

It has been a busy week in school this week with Yr 9 Parent Evening, revision week, a Governors' meeting, Maths and ICT 'Deep Dive', the Rotary Young Chef competition and the launch of Miss Temple's Year 9 competition aimed at targeting improvements in some key areas...

Yr 11 NCS Opportunity

It was great to welcome staff from the MFC foundation into school yesterday morning. They spoke to Yr 11s about the NCS initiative - a 4 week programme for young people to take on different weekly challenges after they finish their GCSEs. Activities are based around developing key life skills and lead to a qualification which is recognised around the world. All this for just £50 - it really is an incredible project and a fantastic opportunity. Please see the attached letter for more details.

Well Done to...

...Mrs Hall (Maths) and The Dales Community Choir. They have been nominated for one of The Yorkshire Awards for inspiring others. Mrs Hall found out this week that they have won the Richard Whitely Award and are receiving it at a glitzy ceremony in Leeds on 6th of March during a black tie dinner and ceremony. There has been talk of BBC film crews so Mrs Hall is currently fretting about getting the right hair-do! Well done to everyone involved...we look forward to seeing some great pictures of the event!

...The Hawks U12 Bedale Juniors squad. They have reached the semi-finals for their County Cup competition and the team includes a number of our Yr 7s: Jake Banks, George Hobson, Kieran Wilkinson, Sam Ogier, Harley Sinclair, Sam Atkinson, Bradley Barker, Jack Smith-Hazelton, Paul Smirthwaite, Max McCafferty and Alfie Gibb (captain). This is a significant achievement with the boys having had to beat a number of teams from higher leagues and we look forward to hearing about the next round.

...Lucy Archer (Yr 9) and George Bramley (Yr 10). Both students participated in the North Group Cook Off round in this year's Rotary Young Chef competition. The event was hosted by us and we also welcomed students from Queen Ethelburga's and Northallerton College. After a tense 'cook-off' the Rotary judges announced that George was the winner. Congratulations to him as he progresses through to the next stage at Betty's Cook School in Harrogate, carrying the hope of all at BHS with him (no pressure!). Our students once again made us very proud – Lucy came third in the round with a lovely salmon dish and Mrs Bradley is already lining her up as next year's champion-to-be. George impressed again with his trusted duck recipe and we look forward to seeing how he does in the next round. Pictures will appear on Facebook in the coming days.

...The cross-country runners who were competing at the North Yorkshire Championships in Tadcaster last Saturday. A special mention has to go to Joshua Hammett who ran a fantastic race coming in 1st place out of the Junior Boys. Joshua will yet again represent the county in his next race on Saturday 8th February at Penrith, Northern Counties and then the English Schools XC Championships, Saturday 14th March at Sefton Park, Liverpool.

Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Every now and again we like to remind parents of our approach to teaching students about relationships, health and sex-education. Please see the attached guidance and contact Mr Childe, who oversees our PSHE and RE delivery in school, if you have any questions.

Volunteer Press Officer

One of the things we are really keen to do is to keep a high profile within the local press and online in terms of showcasing all the positive events and achievements that students are interested in. Unfortunately, we do not have capacity in school to give this role to a member of staff, and therefore it ends up being a bit hit and miss in terms of consistency of coverage. If any parent is interested in helping out in this area, please do contact me in the first instance. It would be fantastic to have someone who could act as a link between the school and the press to ensure that we keep trying to get the good coverage out there.

Yr 11 Exam Timetables, Intervention and Revision

Parents of Yr 11 students please be aware that they have been issued with a personalised copy of their GCSE exam timetable today along with a copy of the letter attached. This is the timetable for their actual GCSE exams that begin in May. It may be a good idea to stick this up in the kitchen or somewhere similar so that you and they are aware of the key dates as the time approaches. I know it sounds ridiculous but every year we have one or two students who manage to get the day/time of the exam wrong and then face the stressful situation of having to rush around unprepared.

Before these exams, they still have another round of PPE exams in school (starting 2nd March) and the timetable for these will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

The latest list of extra-revision classes is attached again this week. Please keep encouraging them to attend these sessions which really help to secure those key exam skills. Next week the Heads of Faculty are meeting to plan some more personalised interventions for individual students, based on their latest forecast grades. As ever, there is a lot of support available for this year group to ensure that they can go into the final exams feeling well prepared.

Uniform Reminder – Fake Lashes

We have had a recent spate of girls wearing fake eye-lashes in school – please can parents remind them to save these for the weekends and holidays, - they should not be wearing them in school...as one colleague said to me yesterday, ‘When do they get the time to put them on?!’

From the Kitchen – Themed days

Monday - Burns Day - we will be serving Haggis Neeps and Tatties.

Tuesday - we will be celebrating the Chinese new year with a Chinese Buffet -

Chicken chow Mein, Beef in Black Bean sauce, Sweet and Sour Chicken and Vegetable curry with Rice, Noodles and Prawn Crackers.

Spare a thought for...

Me! Tomorrow I have to go paint-balling with my 14 and (soon to be) 17 year old sons. I'm 45 years old. There's a reason I've never felt the need to do this before – and I thought I had reached the age of safety where no one would ever expect me to do something like this. Apparently not. The only thing that I have heard from everyone who I have asked about paintballing is that it hurts. Great. My revenge? On my birthday I might make them come to the theatre with me. Or maybe some opera.