

We're hoping that the recent cold snap in the weather has killed off all those virulent bugs so that we can get back to what was looking like improved attendance for our students. At times like these, staff, too, can succumb so it's been a case of "all hands on deck" as we've tried to cope with the absence of some key colleagues. Thankfully, the Bedale spirit has been in evidence and with everyone pulling together, we've managed not only to keep things ticking along but, I'm pleased to say, we've had another good week.

Mrs Knight's assemblies this week have been focussed on mental health awareness. At the start of the year, all staff participated in a training event led by Compass Buzz, an organisation which specialises in this area and, as a school, we remain fully committed to promoting healthy minds as well as healthy bodies. The main message from Mrs Knight was based around the charity 'Time to Change' who were promoting Thursday, 7th February as 'Time to Talk' day. The initiative around the day was for people to take the time out to check in with someone and to invest time into our own, and others, mental health. In form time, students and staff pledged their commitment to talking about mental health and what they were going to do to brighten someone's day or to take the time to show someone that they care. This was clearly demonstrated around school that day with Y9 in particular who passed on to Mrs Knight about what they had taken on board from the assembly.

Highlight of the week for me came with news that our very own "masterchef", Lucy Atkinson (Y10), had made it through to the next round of the Rotary Club's Young Chef of the Year competition. Lucy was competing against a number of other Heat winners and will now progress to the regional final in Leicester on 23rd March. Mrs Bradley commented, "as expected, the standard of dishes that Lucy was up against from the other students in the area was extremely high. Lucy worked with confidence and was professional in her conduct. The judges were impressed with the skill level and presentation of her dishes and were helpful in their feedback. I am very proud of Lucy's achievement and we are both very excited to meet the next challenge."

Not a week goes by where it isn't busy here at Bedale and this week was no exception. Along with all the "regular" activities, on Monday the PE department took 20 girls to Harrogate to take part in an RFU lead rugby festival. The girls took part in an 8-a-side, full contact tournament. The girls demonstrated excellent strength, skill and teamwork, racking up a number of wins for Bedale High School! On Thursday our GCSE PE students attended their final rock climbing session at Rock Antics in Middlesbrough. Our students have gained a brilliant experience which will contribute to their practical assessment grade. It's been fantastic to see them working with professional instructors to develop their skill level and I hope that their high level of focus and application will reflect well in their end grade. Let's hope that their rock climbing will continue beyond this experience! For several students, it served as a great personal challenge and as a Headteacher it is wonderful to see students "growing" as well as learning.

We have also heard that we are to be the beneficiary of a flowering cherry tree so our KS3 student council is being held responsible for siting the tree and nurturing it as it takes root. Students have also been asked to suggest road names for a new housing development in Aiskew. I did offer "Rawdin Boulevard" but this was deemed "not appropriate" and the look from the students said it all!!! It is great, however, that students and staff are more actively involved than ever out in community and last Saturday in Bedale Co-op highlighted this. Miss Allsop is attempting to raise money for a kiln which will open up various artistic pursuits for our students and her tombola/cake stall/book stall/raffle has already set her on the path to reach her total. Thank you to all those parents and "friends" of the school who have contributed in so many different ways and a special thank you to the students and staff members that have supported Sarah so much. They are all set to go again this Saturday so, if you are shopping in Bedale please drop in and say hello whilst seeing what is on offer. Biggest thanks of all though must go to Clare Boddy from the Co-op for enabling this to happen

A number of our Y11 students are a part of the **Maximise** programme designed to enable them to achieve their potential. They have been directed to attend specific afterschool and lunchtime sessions. Our staff are doing an amazing job of giving up their extra time freely and I would urge all students to attend these sessions. An extra two or three weeks of study at this stage can easily result in a significant academic boost!

The Y11 assembly this week included the launch of the Prom Passport. Students have to hit specific criteria to enable them to attend this end of year celebration of their time at Bedale High School. This criteria focuses on attendance, punctuality, behaviour and uniform. Allowances have been made for those students who have on-going health issues. The majority of the year group should be congratulated as they have, so far, hit this criteria and continue to demonstrate high personal expectations. However, a large number of students have also been made aware that they must demonstrate considerable improvement over the forthcoming weeks otherwise they risk missing out on this event.

The mantras for all our students, but especially Y11, must revolve around our core values of Attitude, Respect and Commitment. This means having consistent and punctual attendance, flawless uniform and exemplary behaviours for learning.

Please could we ask parents to support us in equipping all students with everything that they may need for successful learning? I have copied our 'essentials' list below.

Equipment List

- 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, a reminder that Mr Chapman is collecting as many (clean) jokes as possible for *High Jinks*, a light-hearted publication designed to raise money as part of the school's contribution to Red Nose day on Friday, 15th March. The staff response has been pathetic. Lots of jokes but definitely not funny, so we are hoping that parents can provide some better examples!

Dates for your diary:

Please note the dates for the scheduled Y11 GCSE Exams:

- ART EXAM: 8th May/9th May and 10th May 2019 - all parents/carers should have received a letter via the post regarding this exam
- MFL SPEAKING EXAMS: 7th-10th May, all parents/carers candidates will be receiving a letter next week regarding this exam
- DRAMA EXAM: 27th March 2019.

Attachments

Y11 PPE Exams Letter
Y11 PPE timetable