

Yesterday, the school hosted the Area Girls 7 a-side football tournament and the event coincided with the official opening of Bedale Junior FC's new facilities on Dobson's Field. Mr Kelly was there to share the moment as two of our students, Chloe Harris and Reece Bickerton, took centre stage at the opening ceremony. Mr Kelly commented, "it was fantastic to be at the opening of the new facilities at Bedale Junior Football Club. As a school we were also very proud to have two students unveiling the new plaque and we look forward to working in partnership with the club to keep a steady stream of young players coming through". The tournament itself was a huge success with strong representation from schools within the area and our girls certainly did themselves proud with two of our teams going through the entire competition unbeaten, just missing out on the trophy on goal difference. Chloe Harris, Jess Pattison and Abbie Pocklington were awarded as "women of the tournament" for their sustained high quality performances and their commitment throughout the day. We now look forward to the much awaited U16 girls' county cup final against Malton School (which is being played after Easter) which will be an excellent finish to a fantastic season for our girls football teams. Today, it has been the turn of the boys and, on a day that has dawned so brightly, we hope that the boys can emulate the success of the girls.

Earlier in the week, Miss Cropper and several of her talented Drama students hosted more Primary school children for an afternoon of acting that left them all clamouring for more! The session was focused on the Ballad of Charlotte Dymond where students had to solve a murder mystery through the use of drama techniques and performance. Miss Cropper started the workshop off with teacher-in-role taking on the role of characters to give information in a fun and engaging way. Miss Cropper says 'all students were a joy to work with, and it is exciting to see brilliant behaviour for learning and enthusiasm in such young people. This bodes well for the next generation of students moving up to Bedale High School in the coming year.'

Our assemblies this week have been on a variety of themes. On Monday, Miss Bradbury led the assembly for Y7/8 on the topic of "Inspiration" and talked about her true hero, David Attenborough who, at the age of 92, is leading the attempt to unite the world in tackling climate change.....truly inspirational indeed! On Thursday, 9RCA presented their own thoughts on the importance of resilience and beating stress, whilst today's assembly for Y11s was focused on the ever important topic of online safety.

The Y11s also had an external speaker on Wednesday who came to talk about the National Citizenship Service and it was great to see so many students signing up for this wonderful summer experience. Mr Chapman also posed the question to Year 11, 'is it possible to eat an elephant?' However, there is no need to call the RSPCA this was just a key message to students about how to chunk down revision into manageable portions rather than trying to consume it as a whole.

As a school, our curriculum at Bedale Citizenship in high regard; not only is Citizenship taught as a discrete GCSE subject, unlike in most schools, but we also deliver it through other subjects and most notably through our PSHE programme and, this week, we have been indebted to our local PCSOs who have been dropping in to lead sessions with our Year 7-9 students to raise awareness about staying safe online, including 'sexting'. Mr Childe, who heads up our Citizenship and PSHE programmes said that "it has been fantastic that we been able to collaborate with our local PCSO's, inviting them into school to deliver these important sessions. Social media and the online world in general is ever-changing, and it is crucial that our young people are aware of what the law says about sexting and other online activities, and that all students are equipped to stay safe when using the internet and social media".

With one week to go until Easter, I am conscious that this is my penultimate message to parents. Whilst I will be sorry to leave the school, I am now looking forward to the new experiences that semi-retirement can bring and also having a bit of rest and relaxation! I have been very focused in these past few weeks on supporting Mr Kelly's transition to Headship and the more he has picked up the reins, the more impressed I have been so I know that the school is going to be in good hands. Over the past two years, the school has grown into an increasingly confident and outward facing organisation and the partnership with parents has largely been at the heart of what Ofsted described as a "step-change in provision" so I know that Mr Kelly and his team will retain the same level of focus on Home-School relationships. Just one aspect of this is the work of our Parent Governors and, with that in mind, I am delighted to announce that Kate Loughlin has been appointed as our new parent governor. Kate, who has a son in Y7, has previous experience as a governor in a primary school and will bring a wide range of additional skills and experiences quite apart from her role as a mum so we very much look forward to working with her.

Finally, we would like to offer our congratulations to Mason Emmett-Doyle who competed in the North East Open Karate championships last weekend gaining a Silver medal. Next week is the last week of term so

it will, no doubt, be another busy one, culminating in the publishing of Y11 reports. Other things for parents to note for next week and for the period after the Easter break are as follows:

- We are in the process of renewing consent forms for both photography, biometric and communication for students. Please find attached a copy of the consent forms which we would appreciate if you could complete and return to the main school office asap but no later than Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- Mrs Knight and the SEND team would like to remind parents and pupils about Homework Club in The Base after school until 4.30 on a Wednesday and Thursday. You can come and complete your homework (with support) so that there is less for you to do at home!
- All Y11 students were given a letter this week highlighting the Easter revision sessions that will be held for them over the Easter break (copy attached). Please can reply slips be sent back by **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April** at the latest.
- We are currently collecting orders from our Year 11 students for leavers' hoodies. The price for this item is £17.45. Students are selecting their sizes and colour preferences and parents can pay for this via ParentPay. A great memento of our students' time here, it features the names of the entire year group! This year they will be given to students after their summer exams to maintain the focus on high standards of uniform for all.
- A plea to parents of Year 11 students! Once your child has finished their final exam please can any high quality blazers, skirts and trousers be returned to school so they can be recycled and redistributed. On occasion we have incidences of damaged blazers, split trousers etc. and having some items in stock will provide a short term fix while new items can be ordered.

Dates for your diary:

29<sup>th</sup> April – Y10 PPEs begin

3<sup>rd</sup> May – Training Day (school closed)

6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

Have an enjoyable weekend.

#### Attachments

Y11 Easter revision sessions letter.

All students – communication and biometric consent form.

All students – photograph and video consent form.

Y10 PPE timetable.

Iceland Parent Meeting powerpoint.