

All Parents – Auction Of Promises Event

I'm really excited to be able to share some information about this event on 27th March 2020. The plan is for this to be a flagship social event for the whole community to become involved in – something that helps us to raise money for school improvements, but also something that brings us together as a community in a fun and engaging way. Please see the attached information and let us know if it's something you would like to be involved in. We are really keen to build up an impressive offer in terms of our Auction of Promises that will be offered on the night – you can see some examples and ideas on the attached information but we will accept anything that people would be interested in bidding for. I'm confident that between our students, parents, business friends and other contacts – we should be able to turn this into a really special occasion, and hopefully something that becomes an established annual event on our local calendar.

Year 7 and 8 Poems - Bedale Christmas Festival

Mr Wild and the English staff have been working with Yr 7 and Yr 8 students to collate entries for the Bedale Christmas Festival poetry competition. I look forward to seeing some brilliant work here and we will share some examples with you on Facebook and through the weekly email as we get closer to the final competition. Perhaps the next John Milton or Elizabeth Barrett Browning is just waiting to be discovered!

Year 7 Parents: Homework Support Evening

A reminder to parents of Year 7 students that they are welcome to come along to this event on Thursday 28th November, 6pm. This is an informal event where Mrs Knight, Mr Gill and I will be available to share some tips and advice on how to support with homework issues, and to respond to any concerns or questions you may have. Please do email or call to let us know if you are coming, so that we know how many people to expect and can plan accordingly.

Email: johnsond@bedalehighschool.org.uk (Dianne Johnson - School Administrator)

Call: 01677 422419

Creative Workshops

On Saturday, Mrs Allsop is taking a small group of students to Leeming Co-Op to engage with customers and to seek opinions on picking our Creative Workshops. Students will be discussing the endless possibilities that the Co Op dividend 1% can contribute to our creative workshops for the benefit of the whole community...feel free to pop along and say hello if you are in the area!

Yr 11 PPE Exams and GCSE Information Evening

I'm sure that parents of Yr 11s will not need reminding that these exams begin on Monday. This is our first chance to get a really thorough picture of how the Yr 11s are doing and it provides us with useful data upon which we can base our interventions and teaching over the remaining months before the GCSEs begin.

Of equal importance is the fact that the students get a real taste of what it is like to go and sit a formal exam. They have been told that we will be extremely strict around adhering to exam protocol: entering the hall correctly, maintaining absolute silence, bringing the right equipment, avoiding any communication with other students etc. It is vital that they get into these routines now to avoid any problems in the real exams which could lead to students being withdrawn from exams and losing marks or qualifications.

I would also like to thank all the parents and students who attended our GCSE Information Evening last night. Parents gave us some really useful and positive feedback as they benefitted from practical advice and workshops aimed at helping them support Yr 11 students in the lead up to exams. They also heard from a former parent, Alison Keane, who spoke about her very different experiences with twins in Yr 11 last year, and some of the things that worked/didn't work for them as they worked through Yr 11.

From my point of view, there are 2 key things that I think are really important. Firstly, the need to start revising early and to be organised. This enables students to cover more content, but also to do it in a bite-sized, manageable way – similar to the 'little and often' approach. In our house last year, this was a really big part of the reason why my son never became too stressed about the exams – he gradually started to build confidence from fairly short but regular and focussed revision sessions so that his knowledge was

building over time. The second thing is to commit to a timetable and stick to it – this will ensure that you are giving proportionate coverage to subjects and also building in relief such as time with friends, watching your favourite programme etc.

I have attached the presentation from last night, so that parents who couldn't make it can still get some sense of the key points. Please do also use your son/daughter's Form Tutor as a point of contact for any concerns.

BHS Collaboration Work

As part of our ongoing journey of improvement, I am really keen to develop strong partnerships with other schools and organisations that can support us in any way, where we can share good practice and ensure that we remain at the forefront of educational developments. I thought it would be useful to update parents on some of the collaborative groups we are now involved with:

- YTSA (Yorkshire Teaching Schools Alliance): A diverse group of schools spread across the county who support each other with staff training and development. Schools host CPD events and 'lend' staff to each other for reviews and learning events. Staff are signposted to attend relevant training courses that match their subject area, or area of responsibility within school.
- The Behaviour Collaborative: A group of local secondary schools who meet fortnightly to discuss concerns over individual students who have been referred (with parental consent). Early Help representatives, admissions staff, the police and other invested parties also attend and share ideas for next steps and interventions.
- Peer Review Group: We have recently been invited to become the 8th school in a peer review group of other schools: All Saints York, Sherburn High School, SFX Richmond, Boroughbridge High School, Tadcaster Grammar School, Brigshaw High School and Thirsk High school. These schools will support each other in agreed areas of development and practice, utilising staff expertise as appropriate.
- Aysgarth School: I have received a letter this week inviting BHS to develop a relationship with Aysgarth School with a particular focus on Key Stage 3. An initial meeting is being organised and I look forward to sharing future developments with you.

We also work with a host of businesses and other external agencies to help us support our students in the most effective way. I am really passionate about using any opportunity we can to learn from others, and in the process, to raise the profile of the school both within and beyond our own community.

Parents of students in Year 7-10: Reports

Students have today received their reports summarising progress for the start to this year. Parents have received letters explaining some changes in the ways we are reporting progress at Key Stage 3 and around Home Learning.

Please be aware - if students in Year 9 and 10 have a Yellow colour coding for their 'forecast grade' this is good, as they are on track to meet their targets. Whereas a Green means that they are forecasted to excel their target grade.

If you have any questions or concerns around the report, please come back to your child's Form Tutor, or to Mr Gill in the first instance.

PE Lessons - Colder Weather

Miss Temple has asked for the following message to go to all parents: As the weather becomes colder... Students must wear school PE kit but we strongly advise they bring the following additional items if they are outside on cold days:

- Thermal long sleeve top and/or bottoms to wear under their PE kit.
- School PE jumper.
- Gloves (if appropriate for the sport they are doing).
- Long black football socks.

Parents of Year 7 and 8 Students: Art and Textiles Equipment

Please see the attached letter from Mrs Allsop which explains why we are asking for a parental donation towards Textiles & Arts equipment for projects. This is something that we are always very reluctant to do, but having looked at the resources and costs of materials, it is clear that we will need to raise some additional funds if we want students to be able to get the most from the projects we want to offer them. Thank you in advance to parents who help with this cause.

New Date for Christmas Showcase event: Music and Performing Arts

Please be aware that we have had to move this event to Wednesday 18th December. It was originally planned to take place on the 3rd December. I apologise for any inconvenience this might cause. Hopefully this allows more time for parents and students to plan ahead and put it in their diaries! We look forward to a really entertaining evening that matches and even surpasses the recent high standards we have become used to at this event.

Behaviour Update

While behaviour in lessons remains very good, I have had concerns in recent weeks over behaviour on corridors and at lunchtimes. Students have received a briefing this week either through assemblies or form time to remind them of the importance of behaving sensibly and safely. We have a tiny minority of students who are damaging toilets and doorways etc during their lunch/breaktime – something that impacts on other students when areas need to be blocked off for repairs, or when we have to spend money on repairs that could be spent elsewhere. I have spoken to them about the difference between ‘snitching’ and reporting, trying to remind them of the importance of standing up for their rights and not letting a few reckless and selfish individuals ruin their school environment. Please could I ask parents to support these messages at home, so that we can continue to promote the right environment in school. There has been a real improvement this week, but we now need to ensure this is sustained.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Kelly

Headteacher