

After the successful navigation of Ofsted last week, it was back to normal this week. In addition, the school has been contending with a nasty virus that has been doing the rounds in the past few days so we are hoping that everyone, staff and students, can get well over the weekend. The school had started the term strongly in terms of attendance so it is important that we get back to the same high levels, and not least because it is an assessment week for Y7-Y10 students. It was also great to see a good turnout for Y11 parent's evening last night and we are now looking forward to working with all our Y11 parents to focus on an extended, sustained period of preparation for the next round of PPEs and then the final GCSE exams in the summer.

If any Y11 parents are not aware, Mr Gill is having a "games console amnesty" whereby students, predominantly boys, elect to hand over their consoles to Mr Gill for safe keeping with the intention of utilising all the gained time by focusing more effort on their revision. If you would like your son (or daughter) to be part of this scheme, please let us know. It also raises yet again, the potential negative impact of technology and the importance, therefore, of reducing screen time so that it enhances life rather than dominating it and whatever we can do to work in partnership on this, for students of all ages, then so much the better?

It was lovely last week to see yet more Primary children in school. We held a highly competitive Primary Netball tournament in the first week of term and then, last week, primary school children from a range of local schools came to experience sessions in PE and Music. Judging by the smiles on their faces as they left, they'd obviously had a great time. Coming up next in the Y5 calendar, we have double science, including a forensic science day to celebrate British Science week.

In school this week, staff and students have begun to gear up to AP2 assessments, ensuring that essential course content has been covered ahead of the tests. As you will know, our practice at Bedale is to suspend any new learning in favour of revision and test preparation. Developing skills for success in tests and examinations is important and students need to learn how to retrieve information and apply it in timed, exam conditions so once again we are grateful for whatever support that parents can give in supporting our key messages from school.

Many of our boys, in particular, seem to be struggling to manage their time and get themselves organised so establishing strong routines in terms of regular homework/study slots is to be advocated.

On the sports pitches, our senior girl footballers were in action in the semi-final of their County Cup against a determined and highly competitive Boroughbridge team who had defeated Richmond School in the previous round. Despite falling behind in the first half, our girls dug deep and came through strongly in the second half to win 4-2 with captain, Lily Crosthwaite, scoring all four goals. The girls will now play either Malton School or Barlby High School in the final, hopefully, they will be able to emulate the boys who did so well last year to win their trophy. Certainly, the same Bedale spirit was very much in evidence and, under the guidance of Miss Temple, a number of players are developing rapidly. Meanwhile, our Y9 boy basketball players represented the school at a tournament at Risedale and won two of their four games in convincing fashion. Today, we also have a team of gymnasts competing in the Area Gymnastics competition in Northallerton. Miss Mackinnon commented that, "the girls have been training exceptionally hard both during lunch times and after school, choreographing all their own routines in order to prepare for the competition. I am excited to see all their hard work pay off today!"

Our Art department, with assistance from Bedale Co-op, will be fundraising every Saturday during February from 9.30am-1.00pm to try and raise at least £1000 to contribute to the purchase of a new kiln and craft materials. A kiln would create a vast array of opportunities for students of all ages to be creative. We will be selling hand-made crafts, cakes, holding a raffle and much more. Local businesses have been very generous in donating prizes such as vouchers for cream teas, Masons gin, Pizza Express meal as well as plants from the local garden centre Braithwaites. To assist further, we are now hoping that parents may wish to support us in our quest by make a donation towards the fundraising via their Parentpay account. All of the money would be gratefully received and benefit the children of Bedale High School now and in the future. If you do not wish to make a donation but would like to assist in providing items for our raffle or tombola then please can you send them into school via your child to the school office or donations of baking, please can they be brought in on Fridays. As always, your

support is always greatly appreciated. *"Alone we can do little, but together we can do so much" Helen Keller*

Reminder from Mr Sellers for Y11 History students that the Doctors Show will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> January at Leeds City Varieties Music Hall Theatre examining the development of medicine over 1000 years which will be followed by a GCSE exam workshop. On the same day, other Y11 students will be taking part in the Poetry Live event in Leeds which has been arranged by our English Department.

Finally, looking ahead, Y8 parents should note that our GCSE Options process is due to start later this term with the Options Booklets coming home for parents to look at with their son/daughter on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February. Students will benefit from a number of assemblies in the week beginning Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March where members of staff will offer guidance about the different courses. Throughout the entire process, your child's form tutor will be offering support and, if you have any general queries, you should make contact with the tutor in the first instance. As part of the process, all parents will get chance to speak to class teachers at the Y8 parents' evening on 14<sup>th</sup> March and senior staff will also be on hand at this event to discuss any specific issues relating to the options process.

### Attachments

Y11 letter to parents from Mr Chapman, Head of KS4.

Y11 GCSE Summer timetable.

Y11 Revision timetable.

Cycling for All attachment from Richmond School.