

Yesterday, members of the school's governing body met with the LA education adviser to appoint Mr Kelly as Acting Headteacher for the summer term and this bodes well for continuity. I know that all staff will unite behind Tom's leadership and, having worked with him very closely, I have the utmost confidence that he will maintain the current direction of travel for the school. For my part, I can now focus my attention on ensuring that there is a seamless transition.....whilst we all recognise that the school has come a long way in a relatively short space of time, we also acknowledge that there is still a lot of work to be done but having Mr Kelly at the helm will surely be a great asset for Bedale High School.

It's been a long half term and staff and students alike are more than ready for a good break. The delivery our AP1 assessments have, on the whole, gone very well this week and it has been great in many classes to see a lot of focused revision and a burning desire to do well so fingers crossed that the outcomes for students indicate good levels of progress. After the holidays, we will be focused on giving high quality feedback and supporting students to make improvements for the future so that, as the weeks go by, our students get stronger and stronger.

Last night's Y11 Information Evening was another well-attended event and Mr Gill has shared the powerpoint slides on the school website. There is also a link via Twitter if you follow @BedaleHigh. As well as listening to key members of staff, parents also had an opportunity to participate in several workshops focused on revision and preparation for exams but the most striking aspect for me was being able to hear from one of last year's parents, Rebecca O'Connell, who spoke openly about the trials and tribulations of being a "GCSE mum". Some of the main messages were:

- start revision early and build throughout the year, making use of all the additional after school sessions;
- maintain a healthy balance between work, rest and "play" - lots of shorter, sharper and more focused revision session are better;
- Take control of technology - lock the play stations away in a cupboard and bring them out only as a reward, and make sure that phones are in another room if your son/daughter is supposed to be revising;
- Get a bank of past paper questions and mark schemes and practice together.

It has been another great week for the school on the sporting front. On Monday evening, more than 20 boys attended an area Rugby coaching session at Richmond School where, I am told, they acquitted themselves well. There was a great team spirit and, what is most important of all, the boys enjoyed what was for some of them, their first taste of this great game.

Richmond School also provided our opposition on Tuesday night when the U16 girls' football team had a "friendly" match before the quarter final of the County Cup after the holiday. A strong squad, coached by Miss Temple, was too much for the opposition and we ran out 12-0 winners in another very one-sided game. Goals came from 7 different students, with Lily Crosthwaite scoring 6 and Tara Pounder, Katie Dixon, Kelsey Lee, Megan Davies, Kate Gardener and Emily Spence each scoring 1. Tara Pounder was also awarded woman of the match. Our year 7 team were also in action for the first time. Whilst the girls didn't win, their enthusiasm and determination was fantastic and the girls have developed a great deal in such a short space of time. Lilia Noonan-Potter was awarded woman of the match. Well done to all students involved.

Highlight of my week, however, was the feeling of pride on Tuesday night when our students represented the school so well at the twinning celebration with Azay-sur-Cher at the Town Hall. During the day, some of our outstanding Y11 students hosted the delegation, giving them a tour of the school and then, in the evening, Mrs Lumsdon took a group of fantastic musicians to play background music throughout the buffet reception. Myself, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Davies, who all attended the event received numerous comments not only about how great our students look but how they are first-class ambassadors for both the school and the town as a whole.

Unfortunately, it's not all good news. In assemblies, as well as the main focus on attendance, staff have been warning students of the dangers of playing "chicken" by the roadside, predominantly in the town of Bedale itself. We have received several reports recently of near misses as some of our students have egged each other on to run out into traffic regardless of their own safety and of the potential effects on an unsuspecting driver who may have to brake sharply. We have signalled very clearly that this is highly dangerous and, if it persists, it is only a matter of time before somebody is injured. We would, therefore, be grateful if all parents can talk about the importance of staying safe on the journey to and from school, whether that be on foot or via school or public transport.

And that same message around health and safety extends to a general reminder to parents about good diets and, more specifically, avoiding sugary drinks. In the last week or so, staff have commented on the increase in the number of students being caught with large bottles of fizzy drinks which will do little to aid concentration and levels of focus. After half term, we will be reminding students of the expectation that they should be using the water fountains to refill their recyclable water bottles (don't get our Eco group started on one-off plastics!) but, as ever, hearing the same message from home is a massive help.

Mr Childe would like to advise parents that the dates for the Year 11 Geography and Citizenship PPE's have changed, if your child is sitting these exams, please can they check the exam timetable carefully. The reason for the amended timetable is to provide all Year 11 students with the experience of sitting a full Citizenship Studies paper.

I sincerely hope that you and your family enjoy the half term break and that all our Bedale students come back refreshed and determined to maintain what, in most cases has been a wonderful start to the 2018-19 academic year. On their return, there are several things that I wish to make you aware of:

- 5.11.18 – GCSE Food Prep and Nutrition Practical.
- 8.11.18 – Y10/11 GCSE Drama Trip to Darlington Theatre.
- 12.11.18 – Second GCSE Food Prep and Nutrition Practical.
- 12.11.18 – GCSE Certificate Collection Evening for Former Year 11 Students.

### Attachments

Letter from the Chair of Governors regarding the appointment of our new Acting Headteacher.  
Year 11 PPE Timetable.

Finally, I would be very grateful if all you parents that have shared positive feedback with me about the start of term could have a look at the link to parent view. Currently, we feel that this presents an unfair and historic picture of the school so it would be great to capture the spirit of what has been happening in recent months. If you do get the chance to complete this over half-term break we would be enormously grateful.

Ofsted Survey - <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/16262/1>