

On Wednesday evening we held the first round of the Rotary Cub Young Chef of the Year competition. Four of our culinary adept Y10 students put themselves forward for assessment in front of a panel of judges. Lucy Atkinson, Catherine Bush, Molly Hanson and Jodie Wilkinson were required to prepare a two course meal based in just two hours and on a budget of £20. Under the watchful gaze of their "mentor", Mrs Bradley, plus the frequent "just popping in" of senior staff lured in by the wonderful aroma, all the girls did themselves proud. The judges were so impressed by the quality that they found it impossible to separate the girls and so, instead of two students going through to the next round, we will have all four! A fantastic "well done" therefore to all concerned and good luck in the next round to be held at Northallerton School and Sixth Form in January. We will let you know how the girls get on but, in the meantime, for those of you still not on our Facebook page, there are some great photos of the girls in action, and of their finished products.

It is now a major feature at Bedale that our students have fantastic learning experiences outside the classroom as well as within. Earlier in the week, our Y11 Geography students visited Leeds to conduct their fieldwork investigation into changes around the city centre and inner city. On what was the coldest day of the year, the students demonstrated excellent resilience whilst working in groups to collect the primary data; this data is now being used to inform their investigation which will be examined at the end of the GCSE course. Mr Childe reports that, as a year group, they are on track to do well. However, as the Geography team achieved the best results of all subjects in last year's GCSEs, the bar is set very high! We wish them all well, and not just in their Geography course, as they prepare for next week's "revision week" in advance of the Pre-Public Exams the following week.

In the middle of the week, our Y9 and 10 students received a talk from the RAF Careers team and this focused not just on opportunities in the forces and the RAF in particular, but on the general point of developing skills for success. Steve Urwin presented a really interesting talk about the RAF and it was wonderful for our students to hear about their high standards and the sheer variety of opportunities available within this organisation including apprenticeships and funded university degrees.

It was yet another great way of cementing some very strong links with the RAF, and I was also proud to represent the school yesterday at RAF Leeming's "Changing of Command" ceremony. Group Captain David Arthurton's two year stint as Base Commander has largely coincided with my own tenure here at Bedale and his commitment to working in partnership with the local community has been very much in tune with our own vision for Bedale High School as a "community" school so I wish him well in his next positing and look forward to establishing strong links with his successor, Group Captain Blythe Crawford. The talk last night was around "building on success" and, once again, the parallel with Bedale did not go unnoticed. Although I do not need any extra motivation, I took inspiration from the ceremony and pledge to follow the same process of ensuring a seamless transition as Mr Kelly gradually takes up the reins here.

Parents of Y9 should note that, if you are struggling to attend parents' evening next week, then we would be grateful if you could let your child's tutor know as soon as possible and either they, or a member of the team, will call you back. This is a key time, at the start of the GCSE courses, where we need to reinforce some positive messages about learning and progress. Whilst the majority are doing well overall, there are still a number of students who need to meet expectations in terms of attitude and commitment if they are to achieve their full potential. For some of the students who fall into this category, it is vital that we secure full parental support, hence our commitment to 100% attendance/contact at this time.

Apart from the careers talk, our assemblies this week have focused on peer pressure. 11MSE used drama this morning to make very relevant points about driving safely to a year group who will be legally able to start driving lessons in the forthcoming year or so. The messages around peer pressure are also extremely salient with revision week and PPEs approaching for Year 11. It is extremely important to spread positive messages such as influencing those around you to come along to extra sessions, spend time in the study hub and share revision resources. It is equally important to distance yourself from anyone who has a negative attitude to revision and their PPEs. The message to Year 11 is this is **your** life and the decisions you make this year regarding academic performance will have lasting repercussions!

We also had a visit from Thirsk School and Sixth Form as part of a comprehensive programme of talks from post-16 providers about what they can offer to our students. One of the great outcomes of this is the development of relationships with other schools, Colleges and Sixth Forms. Whilst we are committed to our partnership arrangement with Queen Elizabeth's College at Darlington, this year has seen Bedale students succeeding at a wide range of other institutions. As yet, we haven't had anyone transfer directly into Barnard Castle School Sixth Form but that may change in the future if we have any students who feel it is right for them. As an Independent School, they are so impressed by some of our students that they are offering up to four fully funded places as part of a bursary programme and we would, therefore, strongly encourage parents of our high attaining students to consider this as a potential destination. Please contact Mr Chapman or Mr Kelly in the first instance if you would like to find out more.

Mrs Lumsdon would like to remind parents that our annual Christmas Showcase will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6.30pm in the main hall. Tickets can be purchased on the door at £3 per ticket. All welcome.

Miss Allsop would like to thank Emma Croker, Wiktorja Koscinska, Grace Wells, Lily McElhone and Ellie-Kaye Macarthur for "participating in a rock painting activity with residents from The Millings. It was a lovely event where we got together to create some festive rocks which we hope to varnish and then hide in the local park together. Such occasions are so valuable for the children as well as the elderly. All students were exceptional in their behaviour and rapport with the residents. They all made me so proud. I hope to take them out again soon." And a huge well done from me too!

Dates for your diary:

- 29.11.18 – Year 9 Parent's Evening.
- 11.12.18 – Christmas Showcase starting at 6.30pm.
- 13.12.18 – Year 7 Parent's Evening.