

The DFE updated their school tables this week – this is always a keenly anticipated moment for us in school as we wait to get confirmation of where we stand in comparison to other local schools. I should say from the outset that making like-for-like comparisons can be difficult as each school works within its own context and faces different challenges depending on variable factors such as funding, transport, rural/urban location, levels of deprivation and so on. However, if you look at the BHS data I hope that you will be encouraged by what you see, and that you will agree with me that our journey of improvement is continuing in the right direction. The Progress 8 score is the main key measure that schools are judged against. In simple terms, this shows how much progress pupils make between the end of primary school and the end of key stage 4 when they sit their GCSE exams. Our students are compared to pupils across England who got similar results at the end of key stage 2. In a truly comprehensive rural state school like ours, it can be a massive challenge to achieve a positive P8 score (which indicates that students are doing better on average than pupils with similar ability across the country). Our P8 score is currently +0.16 (which compares favourably with the national average for state schools which is -0.03). And if you scan down the list (on the link below) you can see where we stand in comparison to other local schools. As ever, - we know we have a lot still to do, - but I do think that this should be seen as a positive tribute to the work that students, parents, staff, governors and our supporters in the community have undertaken over recent years.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&region=815&la-name=north-yorkshire&geographic=la&for=secondary>

### **Yr 11 QE Interviews**

On Wednesday this week five members of staff came from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College to interview 70 Year 11 students and discuss potential courses and future plans. It was a really busy day but I received some excellent feedback from these colleagues who were really impressed with our students. Of course we know that this is only one route that students can choose, and we continue to work closely with other partners, post 16 providers and NYBEP to ensure that all Yr 11s are getting the advice and guidance they need.

### **Y11 Design & Technology - Half term NEA intervention**

The deadline for Yr11 students to complete their NEA project is looming. On Monday 17th February (during the half term break) there is an opportunity for students to come into school to work on the practical component of the project. The session will run from 9.30am - 3.30pm. Students may come in for all or part of the session. If they are coming for the whole session they will need to bring a packed lunch as there isn't an option to go off the school site and return again later. Students who would like to come in should let Mrs Childe know and have a rough idea of how much of the session they would like to come for. I strongly urge students to take advantage of sessions like this when staff are giving up their holiday time to help them achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **Yr 11 Revision Sessions/Mentoring/Support**

As the weeks fly by we continue to increase the support available to Yr 11s. Please can parents be aware of the extra revision sessions that are on offer (see attached list) and keep encouraging, cajoling and yes – even bribing them to attend! The Hub is also open for study at lunchtime and after school. As well as these sessions, we have targeted a group of Yr 11 students for personal mentoring, using a range of staff across school. The idea behind this is to provide a weekly check-in with them, to ensure they have what they need in order to revise, and to encourage a calm and organised approach to the lead-up to exams.

### **Year 9 Geography Trip to Flamborough Head and Bridlington**

Mr Childe writes: On Wednesday, all of our Year 9 Geographers visited the Holderness Coast to see for themselves some of the coastal landforms, sea defences and impacts of erosion (topics that have been covered in previous lessons).

We began at Flamborough Head, with a visit to the beach at Selwick's Bay; here, students observed caves and sea stacks, impressive evidence of folds in the chalk and the speed at which the tide was coming in. After the steep climb back to the Lighthouse, students had their lunch, bathed in the glorious February sunshine, looking out across the North Sea.

Following lunch, we walked along the chalk cliff tops around the headland towards Bridlington Bay – observing the wave-cut platform below and some evidence of slumping. Once in Bridlington, we enjoyed a stroll along the wide sandy beach, taking in the different examples of sea defences along the coast. Sadly, the ice cream shop was closed!

Our last stop of the day was at Skipsea, a few miles south of Bridlington. Here we saw the dramatic effects of coastal erosion – and could see why this part of the coastline is known as the 'fastest eroding coastline in Europe'. A great day was had by all and I'm sure this will prove to be a useful experience in terms of their future studies.

### **Hot Water Issues**

I need to inform parents that we currently have no hot water in the cookery room and that therefore there can be no practical lessons until it is fixed. Unfortunately it looks like it will be quite a complicated job to fix so we have had to schedule it to take place during half term. It is not an issue for the rest of school where we do still have hot water. Apologies to all the students this affects, and also to Mrs Bradley who is having to re-plan her lessons accordingly. Thank you to parents and students for their understanding.

