

Last night's Y8 parents' evening was another very well-attended event and I really enjoyed the opportunity of talking to lots of parents not just about their about their child's learning and progress but also about their hopes and aspirations for the future. The evening doubled up as a chance for parents to quiz teachers about potential GCSE options and, for my part, this combination seemed to work well. Students have had lots of high quality input in school and it would appear that the Options Booklet has been extremely useful. This is an excellent, very thorough document that contains a vast amount of information and guidance but several parents made a point of commenting on how they have welcomed the personal touch in terms of communication with tutors or senior leaders and this is something that we will continue to aim for. At Bedale, we believe in maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum which is not easy in a relatively small school and at a time of significant funding cuts nationally. However, our three year programme means that students can select one more "option" and so, unlike other small schools where, typically, Arts subjects have been in decline, here at Bedale we are seeing them thrive.

Today, in school, we have been fund-raising for Comic Relief and the charity staff versus students football match certainly provided a fair degree of mirth, unfortunately directed mainly at those ageing members of staff who still think they can pull on a football kit! Unlike the corresponding Netball fixture where the staff team eased to victory, this was a much more tense affair but the staff were, once again, triumphant. The final score was 2-1 which owed more to the generosity of the students who were often guilty of going easy on us. However, Mr Carruthers' first half goal will live on in the minds of everyone that saw it (#rolling back the years). The game was played in great spirit and the crowd certainly played their part too. A much more sedate activity was the selling of our High Jinx magazine and this has proved to be very popular. The brainchild of Mr Chapman, this has been a great way of staff and students coming together on a project and, as well as raising money, this has genuinely raised a few laughs! The total amount raised for this great cause is likely to be around £175.

Apart from making it onto the football pitch again, my highlight of the week came on Wednesday afternoon. As part of British Science week, Miss Bradbury and Mrs Jennison organised the most wonderful Science afternoon for local Primary school children. Having made a successful bid for additional funding, they created a "CSI Bedale" event whereby students studied the patterns in their own finger prints, analysed fibres from their clothing under a microscope, made impressions of their own teeth and made casts of 'footprints'. The afternoon was rounded off with a 'who done it' style investigation, whereby they tested urine for glucose and protein, as the perpetrator suffered from diabetes and kidney disease! The feedback from staff and students was glowing in their praise with one Primary School calling the event "the most amazing science afternoon" and "the most amazing transition event too". According to the class teacher, the children all "came away in love with science and enthusiastic about Bedale High".

Next week is a big week for all our Y11 students with their second series of "pre-public exams" where they will be looking to improve on the first round just before Christmas and give them confidence going in to the real exams in the summer. We would, therefore, like to wish all those parents well who will be supervising revision sessions this weekend, throughout the next week and probably most days between now and 17th June. For those of us who have been through this experience, we feel your pain! Just remember that the most productive and practical thing you can do is keep them plied with tea/coffee and welcome treats!

A big thank you to all parents and students who have assisted us towards achieving our goal of having a fully equipped body of students. It has been wonderful to witness all students in lessons having everything they need to fully engage with their learning. The amount of time students spend searching for pens and disruptive valuable learning time has been greatly reduced. Stationery will continue to be on sale from the Learning Resource Centre with a complete pencil case being priced at £2.50 and a refill pack of two pens, two pencils and a green pen costing £1.

Date for the Diary

28.3.19 – Y10 Parent Consultation Evening.

Attachments

Thank you letter from Miss Allsop – Kiln Fundraiser.

Dance for All Poster.

Year 10 Parent Consultation Letter