

It was great to be able to share our Ofsted report at the start of the week and even better to see the positive responses from so many people - thank you to all for your support. The success of this, our local school, is obviously dear to the whole community and that is why we are at pains to maintain the momentum that we have created. Yes, we have taken time to congratulate ourselves on the progress we have made but there have been no wild celebrations here...it's been more a mood of quiet satisfaction and a deep commitment to get things right as the school heads into its next phase. My own view, for what it's worth, is that best is yet to come!!!

The past week has certainly been eventful, including a small electrical fire that managed to knock off all our power in school. All credit goes to staff and students for a "textbook" evacuation...calm, orderly and efficient, exactly the way it should be. The swift response of the Fire Brigade meant that we were able to get back into the building to resume P5 and our electrical contractors were also great in ensuring that the problem was identified and rectified so that power could be restored overnight. And, whilst all that was happening on one side of the fence, we actually managed to keep a Primary School Tag Rugby tournament going on the other side! Under the guidance of Miss Temple, 18 of our students from our sports leaders' team had been trained to officiate and they were a revelation so well done to all. Feedback from the primaries was wonderful and Miss Temple, herself, said "our students were brilliant. It's not easy to referee a game of Rugby but they displayed some outstanding leadership skills".

As well as organising this tournament, the PE team have been busy in other areas too. Mr Coombs led our swimmers to success in the Area Championships with John Pengilley (Y11) earning himself a Gold Medal in the Y11 +50m boys freestyle. This is an excellent achievement as this category includes 6th form students. Mr Coombs was impressed with the conduct of the whole squad, saying "the morning was fuelled by a brilliant team spirit, many of students have delivered superb performances". This afternoon our Y7 netball team competed in the U12 area netball rally at Thirsk School. It was the first time our girls had played together competitively and they were up against some very talented teams. However, they showed great determination and resilience throughout and did themselves and the school proud. A special mention to Niamh Hughes who was awarded 'player of the tournament' from our team for her outstanding defending all afternoon. Well done to all involved.

Today is a big day for our Y8 students as they will be receiving their GCSE Options booklet. The process is being managed by Mr Gill but Y8 Form Tutors are very much at the heart of things. A message to all Y8 parents from Mr Gill - I wrote to you a few weeks ago highlighting our options process and today all Y8 students will be bringing home their options booklets which explains the whole process. It is an exciting time for our students and probably the first time a student will have to make long lasting decisions about their future. Therefore, it is important to give it careful consideration, so we will give all students another month to make sure that by Friday, 15th March they are in a position to make the right choices. There will be a full week of assemblies from subject teachers and a range of tutor time activities to make sure students are given all the guidance needed to make informed choices. Please get in touch with your child's tutor if you have any questions or queries. As ever, I look forward to working in partnership with you as parents and ensuring that, together, we enable your child to thrive in KS4 at Bedale High School.

A message to all Y11 parents from Mr Gill. It is such an important time for our Y11 students as they prepare for their second round of PPE's during the week commencing the 18th March, please can I urge all parents to support your son/daughter by taking their phone away whilst they revise! This does not need to be for long, just for the sustained periods of revision, as what we are finding is that many of our Y11 students are being easily distracted with social media and not given 100% focus to their vitally important revision activities. As parents you can be a massive support for them and this is just one example of how you could help them achieve their true potential. Furthermore, all of our Y11 students will, today, be bringing home their personalised GCSE exam timetables for the summer exams. There is a cover letter attached to their timetables so please do get in touch with Miss Riley-Fox if you have any queries.

On Wednesday, 24 Y10 Science students attended 'GCSE Science Live' in Leeds. The students listened to five inspiring, topical and engaging lectures delivered by 5 scientists, all renowned in their area of expertise.

First up was Dr Kate Lancaster who explained the rather complex topic of nuclear fusion and its potential role as an energy resource in the future. The main issue is how to contain what will essentially be a star on Earth! Professor Robert Winston discussed fertility and amused us with lots of interesting facts. Did you know, a human female loses 3 eggs an hour from the moment she is conceived, due to the ageing process! Conversely, from adolescence, a human male produces 150,000 sperm an hour! Next up was Professor Alice Roberts who described the evolution of companion or 'alliance' species to humans. She focussed primarily on the dog, which descends from the European Grey Wolf. Until fairly recently it was thought we domesticated the dog 15,000 years ago but a combination of evidence from the fields of archaeology and genetics now indicates 30-40,000 years ago at the peak of the last ice-age! Professor Dave Cliff explained the huge leaps in computer science over the last 50 years. The number of components in silicon chips doubles every 2 years but their price halves. Lots of focus is now on bionic limbs which can read signals from your nervous system. Finally, Dr Simon Singh explained the Big Bang theory and the evidence we have for this, namely Red Shift and detectable microwaves in the universe. The students were also given lots of advice by Chief Examiner Stewart Chenery on how to approach their GCSE science examinations in the summer of 2020.

On Monday 18th February, all Y9 girls will take part in a STEM day delivered by the Smallpiece Trust. The day is designed to complement the national curriculum in science, technology and maths by demonstrating their link to the wider world and enhance the students' understanding and aptitude for problem-solving, creativity, design and engineering. It will be a very hands-on experience. The girls will be working in teams and there will be a competitive edge. Lots of fun to be had by all!

Y11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Candidates will be completing their Practical investigations, a compulsory element of their GCSE Exam on the following dates, Tuesday 19th February-Friday 22nd February, candidates have been informed of individual times and dates. It is vital that all students attend and come fully prepared with all ingredients and equipment required. These dates are scheduled times and they will not have the opportunity to complete this task at another date, this mark will equate to 50% of the grade. Good Luck to all students attending this exam. If you require any assistance or additional guidance please contact Mrs Bradley bradleya@bedalehighschool.org.uk

We are delighted to say that Mason Emmett-Doyle competed last weekend defending his gold medal in karate from last year. Mason for the second year running is the Yorkshire gold medalist for his category. Competitors didn't just come from Yorkshire but from all over the country to compete at the huge competition.

Miss Allsop would like to highlight to parents the information attached on 'Pens and Pixels' creative workshop for 8-17 year olds which will be held at Bedale Community Library from Saturday 23rd April, 9th and 16th March, April 6th and 27th, May 11th and June 1st and 8th. Designer Gough is an exceptional digital artist who has worked for Playstation games and Wendi May a mural artist who trained in Natural History. The creative workshops will run with designers and run from 10-12 noon and cost only £2.50. They will be an exciting series of workshops in the Bedale Room for creative young people and include model making, game design, animation, illustration and sketching.

Reminder – Miss Allsop would like to remind parents/carers that they will still be collecting cakes for the Kiln fundraiser, if you would kindly bring them to school on this Friday and next prior to the event. Thank you all for your continued support so far both donating gifts/prizes/cakes and on Parentpay.

Y11 If anyone is interested in the RYLA information which was discussed during assembly please see Miss Allsop for further information on how to apply for this great opportunity.

Attachments

Y11 Summer GCSE Exam Timetable and letter.
Pens and Pixels Art Poster.