

Head's Update 8

17th February 2011

*Dear Parents/Carers,*

Welcome to the first Head's Update of 2011. We are having a very busy term and I hope we have seen the last of the winter snow! Uniform is better in most cases and I thank parents/carers for sending in your child in full smart uniform. There are still too many blazers scrunched in bags though!

You will have received communications regarding our equipment drive this term. This is all part of our drive to raise standards of academic achievement. The minimum requirement is bag, pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, maths calculator and planner. Please ensure your child packs these every day. We want all our children to arrive at every lesson well-prepared.

We have reorganised Year 11 following their November entry English and Maths GCSE Results which I have to admit were disappointing! Although many of our students worked hard, there were a significant number who had not prepared well nor realised in November that their futures lay in their results. Fortunately, we have given them the opportunity to resit and I hope parents/carers will support us in ensuring they work very hard and get the grades of which they are capable.

We are currently refurbishing parts of our building, namely the Modern Foreign Language Suite and the Medical Rooms upstairs. Upstairs will be converted into a state of the art Business Administration and Finance suite to deliver the BAF Diploma. We were fortunate to have achieved a capital build grant of a quarter of a million pounds to do this work.

Our CanDo activities in February stretch far and wide from Year 10 on Work Experience all over the borough to skiing in the Alps and Camel Treks in Morocco. We are truly living our motto 'Learning without Limits'!

I wish all our students and their families a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back on February 28th 2011 when we can all look forward to Spring.

Assuring you of my best attention at all times.



Mrs P Campbell  
HEADTEACHER





## Year 11

Last week plans were put in motion to create Werneth's A Team. A specially selected group of Year 12 students, who achieved A/A\*s in the summer, will be mentoring some of our Year 11s to help them achieve top grades. The students, many of whom are now studying A Levels, are looking forward to the challenge of working with our GCSE/BTEC students. Jake Francis, a student from the class of 2010 commented: "I feel proud to have been selected out of the year group who have excelled with their GCSEs."

The group attended a training session last week and early next year they will take part in an advice forum with their mentees and parents. From there, the A-Team will stay in touch with their student via email and social networking sites to be on hand for revision, help and advice.



## Uniform & Footwear

I recently wrote to you explaining our position on school uniform during these weeks of sustained poor weather. I feel that I need to further clarify Werneth School's stance on winter footwear. As explained previously in icy or wet/snowbound conditions, it is important that students wear appropriate footwear for their travel to and from school. This footwear may include boots. Once on the school site, students should then change into their usual black plain footwear that sits below the ankle bone, such as a plain black shoe or plain black trainer/pump.

If your child wishes to store their boots in a locker during the day, there are still some available for hire.

Unless your child has a medical reason for wearing boots, supported by written evidence, they will be sent home to change.





## Improvements to our building

Whilst we make no secret of the fact that the fabric of our building is well past its sell-buy date as Headteacher I am very proud of the outstanding teaching and learning that takes places in school. We have been supporting the local authority on offering and delivering diplomas for the past few years and this has allowed us to use extra funds to improve some areas of school.

We have already re-built:

- Room 2 which has become 'The Saville Suite', a state of the art Creative and Media classroom;
- Room 3 which has become a Hospitality and Catering classroom with industry spec equipment;
- Room 1 which has become a multi-functioning classroom with top of the range ICT facilities.

We are now embarking on the second phase of our improvement works:

- Room 16 will be converted into a brand new classroom for languages and travel & tourism, again with a suite of computers to support students in their learning;
- The upstairs of lower school is being completely transformed into a modern business and ICT teaching space as well as an area where students can get support with all types of vocational learning from work experience to apprenticeships.

This building work will cause some disruption to staff and students and we kindly ask that parents help us by not entering the lower school car park to drop off or collect students. We expect the work to be completed by Easter.

## Social Networking



The online world is integral to how we communicate, and Social Networking sites are increasingly used as a way for young people to stay in touch with their friends. Whilst this is a fantastic way to communicate and share experiences with one another, there are also inherent risks.

This has recently come to our attention with a number of our students being inappropriately contacted with via their Facebook account by a young man who calls himself 'Oliver' and claims to be 15 years of age. Within school we have raised students' awareness to the situation through assemblies, highlighting the importance of ensuring their security settings are at the highest level, considering carefully what they post about themselves including the images they may choose to share and considering carefully who they accept as friends (if you DO NOT know who the person is, DO NOT add them as a friend.)

As parents you can further ensure the safety of your child by checking their security settings and monitoring their internet usage. If you have any suspicions, you can report them to The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre at [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)





## Aladdin

The Year 9 Panto Aladdin is well underway. For many of the cast it will be the first time they have performed for an audience. Mohammed Hamid stars as Widow Twankey, Connor Gould is Aladdin and Paige Robinson the Princess. The equally mixed cast of boys and girls will be ready to entertain friends and family on Thursday 17th February 7.30pm in the Image Theatre, tickets £3.00, Young children £1.50. On Friday 18th February, during the day they will have 4 in-house performances for Years 7 and 8.



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Please would parents/carers not use either the school drive or the school entrance as a turning circle. It is a health and safety risk and all parking restrictions must be adhered to. Your co-operation would be much appreciated.

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## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 17th February 2011**  
Aladdin Evening Performance

**Monday 14th - 18th February 2011**  
CanDo Week

**Monday 14th - 18th February 2011**  
Work Experience Year 10

**Options' Information Evening**  
Monday 14th March 2011 4pm -7pm

Check out our website:  
[www.wernethschool.com](http://www.wernethschool.com)



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## CanDo Week

CanDo Week – 14th -18th February 2011

During this week we have students who are enjoying Skiing down the French Alps and in contrast a group of students who are riding camel back across the deserts of Morocco! In school, activities will run on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th. For Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the week the school timetable will operate as normal for all year groups. For Year 11 students we feel it is crucial to their success and achievements that their timetable is uninterrupted and it will therefore continue as usual for the whole week.

As always students are required to wear full school uniform during CanDo Week.