

On Tuesday night, we held our annual Presentation Evening with guest speaker, Steve Patterson, Yorkshire Cricket Club Captain, doing the honours in terms of handing out the various trophies and certificates. We have already posted something briefly on our Facebook page, including some photos from the Awards ceremony itself and then afterwards in the buffet reception and more will follow as soon as the photographer has sent the final shots through. It was a wonderful evening and Steve spoke very well, not only about Cricket but about education and the qualities of hard work and resilience that have helped him become successful. Reverend Firth, from RAF Leeming also gave a short address and a reading in line with our theme for the evening which was "Aspiring to Excellence". His message was particularly powerful in reminding us that, by doing the little things really well, excellence becomes a "habit"!

The Awards are split into four sections with the first being for academic excellence across the curriculum. The top eight students across each year group are recognised for their outstanding achievement and then each subject nominates students, generally one from "Upper" School (KS4) and one from "Lower" School (KS3). There is a "Sporting Awards" section with many hotly contested trophies and then the final section of the evening focuses on the very prestigious, major trophies for outstanding GCSE performance (this year's awards went to Jack Shirt and Niamh Laver who scored grade 8 and 9 across all subjects) and service to the school.

At the start of the week, it was great to see our returning Y11s of last year, collecting their GCSE certificates and coursework and hearing about their exploits at College or in Sixth Form. Our current Y11s are readying themselves for the PPEs. There is another week of teaching before "normal" lessons are suspended and teachers will then focus on "revision week" where in-class activities are designed to guide every student into a much more detailed revision programme at home. The first of the PPEs is on Monday, 3rd December and whilst we want to wish all our students the best of luck in these exams, we would also urge them to take "luck" out of it by preparing as effectively as possible. The message from our outgoing Y11s was very clearly that most wished they had started preparations earlier and most underestimated the challenge of the PPEs so, as parents, please support us in sharing this advice.

As parents, all of you will be receiving the first of our "reports" following the recent AP1 tests. Throughout the year, we will share two of these reports and then a "full" report with written comments. The more basic reports, therefore, are designed to give parents a snapshot of how well your child is doing. Hopefully, the supporting guidance is helpful in explaining the information provided but, if not, please do make contact with the group tutors in the first instance to discuss the report. For parents of Y9, the timing is perfect, with parents' evening on 29th November, providing a great opportunity to discuss how well your child is stepping up to the demands of GCSEs. As a year group, staff are focusing their attentions on "readiness for learning" at the start of every lesson and, for the vast majority of students, this has been beneficial. However, there is still a small minority of students who are regularly slowing the pace of learning, and all have been placed on a programme of support and challenge to ensure that everyone can fulfil his or her potential. A couple of weeks later, on 13th December, it will be the turn of Y7 parents to be invited in to school and, following on from a great "settling in" evening, staff have lots of good news to report!

On Monday evening, we fielded three Girls' teams for a Rugby festival at Ripon Rugby Club, a fantastic showing when you consider that all the other, larger schools could only muster one team. The girls were magnificent and, under the guidance of expert coaches, they developed their skills significantly in a very short space of time, ending with full contact tackling which they loved!!! On Wednesday, our cross-country runners also did themselves proud at the Area X-Country Championships with Josh Hammett (Y8) winning his event and Alistair Banks running himself into the ground with a great effort to finish 3rd. A special mention to the girls should go to Charlie Donaldson (Y9) who came 7th and Georgina Campbell (Y7) who finished in 9th position but, on behalf of the school, a massive thank you and well done to ALL our students who represent the school, acting as fantastic ambassadors, playing hard but behaving impeccably. We salute you!

On Armistice Day, John Pengilley along with former student Lander Latta played the Last Post on the trumpet at Crakehall church 11:00am on Sunday for the dedicated 'There but not there' service. A brilliant tribute performed in front of hundreds of people who were incredibly grateful to have the moving tribute of a live performance.

Today, our student council organised a fund raising event for Children in Need. It's a staff vs. students penalty shoot-out with spectators donating money to watch. The result will be revealed next week via the weekly update and also through facebook. We'll let you know if it is youth or experience who triumph in this battle of technique and nerves!

They also have plans for a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday, 14th December 2018 so I am giving early notice to dig those jumpers out. Money raised will go to Save the Children.

Mr Chapman, who co-ordinates the work of the School Council, says that it has been marvellous to see the commitment to charity work shown by our Y11 student leader Amy Pointon. She has done an amazing job this year in dedicating her efforts to extending charity and community links here at Bedale High School. She has worked closely with Miss Bradbury and has thrived under the extra responsibility this year as all our Y11 student leaders have.

Miss Bradbury and Amy Pointon would like to confirm the final count as 54 charity shoe boxes for children, all of which are on now on their way to be delivered in time for Christmas. A big thank you for everyone who got involved, we smashed our target of 20 shoe boxes.

As I have alluded to, there are several important dates coming up...

20.11.18 – Y11 Geography Trip to Leeds.

23.11.18 – Y9/10 Knitting and Stitching Show in Harrogate.

29.11.18 – Y9 Parent's Evening – 4.30-7pm.

3.12.18 – Y11 PPE's begin.

Attachments

Letter for current Y8 girls – HPV vaccinations.