

With the AP1 assessments scheduled to take place next week, our focus this week in school has largely been on "revision" and preparation for the tests. Previously, this was an area where the school was weak but now there is a lot of good practice to be seen. The emphasis at Bedale is mostly on ensuring that students are confident and well-prepared for any tests or examinations so that they can achieve their full potential. In the lower year groups, we now aim to train students in revision strategies and techniques so that by the time they hit their GCSE courses, they are highly effective learners so throughout the school we have an explicit focus on "breaking down" questions, understanding exactly what an examiner is asking of you. Getting to know and understand the tests is crucial so, in class, students are now asked to apply their learning routinely by attempting past paper questions or part-questions. At home, parents have a major role to play in supporting this process, helping to establish realistic revision plans and generally being as supportive and encouraging as possible (in the Rawdin household, acting as "quiz master" at the end of time spent on a revision topic was just one practical way of getting involved) so, once again, we look forward to working in partnership with you.

We wish all our students luck in the tests next week and sincerely hope that they do well but possibly the most important aspect of testing is that it highlights to teachers which parts of a topic need more attention in the future. The most important phase of our assessment cycle therefore, comes after the tests when students receive feedback and target future improvements. Resilience is an essential quality for a successful student so helping your sons and daughters to understand that we can learn more from our failures than our triumphs is probably a great life lesson?

On Tuesday, the school experienced "Restart a heart day 2018". I was indebted to Mr Childe for arranging what was a fantastic day for well over a hundred students. We were extremely grateful to seven volunteers from the NHS Yorkshire Ambulance Service, who came into school to deliver CPR training to our students. Led by Ben Hart one of our former students, the team of Community First Responders and Paramedics ran five sessions – one for each year group – throughout the day. Students were taught how to administer CPR (including 'Hands-Only' and 'Rescue Breaths'), and potentially save the life of someone experiencing a cardiac arrest. After the sessions, the feedback that I received from students was really positive – with many commenting about how they now feel confident and able to deliver CPR should the need arise.

Next week, we are looking forward to receiving visitors from Azay sur Cher as part of the town's twinning arrangements. Having been at the inaugural meeting of this group, I was keen to pledge the school's support from the outset and we are looking forward to developing links with their local high school. A delegation of visitors from Azay will be in school next Tuesday to look around and meet staff and students, including our GCSE French groups who will have a glorious opportunity to converse with native speakers! Later, in the evening, I will also be attending the celebratory meal at the town hall where several of our students will be playing background music as part of the entertainment.

This year, as part of her charity and community leadership role, Amy Pointon is setting pupils (and teachers!) the challenge to create 20 Christmas shoe box gifts for 'Operation Christmas Child'. A small shoe box can have a big impact, we would like each form group to work together to be a part of changing other children's lives all over the world.

Miss McGuinness would like to remind students that the Year 11 revision sessions will be held each Tuesday from 3.30-4pm with higher classes in lab 6 or 7 (LMC/SBR on a rota) and foundation classes in lab 4/28 (SJE/HRO on a rota). Rotas will be put up on lab doors so students know which room each week.

Mrs Bradley would also like to remind parents/carers that half of her GCSE Food Technology group will be completing their food preparation and nutrition practical NEA1 in the first week back and the other half completing this the week after. NEA1 is based on food science and contributes to 15% of their final mark (Year 11).

Later in the week on Thursday, 25th October 2018 at 6pm, Mr Gill has arranged an information evening specifically for Y11 parents which is designed to show parents how they can support their child with revision and preparation for their GCSE examinations. All Year 11 parents are encouraged to attend and the evening will include the following:

- An introduction from the Headteacher;
- Information on how your child is assessed at GCSE and the key dates in the calendar;
- Revision strategies and techniques to help you support your child this year;
- Key components of the GCSE Mathematics examinations;
- Key components of the GCSE English Lang/Lit examinations
- The help and support available in school over the next 8 months;
- Careers information;
- Several breakout sessions where staff will share strategies with parents on 'how to revise'.

Looking ahead to next half term, here are a few dates for your diary:

26.10.18 at 3.20pm – break for half-term and return to school on Monday 5th November.
8.11.18 – Year 10/11 Drama trip to Darlington Theatre.

Attachments

Second Iceland Trip Letter.

Year 11 GCSE Geography Trip to Leeds letter.