



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Gavin Williamson MP

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September has been extremely busy this month and I wanted to let you all know what I have been up to, both in the constituency and in my role as a cabinet minister.

I spent the first few days of this month in Afghanistan, where I spent time with the Welsh Guards and the Royal Air Force, as well as meeting Afghan soldiers who are working side by side with our soldiers. Our Armed Forces are doing truly amazing work and spending time in Kabul was truly eye-opening.



I visited Royal Hospital Chelsea, where I spent time with the Chelsea Pensioners. They are putting on breakfasts with veterans around the country and it was fantastic to be able to spend time with people who have done so much for our country. I was given a tour of the facilities of the hospital.



I spent some time in Ireland, where I had the pleasure of spending time with Arlene Foster MLA. We had the chance to meet Air Cadets and Army Cadets in Enniskillen, where they explained what they do and the impact that being a cadet has had on their lives. It was brilliant to see the fantastic work that they do in Northern Ireland.



I attended the launch of the 'Great British Bark Off' in aid of Birmingham Dogs Home. Birmingham Dogs Home are a charity who save and rehome dogs that have been abandoned. I attended a 'tea pawty' with two dogs, Minipin and Reeva, and I encourage all of you to get involved with this fantastic charity in any way that you can.



I was lucky enough to be able to go to Kinver Village Show. There were a large number of stalls there and all the money raised was in aid of refurbishing the community centre. I always enjoy Kinver Village Show as it is always so well organised and so much fun.

I also attended Enville Village Show. There was a large range of entertainment, including stalls and competitions as well as a number of military vehicles and vintage cars. I am a huge fan of classics cars and always love being able to look at all the beautiful cars on display. I have never seen so many people attending the Enville Village Show before and I always really look forward to it.



I visited National Citizen Service, which is a personal and social development programme for young people aged 15-17 and I met people who were in their final week of the programme. They had spent time at Staffordshire University, organised fundraising events for Help for Heroes and completed an enterprise day. I heard their stories about their experiences and also had the chance to take part in a Q&A. It was fantastic to see the work they are contributing to the community and I think that NCS is such a fantastic organisation. I would highly encourage all young people to get involved in any way that they can.



I gave pupils in the sixth form from St Dominic's Brewood a tour of the Houses of Parliament. I showed them around the House of Commons, the Central Lobby and the Members' Lobby and also ran a Q&A session, where pupils asked me about my role in Parliament. The pupils asked some really interesting questions and I was pleased to speak to them about my job. I do hope that the students enjoyed their tour!

I also had the chance to visit Thomas Telford School, where I did a speech for the sixth form students and then ran a question and answer session with the pupils. They asked some really interesting and thought-provoking questions and it is always wonderful to see young people so interested and engaged with politics.



I attended a lunch with the Institute of Directors at Himley Hall. I gave a speech on the 'business of defence' to a number of manufacturers and defence companies, as well as local business owners and members of the military. It is always fantastic to talk about the excellent contribution that veterans make to the workforce.



I visited Ukraine for the first time, where I met with President Poroshenko and Defence Minister Poltorak. It was wonderful to be able to visit such an interesting and beautiful country, and I had the honour of placing flowers at the wall of remembrance in Kiev, to pay my respects to all those who have been killed in the fight for freedom.



I attended my first ever Pattingham Macmillan Coffee Morning. I always really enjoy these events as they are a really good excuse to eat lots of cake! The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event and I was so pleased to be able to participate in the fundraising this year. I also attended a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Kinver Library.



I had a really interesting day out with Staffordshire Police. I met with PCSO's and walked round Cheslyn Hay on tour with some of the police officers. I witnessed how day-to-day business is prioritised and managed and discussed some of the challenges that the police are facing at the moment. It was eye-opening to hear about some of the local issues and challenges that the police face.



I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Aston University Engineering Academy, where I met with the RAF Cadet Unit. It was wonderful to meet so many inspiring young people, all of whom have a real passion for what they do. I really enjoyed hearing about the beneficial impact that joining the cadets has had on them, and I highly encourage everyone to get involved with the cadets.

If you have any issues that you would like to discuss or an event that you would like me to support in the local community, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach my office at 01902 846616 or you can email me at gavin@gavinwilliamson.org. I look forward to hearing from you.