

Last night, the school held its annual Open Evening that is traditionally directed at potential new students who may be thinking of joining Bedale High from their various primary schools. It was a wonderful occasion, made special by our students who turned out in high numbers to support various subject departments in delivering a really great range of engaging activities. The History "catwalk" is always popular and it did lead earlier in the week to what is probably the most bizarre e-mail ever to arrive in my inbox: "Does anyone have a snake that I could borrow?" It was only the next day when I was told, "It's for Cleopatra", as if that explained everything! However, last night, it all finally made sense! And what a night....a packed hall, followed by an opportunity for Y6 students and their parents to find out why people are beginning to talk in such a positive way about Bedale High School. Feedback was great to hear, due in large part to the stories coming back from a lot of you Y7 parents after a really smooth transition process so a big thank you for all your support. The best advert for the school, as ever, are our students and I am indebted to our lead students, Talia Keane and Georgia Smith, for their opening address last night as well as our Y7 students who did a magnificent job of speaking to a large audience about their experiences in the school. Well done to Poppy Purnell, Jack Wilkinson, Elizabeth Fortune and Matthew Lenton. Thanks also to an army of other helpers but especially Amy Pointon in Y11 who is probably the most helpful person I have ever met!

We're so busy in school day to day that it's only when you take stock on a night like last night, when you think "Wow, we've come far". Whilst we all know that we have to maintain our present momentum, it's satisfying to note that the culture of the school is moving at pace. Mr Kelly focused last night on the huge range of extra-curricular activities that are on offer now in the school, many of which are supported by senior students: Debating Club, Bedale Rocks, Drama Club, Girls' Football, Boys' Football, Basketball, Netball, Hockey, Badminton, Keyboard Club, Eco Council, Yoga, Band Practice, Chess Club, Military Kids, Homework Club, Learning Resource Centre and Inter-form competitions. On top of this, we are offering daily lunch time and after school supervised study facilities for Y11 students so, as they head rapidly towards AP1 assessments and then PPEs at the start of December, please ensure that they are using these sessions as an extra opportunity to boost their overall amount of study time. Remember that last year's successful students were not necessarily the brightest as much as the most organised and hardest working who made the most of what talent they did possess.

At lunch time today, we held a special students v staff "challenge" netball match in the newly reopened Sports Hall. The updated flooring is superb, and about as superb as the staff team who graced the sports hall in front of a wildly enthusiastic crowd! Modesty prevents me from mentioning the score although I do think that our height advantage played a significant part in the match. However, I'm definitely seeing the staff in a whole new light and the performance of big Jon Moulding as goal shooter is sure to live long in everyone's memory, rolling back the years and utilising all of his former basketball skills to score a "hatful" of goals! Our Y9 Girls travelled to Richmond school to compete in the Area Netball Rally this Tuesday. They faced tough opposition but have come home determined and with a full games hall at Netball practice on Thursday lunch time, the girls look to develop their skills before the next meet.

Next week sees 59 Y8 students departing on their Battlefields trip to Belgium and Northern France. The trip has been a regular feature of the KS3 History Curriculum for a number of years now, and it offers our students a fantastic opportunity to visit the battle sites and memorials of WWI.

Parents of Y11 should note that, on Thursday, 25th October, we will be hosting another "Information Evening". This is timed to coincide with preparing students for the build up to their first PPE's, which start during the week commencing the 3rd December. Mr Chapman would also like to direct parents to the post-16 open day/evening information on our website at:

<https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/events/>

Finally, some dates for Your Diary:

- 5.10.18 – DofE first training session in the Culture Shack.
- 8.10.18 – Y9/10 Art trip to Fountains Abbey.
- 9.10.18 – Battlefields trip leaves.
- 25.10.18 – Y11 Information Evening.

#### Attachments

Year 11 Poetry Live English Letter.  
Year 11 Information Evening Letter.

Have a lovely weekend.