

Dear Parents

We are only at the end of Week 2...but time seems to be flying by already. As always, a busy week this week with two very successful trips to Malham (Year 8s). Mr Chapman has delivered his 'Get GCSE Ready' assembly to Year 9 and in relation to this, please see the reminder below about GCSE Information Evening next week. Today we have also had a visit from Richmond High School who have delivered a session to our Year 11 students about what they can offer in terms of 6th Form provision.

YEAR 9 GCSE INFORMATION EVENING

This event takes place in school on Thursday 19th September, 6pm. It is an opportunity for Year 9 parents and students to find out more about what to expect over the 3 year GCSE courses they have now started, and how we and parents can work together to bring about the most positive results. Some parents may have attended previous events with older siblings, but I would urge you to come again given the changes that have occurred around Key Stage 4 qualifications in recent years. Key aspects that we discuss are Maths and English requirements/revision/support; revision skills and techniques; careers information and guidance and inclusion/pastoral support/SEND provision. We look forward to seeing you there. Please see the attached letter for further details and either email a reply or send back the slip to confirm attendance.

YEAR 7 MFL CHANGES

Following some timetable issues and discussions with parents/students, Year 7 students will be spoken to on Monday morning by Mr Gill regarding changes to some of their French/German classes. In some cases this will involve a switch to a different language or class but if you have any queries around this, please contact Mr Gill or Miss Bradbury next week.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

I'm delighted to confirm that a number of our new Year 11 students have now completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, with some of our recent Year 11 leavers also achieving their Silver. These awards are still held in very high regard by employers and colleges; they are a clear indication that a young person has initiative and commitment, and is someone who can probably be relied upon to work well in a team. As always, these students have made us really proud in their endeavours and I pass on our congratulations to all of them. The silver group won lots of admirers during their latest expedition in Reeth when they made a spontaneous and collective decision to clear away any litter that they discovered in the countryside during their walk. Massive thanks go to Christine Wilson and her small team of support staff who have given up so many weekends to make this possible – we place a great deal of importance of trying to give students fantastic 'out-of-classroom' learning experiences and this is one of our most successful projects.

UCI BIKE EVENT – 25th SEPTEMBER

Our plan is to stay open as usual on this day, but the reality is that buses will not be able to leave on time at the end of the day, meaning that we will need to supervise those bus students in school until they are able to board buses. We are being told to expect that roads should be cleared from approximately 3.45pm and hope to have students on their way from then – but it may be a little earlier or later depending on what happens in the event. There are some later closures around the Masham area but our Masham bus is looking into an alternative route. Students who make their own way home on public buses or on foot will be allowed to leave as normal at 3.20pm. Next week we will finalise lists of those students that will require later supervision, but generally speaking, it is anyone who gets a school bus. For parents who pick up children by car, please let us know if you wish for us to keep them in school up to around 4pm by which time you should be able to get through – you can confirm this with our school administrator Dianne Johnson at main reception. We are keen to ensure that arrangements are in place to avoid you having to keep children off school on this day, and appreciate your support in this. Further details of road closures can be found at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/uci-road-world-cycling-championships>

HOME LEARNING – SHOW MY HOMEWORK ISSUES

I apologise for the issues at the start of term with ShowMyHomework. The problem was beyond our control and we had to wait for the providers to correct some faults in the system before it would recognise our new student roll and allow staff access. This has now been resolved and all students should be able to access the site. If you have any queries regarding log-in information or other issues with the site, please email Alison Parnaby at parnaby@bedalehighschool.org.uk

Homework is such a contentious issue for any parent (and student!). Schools are constantly challenged to ensure that we get the balance right between encouraging the development of vital independent learning skills that will serve students well when they leave us, but also being mindful of not overloading them with too much pressure. My own ongoing experience as a parent of secondary school children is that it can also be really difficult to help them, without becoming too pushy! We do the usual 'parent tricks' - checking that homework has been done, and holding off on rewards/X-box time etc until they have completed work to a good standard...but I'm also learning that what worked for me as a learner, may not work for them. So stepping back to let them do things their own way can also be important. Please do contact your child's form tutor if you have any concerns over homework and we will work with you to find a solution.

A reminder also that homework club is in The Base after school from 3.20pm to 4.15pm on a Wednesday/Thursday...a great opportunity for students to get further support with homework if needed.

YEAR 9-11 GCSE FOOD PREP AND NUTRITION STUDENTS

Message from Mrs Bradley:

If any KS4 students who have opted for GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition would like to order a revision guide they can do so by paying £2.85 on Parentpay (retail £5.95). The deadline for this is October 1st 2019. Once all payments have been made the order will be sent and books distributed when they arrive.

YEAR 8s - HISTORY BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Message from Ms Haydon :

A reminder that there is a meeting for parents and students going on the History Battlefields trip on Monday 16th September at 6.00pm in the Hall.

Copies of passports and EHIC cards must be handed in by Monday please.

PE AND SPORTS UPDATE

Mr Bielby writes:

Congratulations to the following students who attended the Area Sports Presentation Awards which was hosted at Richmond School on Wednesday 11th September. These awards recognised the students achievements at County level or beyond. Well Done!

Y9 Mason Emmett-Doyle - Karate
Y9 Joshua Hammett - Cross Country
Y10 Joshua Newell - Cricket
Y11 Oliver Redding - Rugby Union/League
Past Student Tafari Nicholas - Football.

Congratulations also go to the following boys who have been selected to represent the Hambleton & Richmondshire Area Football squads this year.

Y8 Ben Morpeth
Y9 Alistair Banks
Y9 Joshua Hammett
Y10 Makonen Nicholas

Y10 Joshua Newell

In PE lessons this week the students from Y7, 8, 9 have been involved in our annual **cross country** run. Well done to all those students who have been selected to represent BHS in the upcoming cross-country meet which will take place on Wednesday 18th September over at Wensleydale School, Leyburn. Runners are due to start from 4pm onwards (Parents are welcome to come and support). The bus will return back to school between 6-6.30pm. Keen runners from Y10/11 are more than welcome to join us. Please let the PE Dept. know ASAP.

Rugby Union - Will be starting this Monday coming (16th September) and will be ran by Rob from the RFU every Monday after School starting at approx. 3.30pm and finishing at 4.30pm. Students involved must arrange transport home. Initially we will be opening this club to boys but if there is interest within lessons we will open the club to girls too. The PE Dept. have committed to taking our students to the various rugby festivals throughout the year.

Attached is the **Extra-Curricular Sports Programme 2019-20** with lunchtime and after school clubs.

DRUG AWARENESS WARNING

You may have seen in the press that there have been recent concerns regarding 'Soundcloud' pills which are circulating around the Harrogate area. A number of pupils at one of the secondary schools in Harrogate required medical attention on 9.9.19 after taking the tablets which are believed to contain ecstasy. An arrest has been made but we have been asked to alert parents in case they hear of any other information, and to help them guard against the tablets spreading to our area. Students are often networking with other young people from around the area and news of this type spreads quickly. The tablets are made in the shape of a cloud and are thought to be a potential replacement for 'pear pills' and 'blue punishers'. Please contact school or the police should you have any concerns regarding this.

Yours faithfully,



T. Kelly

Headteacher