

At the end of what has been a very long but ultimately successful term, I would like to wish all parents a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. 2019 bodes well for Bedale High School and, under Mr Kelly's leadership, we are starting to plan for the long term in a sustainable way. Whilst we remain committed to delivering "excellence for all", there has been a growing trend to break down what this actually means for students, parents and staff so that we translate the "words" into meaningful actions. Whilst we are not there yet, we are continuing to move rapidly in the right direction and when Mr Kelly shares his plans in the spring term I know that he will be calling on parental support to ensure that "excellence" and "Bedale" become synonymous.

In school, we have been celebrating news that Miss Bradbury, in between selecting which of her many Christmas jumpers to wear, has been granted funding for another Science project. Her bid to develop a CSI style event in national Science week obviously caught the eye of the panel who make these awards so we look forward to yet more exciting Science in March. This week also saw us acknowledge Mr Mugisha's successful completion of his NQT induction year and the theme of "celebration" has also been extended to our end of term assemblies today. In a rolling programme throughout the day, each year group has come together to share their various successes and to celebrate those very special talents of many individual students who can perform in front of their peers. Highlights, according to Mr Kelly, have been the sheer number of students who have achieved awards this term as we recognise their performance in terms of attendance, effort and attitude to learning in subjects and finally, the much coveted Form Tutor awards. The other enjoyable aspect is seeing so many students who are brave enough to step up and perform in front of their peers in these assemblies...well done to everyone for finishing the term in such a positive manner.

At the start of next term, I will be leading the welcome back assemblies, along with Mr Kelly in order to reaffirm our school ethos and values. We remain committed to our three core principles (known as the "ARC" because they are based around three key words of **attitude, respect and commitment**):

- demonstrating a positive attitude to learning at all times;
- showing respect to all;
- ensuring high levels of commitment.

As a school, we have come a long way in a relatively short space of time and much of this is down to the majority of students following these basic principles. However, we are increasingly concerned that a small but significant minority of students are still not meeting expectations in one or more of these core areas so our message to all students in January will be clear...Bedale High School has the highest of expectations of every student and we aim to provide "excellence for all" in terms of the quality of teaching and learning. For some, however, a negative attitude to learning can slow down the progress not only of the student in question but also it can impact on the learning of others so, in 2019, we must eradicate any examples of this.

Today, we said our goodbyes to Ms Perry who has been on a long term supply contract this term as a part-time teacher of Technology. Whilst we are sorry to see her leave, we recognise the lure of a full-time contract closer to her home and wish her well. Thankfully, from our perspective, we have been lucky to recruit another, more local, teacher who is highly experienced and very well qualified to teach GCSE and higher. Mr David Fawcett will join the school for two terms and he has already been into school to meet with Mr Gill as part of his induction for the new term. He is enthusiastic about his subject, excited to be at Bedale High School and really looking forward to supporting all his classes.

We would like to thank all students and parents for the improved attendance this term. It has been really great to see so many pupils who have been ill but are determined to get back into school and not miss their learning. Thank you to the parents who have played such an important role in supporting the school's stance. Attendance on Tuesday was over 8% higher than the equivalent date last year and we want to maintain that same level of commitment into the new year. However, on the down side, it has been noticed that there has been a drop in standards of uniform amongst a small number of students with footwear being a particular bone of contention.

Please use the Christmas holidays to address any uniform issues so that all students arrive back in January raring to go and looking like smart “young professionals”!

Looking ahead to next term, I am delighted to inform you that the 4 students who took part in the first stages of the North Group “Cook Off” for the Rotary Young Chef Competition, have progressed to the final which will take place at Bedale High School on Thursday 17th January 2019 commencing at 3.30pm. Mr Bielby has also asked us to remind you of the Y11 GCSE PE “Rock Antics” Climbing Trip dates which are as follows:

- Monday 7th Jan - All students to be at BHS Bus Lane for 11am (Return back at 3pm);
- Thursday 10th Jan - Leaving BHS Bus Lane at 12.30pm (Return back for 5pm);
- Thursday 17th Jan - Leaving BHS Bus Lane at 12.30pm (Return back for 5pm).

As well as ensuring excellent uniform, please could we ask parents to support us in equipping all students with everything that they may need for successful learning? There’s even a possibility of some last-minute stocking-fillers!!! I have copied our 'essentials' list below. Form Tutors will be carrying out regular checks on both uniform and equipment in the New Year.

Equipment List issued for September 2018 (Re-issued December 2018)

- Sensible school bag, large enough for several exercise books
- Pencil Case with the following:
 - black pen and spare pen
 - scientific calculator
 - ruler
 - eraser
 - protractor
 - compass
 - pencil
 - green pen
 - highlighter
 - glue stick

PLUS:

- Locker Key (please contact your child’s form tutor if this needs replacing)
- Reading Book

Finally, good luck to our Y11 ICT students who will be sitting the first of their full GCSE exams straight after the Christmas break. As a year group, we have seen many showing their full potential in the recent PPEs but this is only where commitment and hard work have been matched with good planning so, hopefully, our ICT students can set the tone for the rest of the year and throughout the entire 2019 exam season. Parents should also note that Y11 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Thursday, 24th January.