

After serving with the Governing Board for five years, our Chair of Governors, Gerry Price, has reached the end of his term of office as a governor and after giving greatly to Bedale High he has decided now is the time to focus on other things. On behalf of the school and the Governing Body, I would like to thank Gerry for his considerable commitment and expertise over difficult years and we wish him well as he intends to spend more time with his grandchildren and on the exciting but challenging task of re-opening the Green Dragon, Exelby as a community pub/hub. On a personal level, I have benefited greatly from both his support and his rigorous analysis and I will miss him. However, we are moving into new times and I am delighted to announce that Steve Ingram and Jan Reed have been elected as Co-Chairs. Co-chairing is becoming increasingly common in schools as it enables a sharing of duties but also an increased expertise and support available to the Head. Steve, with a background in business and IT, and Jan, with a background in School Improvement and community development, have worked together well as co-vice chairs. They are looking forward to helping lead the school through the coming year and building on our recent successes.

This week we also received welcome news of Mr Carruthers' return to school after what has been a lengthy absence. We will be delighted to see him from next Tuesday on a phased return to work. Initially, Mrs Heron, who has done a great job since taking over his classes, and Mrs Davies, who has taken on several additional exam groups, will stay in place as Mr Carruthers gradually takes over the reins.

In school, our focus has been on Y8 and Y9 exams with this latter year group experiencing GCSE style exams in the gym, just like the real thing. Overall, we have been pleased with the way that students have responded to the challenge of more formalised assessment. From a position of weakness one year ago, this is now beginning to emerge as a positive aspect of our practice. The more that younger students develop skills and confidence in revision and exam preparation, the better. As Miss Bradbury takes over KS3 from Mr Burgess, her main priority will be to deliver cohorts of outstanding learners who are ready for the demands of KS4 and their various GCSE courses and the work we have already done on this seems to be paying off handsomely.

Miss Bradbury was again in the "news" this week, along with Miss Jennison, hosting a "gifted and talented" science event for Y5 primary school children. The subject this time was physics, specifically the effects of forces; compression and tension. The students investigated the tensile strength of elastic bands when different masses were added. They then used their findings and knowledge of compression and tension to design and build a bridge made from spaghetti, elastic bands, sticky tape and white tack. The winning bridges were successfully able to hold a mass of 1kg. We had four clear winners. Did you know that when you snap a piece of spaghetti in half it snaps in two places forming three pieces. It doesn't just snap into two!! Not to be outdone, Miss McGuinness has also been out and about, taking five Y11 students to a study day in Harrogate designed for those interested in pursuing courses in the medical sciences. It is great credit to the work of her team and to the students themselves, of course, that we have a number of "high-fliers".

This week has seen the last of the scheduled GCSE exams, although we are holding the final of our on-line ICT exams on Tuesday, 26th June 2018. I have been delighted with the students' response to the exams. Behaviour has been impeccable in school and it was lovely to see them receive the plaudits for their behaviour around the town also. I have mentioned "high fliers" in Science and I strongly suspect that many of our students have done extremely well in this set of exams - they are a talented bunch and, when they have followed advice and shown the necessary levels of commitment, their progress has been remarkable. However, and this is a key message for other year groups, where students have struggled to find the right levels of motivation, their success is likely to be limited. The truth is, at this stage, we have no way of knowing exactly how well students have done so it's fingers crossed for results day on 23rd August!

Today, our athletes have been competing in the Area Championships. The school was well represented and we will share all the details via our Facebook page as soon as we have them. This day was also the deadline for applications from Y10 students for the key roles of Head boy and Head girl. Alongside them, we are seeking to appoint two deputies and several more "senior" students who will form a strong team. This group will have the chance to work closely with staff and have a significant voice in how the school

continues to develop. The quality of applications looks incredibly strong and several of the letters would not look out of place in some of the teaching applications that we have seen this year!

Last night, Mr Kelly arranged for PC Andy Collinson to speak at a Parents' Forum event. His presentation was on internet safety and was very well received from parents. We will endeavour to spread key messages to all parents in the coming weeks as we roll out a follow up programme in assemblies and tutor time with students.

In a roundup of other news, we would like to make you aware of the following:

- Y7 and Y10 cricket teams have an Area Cup Cricket fixture organised for Wednesday, 27th June, starting at 1.30pm.
- Mr Childe is currently arranging a Y9/Y10 Geography trip to Iceland in 2019, please find a copy of the letter attached. If your child would like to go on the trip, please can they return the reply slip to the Print Room by **Friday, 29th June 2018**.
- Bedale High School Citizenship students met with Rishi Sunak during his recent visit to the school, we appear in this week's Northern Echo at the following link: http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/16299079.MP_goes_back_to_school_to_meet_voters_of_the_future/

Mr Chapman has handed out letters to our Y10 students this week (attached) asking for parental consent to take students to Darlington College for a taster day on Wednesday, 4th July. It also asks for those students not on the New York trip to pick a first and second choice trip from the three available during Work Ready Week on Thursday, 12th July.

We are inviting students to help design our programme of extra-curricular activities for next year. If a student has a particular hobby or area of interest and would like to help set up a lunchtime club then they should speak to their tutor. From Warhammer to cheerleading; the more random the better! We are planning a vibrant and exciting programme which our newly selected prefect team will be heavily involved with.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of Barbara Reay who finally lost her battle with cancer. Barbara worked at the school for many years, giving loyal service as a cleaner and then cleaning supervisor. Our thoughts are with Nigel and the family. Several members of staff will be attending the service next Wednesday and a collection is being made with donations going to Herriot Hospice. If anyone knew Barbara and would like to make a contribution, please contact Karen Peirson in the finance office, on 01677 422419 ext 218.

Attachments

Final New York trip information letter.
Year 9 and 10 Geography letter for the Iceland Trip.
Year 10 Careers Events letter.