

One week to go! As usual at this time of year – it is proving to be an incredibly busy end to term with a lot going on in school and within the wider community...

Christmas Charity – Save The Children

There were two key events in school today that were aimed at raising money for Save the Children. The first was an exercise in sartorial elegance – who could wear the most striking Christmas jumper? On a personal note, I am devastated that my tastefully branded Leeds United Christmas jumper did not even make the finals, but putting that disappointment aside, there was excellent representation from many in our younger year groups. Congratulations to Rachael Whitaker (7RHA) for winning the competition with a stunning singing Rudolph design. Perhaps the studying of 'A Christmas Carol' for GCSE English Literature has imbued a few of the older ones with more of a Scrooge-like mentality...but well done to those in Year 9-11 who refused to give in to the idea that they are too old to look silly on Christmas Jumper Day!

The second main event today was the Staff vs Student football match at lunchtime*. With Mr Gill and Mr Bielby at the helm, we approached the contest full of confidence, and determined to wash away the painful memories of the whitewashing we received recently in the staff vs student rugby match. Make no mistake: this was not just about charity. It was about our ability to walk with heads held high; our ability to look in the mirror and know that we gave our all; our ability to show that the sum of all our parts (our collective age, odd shapes, lack of athleticism and general poor fitness) can add up to something wonderful, something unstoppable, something quite special to behold.

If you've ever watched the opening scene to Gladiator, you will have some sense of the tension, the calm before the storm. Bielby and Gill patrolled the troops in the warm up, checking armour (a woeful lack of shin-pads – but plenty of natural protective padding on show!). I thought Mr Gill was a tad over-the-top when just before the whistle blew, he raged 'At my signal, unleash hell!'. At this stage, I was worried I had pulled a muscle standing up too quickly after tying my laces.

Suffice to say, a hard-fought battle was won 4-2 by the staff. A couple of thunderbolts from Matt 'The Hammer' Gill, a sweet strike from distance from Jon 'Likes to hit 'em' Bielby and a clinical penalty from Claire 'The Assassin' Temple. Mr Mugisha impressed with his tireless running, Mr Chapman was a mobile rock at the heart of defence. All of which meant I could faff about on the fringes without having to worry about anything! In the second half, the students came back at us and were rewarded with a glimmer of hope after some great determined running from Ben Macauley. Then their 'spy in the camp' Oliver Redding (acting as staff goalie), took pity on the students and let another one past him...but it was all in vain. Pride restored. The natural order of the universe has been returned. Until we play them at rugby again!

*Please note that some of the details within the match report may bear little relation to actual fact.

Christmas Showcase

Wednesday 18th December – 6pm start. Please remember that tickets must be purchased on ParentPay (a checklist will be used on the night). Students need to arrive for 5.30pm in full uniform (unless they are wearing a costume for one of the drama performances).

The show itself will begin at 6.30pm. This event has really developed over recent years, and students have been working hard with staff to ensure they are ready. It would be great to see as many guests as possible and we look forward to celebrating the impressive array of talent on display. See attached leaflet for further details.

School General Election

We had an excellent turnout for our school election yesterday. All students have had lessons to raise awareness of the key differences between political parties and to give them the opportunity to vote for their preferred choice in our replicated election. The queues ran throughout lunchtime yesterday, and each candidate produced a video of their manifesto which was shared with students in the hall. While many of us may be thoroughly fed-up with the constant coverage and repeated messages from politicians, it has been a really enjoyable experience to engage the next generation with some of the aspects that will

affect them as they go through to adulthood. The results were very different to the real election, and perhaps reflect the difference in priorities between some of our current politicians and the young people who will be their future target audience!

Green Party: 19.6%

Liberal Democrats: 18.9%

Conservative: 18.1%

Brexit Party: 14%

Labour: 10.6%

(% shows the proportion of votes secured by that party)

Well Done To...

Congratulations to George Bramley (10SCH/SCA) and Lucy Archer (9ELU) who impressed our friends from the Rotary with their cooking last night. They will now progress through to the next round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition. I have to say, one of my most enjoyable moments of this week has been fulfilling my duty as taster! George's Quayle Scotch Egg starter, followed by duck breast was fantastic. Lucy's ham and mushroom carbonara followed by Victoria Sponge cake also hit the spot. Unfortunately, both students seemed keen on taking the remaining food home rather than letting me finish it off – but it was great to see the quality of their final products. My thanks also to Mrs Bradley for all the time she gives to this, and to the Rotary staff for giving our students this opportunity. Please see Facebook for some lovely photos.

Congratulations must also go to Connor Clark (11SNO) who has now achieved a Merit in Grade 5 Electric Guitar. We look forward to hearing some killer performances before he leaves us at the end of Year 11 – amps and speakers at the ready! I will tell Mr Gill in advance – no crowd surfing this time.

I think it's only fair that we should include Miss Temple in this section of the newsletter. On Wednesday she was successful in securing the Head of Key Stage 4 post, starting in January. Miss Temple is well placed to continue the great work that Mr Chapman has done in this role over the last few years, and is literally brimming with ideas. We are really looking forward to see how this develops. For parents who may not be familiar with the jargon – the role is essentially to lead the form tutors in Years 9-11, ensuring that meaningful provision is in place. She will also be responsible for pulling together the Careers Information and Guidance (GIAG) and for continuing to develop student leadership within these cohorts. She will be working closely with Ms Bradbury, Head of Key Stage 3.

Year 11 Stocking Fillers?

If any parents are desperate (really desperate!) for last minute stocking fillers, you may want to consider purchasing some of the revision guides that could help them in their planning and organisation of study as they approach the crucial last few months before the exams. Mr Gill has attached details for a range of subject areas.

Coop Card Points

Ms Allsop writes: Currently the local community have pledged their Co op card points to Bedale High School Creative Workshops. We are so thrilled and hope everyone remembers their Co op card when Christmas food shopping as every little helps. Thank you if you have already pledged to our cause – it makes a real difference to us and to the students.

Iceland

Following on from last week's notice, Mr Childe has again attached the Iceland trip letter. The deadline for those wishing to be considered is next Friday 3.30pm. Please ensure slips are returned to the print room.

