currently over-subscribed in most year groups. The students followed their timetable for the two days to experience life at BWA. The pupils enjoyed themselves so much that they did not want to return to their primaries but felt keen and ready to start. BWA will have a Year 7 only day on 3 September to help them settle in quickly.

On 20 June we welcomed Mark Lewis-Francis to Barnes Wallis Academy. Mark is an Olympic gold medallist. He won his gold medal in the 4x100m relay at the Athens Olympics in 2004. During his visit, Mark worked with our students throughout the day to help prepare them for the Summer Cup. He was able to provide specialist advice to our sprinters and relays teams. The 2 key objectives for the day were to improve the reactions of our students as well as teach them how to successfully pass the relay baton. During break and lunch Mark was more than happy to sign autographs and answer questions from our staff and students. In the afternoon over 40 primary school students from the surrounding area got involved and enjoyed themselves immensely. During afterschool club Mark delivered a master class coaching session which was open to all. Seventy students attended this club. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and really enjoyed benefitting from Mark's expertise.

The Summer Cup is the largest event of the year. This year over 1500 students attended! In the weeks running up to the Summer Cup students had been working hard during lessons and clubs to improve their technique. The format for the event remained the same. Academies from across the Trust competed against each other at athletics, swimming, tennis, table tennis and boccia. As always, there was a lot of excitement and many students desperately wanted to have a gold envelope containing an invite posted through their door. This year, 4 Olympians attended the event; Colin Jackson, Marlon Devonish, Jenny Meadows and Margaret Aducci. Throughout the day these elite athletes were on hand to offer expert advice. They also presented medals, signed autographs and took selfies with students. In previous years we have done well individually but we have never won a team trophy.

This year we came away with the Sporting Progress Award. An award given to the Academy who improves the most on their score from the previous year. Our students were delighted to win both the Tennis and the Table Tennis tournaments. This comes after hard work and dedication from our students. Overall we finished in 4th place, this is the best we have ever done at the event. We narrowly missed out of a top 3 finish by 3 points. My congratulations to all involved.

The following staff will be moving on at the end of the year to take up new posts elsewhere. Mr Patton – PE, Miss Nunn - Science, Miss Boon – DT and Business, Miss Potter – Science and Mr Warne – Science Technician. I would like to thank them for their work at Barnes Wallis Academy and wish them well for their future.

We are being joined by several new members of staff in September and we look forward to welcoming them to the Barnes Wallis family. Mrs Ashfield - Assistant Principal, Ms Davison – Assistant SENDCo, Mr Evans – Science Teacher, Mr Aaron – Science & Maths Teacher, Mr Lane – Music, Performing Arts and Business and Miss Medler – Music & Performing Arts. In addition, the Leadership team within the Academy has been restructured and I would like to congratulate the following who have all taken up posts in the new structure. Miss Slinn – Head of Faculty – Humanities, Mr Wilkinson – Head of Vocational Faculty & Mathematics, Ms Swann – Head of Faculty – Communications, English & MFL and remains head of Spitfire house. Mr Endicott – Literacy Co-ordinator and Head of House (Dakota), Mr Thomas – PSHE/ Careers Lead, Miss Aldridge – Head of Faculty – Science, Mr Chapman – Head of House (Hurricane), Miss Whetton – Subject Leader for Vocational, Mrs Andy – Ross Diploma & Educational Visits and Ms Gleeson who will be assisting with the development of Teaching and Learning and Homework.

Over the years, Barnes Wallis Academy has maintained a good relationship with the community and we are fortunate to have the privilege of our local PCSO offering to come into the Academy regularly to provide opportunities for discussion, awareness and to strengthen the link with the community. This will begin in September.

If you intend to replace any uniform items over the summer, please ensure they are compliant with the uniform policy which can be found on the website. Our students' appearance is an important part of our representation in the community. I look forward to welcoming Year 7 only on Tuesday 3 September and Year 8-11 on Wednesday 4 September at 8.50am.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Barnes Wallis Academy and look forward to continuing to build on the good work that has been taking place over the last few years. My thanks to all the staff at the Academy who work relentlessly to provide the best possible experiences for your children. I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of you at the various events over the course of the year and would like to thank you for your continued support as we make Barnes Wallis the outstanding Academy it can and will be.

Wishing you and enjoyable, safe and restful summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Scarrott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

J Scarrott
Principal