

All parents of students in Y7-10 should have received a report today. For most parents, the reports are our "interim" reports which are designed to provide a snapshot of current progress. For Y9 parents, however, you will have received a longer report that includes written comments. Although these written reports come at different times for different year groups throughout the year, we guarantee that everyone receives a "full" report annually, along with an opportunity to meet face to face with class teachers and form tutors to discuss learning and progress. Mr Gill has worked hard to tighten the whole process around assessment, recording and reporting and we are much more confident as a school now when it comes to target-setting and tracking progress. However, we are always looking to refine our systems and improve our practice so, if you have any constructive feedback, we would be happy to take it on board. Please return the response form via your child's tutor.

For parents of Y8, the report should form the basis of conversations with class teachers, particularly in light of GCSE options. We hope that parents have found the Options Booklet to be a useful basis for discussions at home and, after the half term break, students will have a week of presentations in their assemblies to assist them in making their choices. We have also arranged it so that the Y8 Parents' Evening is at the heart of the programme, providing an opportunity for parents to discuss any aspects of GCSE provision with subject specialists and to meet with senior staff if required. Throughout the process, your child's tutor is on hand to provide guidance and help explain any aspect of the booklets that are not clear to you.

Final reports to Y11 parents are scheduled for the end of the Spring Term and these will take into account the very important results from the second round of "Pre-Public Exams" that are due to be held in the week beginning March 18th. Many of our students are really clicking into gear now with revision and exam preparation and I would urge all parents to ensure that, over half term, all distractions are cleared away and that your sons and daughters are committing to several intensive, and highly effective, periods of revision each day. As we found last year, the most successful students weren't necessarily the most able students but they were the ones who got themselves organised early and showed high levels of commitment and resilience. As a parent who is looking forward to 'A' level year, I share your pain!!!

There have been several highlights for me in school this week. The visit of Holocaust survivor, Arek Hersh, is always seen as a crucial day in the Y8 calendar and this year was no exception. Students continue to be fascinated by his story and many were queuing to purchase his book at the end of the session. Thanks, as ever, must go to Mr Sellers for organising the visit because we hope that what students learn will last them a lifetime. I was also delighted to see our Y9 girls so actively involved in another STEM day arranged by Mrs Jennison. Like her, I too am passionate about providing opportunities for girls to consider careers in Science and Engineering so these events, where girls are encouraged to explore, develop, experiment and simply "have a go", are so invaluable. This day focused on problem-solving, creativity, design and engineering. The subject was autonomous or 'self-driving cars' of the future. The girls were split into groups of 5 and in a 'Dragon's Den' style pitch, had to design, build, program and market their cars with each student taking in a different leadership role. The girls all rose to the challenge, worked well in their teams producing 8 impressive prototype vehicles which they showcased at the end of the day.

As well as our girls getting involved in STEM, a group of our female Computer Science students have been meeting with a representative of Bedale Town Council and WJP Software. Over the next few weeks they will be involved in a project to develop a website celebrating Bedale's role in the upcoming Tour de Yorkshire.

Huge congratulations to both Izzy Foxton and Frances Owen-Stanford who are the first to complete their Volunteering section for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award so far this year. Izzy, who works in the Blue Cross Charity shop, is described by the manager Sarah Sharp as being a "valuable team member", "confident and polite" and "a pleasure to have around". Frances, who volunteered her time in Herriot Hospice was described by the manager Pat Mischenko as having achieved all tasks really well, and of being a 'very pleasant team member', and "team player". Both students are a credit to our community. Well done.

Have a great half term.

Attachment:

Whole school letter from Mr Kelly.

Dates for the diary:

4.3.19 – Bedale High School reopens after half term.

14.3.19 – Year 8 Parent Evening.

Please note the dates for the scheduled Y11 GCSE Exams:

- DRAMA EXAM: 27th March 2019.
- 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.