### **Well Done To...**

**Zac Marsden Yr 11** who passed his tractor theory and practical tests this week. Zac has always been a keen helper on the family farm and will now be even more useful. He has promised to bring in his licence and certificate on Monday so that we can get a picture for Facebook. Congratulations Zac!

### **George Bramley Yr 10 - Rotary Chef Competition**

Mrs Bradley writes: Congratulations to George who participated in the regional round of The Rotary Young Chef Competition on Tuesday night. George wowed the judges with his menu of Quail's Egg scotch Eggs, Duck in a plum sauce with roasted vegetables and a Chocolate Orange and Berry Mousse. The competition was very stiff and unfortunately despite cooking his socks off George did not get through to the next round. George was, however, a credit to the school. He worked in a calm and confident manner in a kitchen that he had never cooked in before. Well done George!

**Emily Maidwell Yr 11...**Emily is organising a park run to raise money to support the English Department in school. The event takes place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, starting at Northallerton Leisure Centre. I'm really impressed with the proactive approach Emily is taking with this and I'm sure it will be a very successful event. Please see the attached letter with details of how parents and students can get involved. And don't worry – there are plenty of other roles which enable you to avoid having to complete the actual run!

### **Yr9/Yr10 GCSE English Literature**

Mr Wild writes: After half term, we will begin to study two set texts: Macbeth in Year 9 and An Inspector Calls in Year 10. We feel that it is really valuable for any students who have not already bought personal copies of these texts, to do so before they start their studies. Details of the editions that we will be using in school are included below. For Macbeth, we are able to sell copies of this text in school for £3, payable either in cash (to Mr Wild) or through ParentPay.

<b>Text (&amp; edition details):</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Cost</b>
'An Inspector Calls' (Heinemann Plays)	978-0435232825	<b>£9.99 (RRP)</b>
'Macbeth' (CGP)	978-1841461205	<b>£3.00 (in school)</b>

### **Rugby Reminder: Come along on Mondays after school – All Welcome!**

Mr Bielby writes: After school Rugby is on a Monday night after school from 3.30pm till 4.30pm on a weekly basis and will continue all the way up to the Easter Holidays. We are lucky enough to have the support from 3 coaches (including an RFU coach and 2 local club coaches) who welcome students from all ages, genders and abilities. It would be great to see more girls and KS3 boys to add to a constantly growing group that come on a weekly basis. This is a great opportunity to get involved in rugby, whether wanting to play for fun or wanting to take it more competitively through the rugby festivals that are on throughout the year. All you need is appropriate clothing for the weather conditions (ideally PE kit but not essential) and to organise transport home. Mouth guards can be purchased from the PE office at an appropriate time for the cost of £1 (bargain!).

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Bedale Primary School Open Evening:** 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February, 3.30pm (I will be there with some former BPS students)
- **Yr 10 Science Live Trip to Sheffield:** 12<sup>th</sup> Feb (see link below for details)

On Wednesday 12th February, the Science department are taking 35 Year 10 pupils to Sheffield City Hall to see Science Live! Students need to be at school, in the bus bay at 7.45am as we will be leaving at 8am. Parents/guardians need to pick students up from school at 5pm. If alternative arrangements are planned regarding transport home, students need to bring a note from parents explaining this. Students also need to bring a packed lunch/drink (bottle only) for the day and a mobile phone to contact home if we are running late. The event is non-uniform, so suitable warm clothes are needed as we could be waiting outside in the cold for up to 30 minutes.

- **Yr 8 Options Booklets:** Handed to students on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- **Yr 11 PPE Revision Week:** W/C 24<sup>th</sup> February
- **Yr 11 PPE 2 Exams:** W/C 2<sup>nd</sup> March

### **Spare a thought for...**

My wife! After 27 years of asking, she finally agreed to accompany me to watch a Leeds match at Elland Rd last Saturday. I felt a little like I was introducing my wife to my long-term mistress! We lost to a team who have only won 3 times away from home in their last 37 attempts. Two of these victories have been against Leeds. It's fair to say she did not catch the football bug, nor is she any closer to understanding the rest of the family's obsession with this club. I'll try again in 27 years' time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "melly". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the main text.