

As we reach the halfway point in this half-term (where did that time go?!) we can look back on a busy 4 weeks and a positive start to the year. Thank you to you all for your continuing support and willingness to work with school. We do not take this for granted and we are always trying to look at how we can continue to improve our provision. As we start looking towards the second half of this half-term, there are several key events and projects that will help us on our journey: Open Evening, Student Voice Week, Y11 Parent Evening, Revision Week followed by Assessment Point no. 1, Restart A Heart Day and our first faculty 'Deep Dive' (more to follow on this).

Student Leaders: Assemblies This Week

You may have seen some pictures on Facebook showing our Student Leaders in Y11 delivering assemblies to all year groups this week. Over the last 12-18 months we have tried to really build on the leadership roles, especially in Y11. We now have a group of students who lead teams of others across the school and are heavily involved in key projects. They are responsible for working on four key areas: Student Wellbeing; Charity and Community Links; Extra-Curricular; Learning, Revision and Homework. In addition to this, they support staff in lunchtime duties around school, act as bus monitors and help with lunchtime clubs and extra-curricular activities. Being active within our community in this way, and showing the right attitude to their learning, helps them to earn the right to have a 'town pass' at lunchtime. Mr Chapman is currently looking into the first cohort who have already earned this and it will be up and running soon. (See the message below from Mr Chapman)

UCI Cycling Event

I'd like to say a huge thank-you to parents for helping us stay open this week by being flexible and understanding around the impact on buses on Wednesday. In the end, they were able to get through to school earlier than we had hoped, and students were quickly and safely on their way home. Thanks also to our admin staff and Form Tutors who helped to chase up the contact with parents so that we knew exactly what the arrangements were for each child at the end of the day. Unfortunately, the weather led to a difficult day of cycling but from a school point of view - it all ran very smoothly!

Yr 7, 8, 9, 10 Football

Well done to all those involved in the matches at Thirsk School on Monday. We had 4 year groups playing and it was fantastic to see such a range of students playing for the school. I especially enjoyed watching the girls' Y7/8 team in a brave and dominating performance that finished 5-0 to Bedale. A difficult night for me personally though, - my daughter (in the Y7 team for Thirsk) was not too impressed to hear her dad shouting on the Bedale girls, and I've been paying for the treachery ever since! The Y10 boys also had a convincing win (5-2) and are now through to the Area Cup semi-finals, while the Y9 boys were narrowly beaten in a really entertaining match that finished 6-5 to Thirsk. The Y8 boys had a difficult test and went down 6-0 but Oliver Smith-Hazelton stood out as Man of the Match. Our Y7 boys made a promising start in their first match together winning 6-5 against Risedale on Wednesday evening.

Snape Fun Run – Last Saturday

This one nearly went under the radar, but thanks to Miss Temple for letting us know about some amazing performances in the Snape 5K and 10K events last weekend. Congratulations to Josh

Hammett (Y9) who was the overall winner of the 5km race, Matthew Lenton (Y8) who came 7th overall and 3rd in his age category in the 5km race and Libby Loughlin (Y7) and Anna Donaldson (Y7) who also completed the 5km. Congratulations also to Connor Clark (Y11) who finished 15th overall and 2nd in his age category in the 10km race with a very impressive time of 43minutes and 19 seconds. We are very proud of all your achievements, especially on such a hot day! Miss Temple also said that it was lovely to see some students volunteering and helping the community put on such a great event.

Yr7 Settling in Evening

Thank you to the parents who attended the Yr7 Settling in Evening last night. It was a really well attended event and the feedback confirmed that parents agree with us in feeling that the Y7's have made a very positive start. Inevitably, one or two issues require further action and support which we will carry out as soon as possible.

Yr 11 Revision Week

Next week will see the start of revision week for Y11 students. In most lessons next week they will be recapping what has been learned and studied over the last few weeks in preparation for their first round of assessments the week after next. This is a really important time for these students – they have the opportunity to lay down their first marker of intent and it will be a key indicator to the early progress they are making this year. Please encourage them to be thorough and committed to their revision at home too, while maintaining a sensible balance between work and relaxation/exercise etc. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the form tutor or email the class teacher of the appropriate subject.

Faculty Deep Dive

I recently shared with parents our ambition to become an outstanding school by 2025. We know that this will require a concerted effort on all fronts but undoubtedly the most important aspect that we will continually strive to develop is the quality of our day to day classroom provision. This year, Mr Gill is again working with each of our 5 Heads of Faculty and we have planned a faculty 'deep dive' week for each of them as we move through the year. The idea behind this is to work collaboratively with staff and middle leaders to have a forensic look at how we are planning and delivering within those areas. It will involve student voice, work scrutinies, lessons observations and work with our partners in other schools. Essentially, we want to ensure that we are constantly learning and developing our practice and hope that this will support that process. The first one takes place week commencing 7th October and will focus on Creative Arts and Health.

OPEN EVENING – 3rd OCTOBER

This year we are inviting parents of students in both Year 5 and Year 6 to come to our Open Evening. It is a fantastic opportunity to get a feel for the school, students and staff. Following a brief introduction from me, families can tour the school and engage with fun, interactive activities across our subject areas. Please pass the date on to any parents of younger children who may be interested and we look forward to a fun-filled, action-packed event!

Message from Mr Chapman

Next week students in Year 11 will be bringing home a letter regarding the much valued Town Pass. I would be most grateful if you could return the attached permission slip which gives permission for your child to go off site for their lunch into Bedale. We hope to start this from Monday 7th October.

Students in Year 11 are well aware that this pass is only granted to those who meet our high standards of behaviour, meeting deadlines, attendance and punctuality and the pass will not be given to students who fall below these standards. We will of course be looking at attendance on a case by case basis and not deny a Town Pass to a students for whom their absences seem valid.

As with last year students are also signing up to fulfil extra responsibilities to earn their town pass including assisting at extra-curricular clubs, mentoring younger students and carrying out prefect duties around school. It has been wonderful to see our Year 11s involve themselves in the wider life of the school and make a real difference to everyday life here at Bedale High School.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Kelly', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

T.Kelly

Headteacher