

Suddenly we find ourselves past the halfway point of this half-term and Christmas feels like a distant memory. It's amazing to think that in just 2 weeks we will be halfway through the school year!

Yr 11 PPE Timetable

Miss Riley-Fox has attached the Yr 11 PPE timetable. This is for the next round of pre-public exams that the Yr 11 students will complete in preparation for the real thing (the actual GCSEs are just a matter of weeks away now). The PPEs begin on 26th Feb and run through to the 13th March. Please see also the attached letter from Miss Riley-Fox with reminders about the essential equipment and the Candidate Handbook which has been emailed to all students. The message that we are constantly giving to Yr 11s is that now is the time to really commit to organised and thorough revision. I have included links here to the Yr 11 GCSE Support Evening Presentation (with reminders about how parents can support with revision etc) and also a link to where you can purchase subject specific revision guides:
<https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Yr-11-GCSE-Info-Evening-2019.pdf>
<https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Revision-Guides-2019.pdf>

Upcoming Events

- Yr 9 Geography Trip to Flamborough: Weds 5th Feb (see link to previous letter/info here):
<https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Y9-Flamborough-letter-to-parents-January-2020.pdf>
- Yr 10 Science Live event in Sheffield: Weds 12th Feb (See below for more info)

Yr 10 Science Live Trip

Mrs Jennison writes:

On Wednesday 12th February, the Science department are taking 35 Year 10 pupils to Sheffield City Hall to see Science Live! The students will have the opportunity to listen to 5 of the UK's top scientists discuss their areas of specialism, hopefully inspiring students to study science beyond GCSE. The students will also be given advice on their GCSE science examinations which they will be sitting in the summer of 2021.

Students need to be at school, in the bus bay at 7.45am as we will be leaving at 8am. Parents/guardians need to pick students up from school at 5pm. If alternative arrangements are planned regarding transport home, students need to bring a note from parents explaining this. Students also need to bring a packed lunch/drink (bottle only) for the day and a mobile phone to contact home if we are running late. The event is non-uniform, so suitable warm clothes are needed as we could be waiting outside in the cold for up to 30 minutes.

Coast To Coast Cycling Challenge 2020 *(Repeated message from before Christmas)*

Many parents will be aware that we have run the Coast to Coast cycling event in the past, and had a fabulous response from the students and wider community. Mr Sellers, former History teacher at BHS and experienced trip leader, is once again going to lead this for us in 2020 as we raise money for Children's Cancer. Last time, we were lucky enough to attract the support of a number of parents and volunteers who played a crucial role in supporting the event. It is so worthwhile – not just because of the charity we support, but also as an experience for the students who benefit so much from the sense of achievement they accomplish through completing the challenge. Miss Allsop will be the link person in school and coordinate the organisation with Mr Sellers. Please see the attached letter for more details.

Pantomime Superstars!

A massive 'well-done' goes to Zac McCulloch (9JBI) for providing live piano music throughout the performance of Fearby and Healey's Pantomime - Ali Baba And the 40 thieves. He has learned the entire running order and reacted superbly to save the day when some actors missed their lines. Incredibly, he does all this with no script! In the same production, Peggy Venell (7 ACE) was a Chorus member and played 3 or 4 characters throughout, with all the costume changes this entailed. Mrs Hall tells me that Peggy has been fantastic so far, always smiling and hasn't missed a cue yet!

Cheerleader Champions!

Congratulations to Amy Watson (Yr 11) who competed in her first cheerleading competition of the season last weekend in Newcastle. Amy has been cheerleading for about 10 years and trains every week. She is a 'base' - the one who picks up and throws the other cheerleaders! Her stunt group achieved the award for first place and her cheerleading squad came second in the competition – well done Amy – a brilliant effort.

Further success went to Lily and Lucy Archer as their 3 squads came away with two second places and a first place award. But this is only the tip of the cheerleading iceberg...both sisters are competing in Atlanta in 3 weeks time with their international squad! We wish them every success and look forward to seeing some amazing pictures.

Yr 9 Reading List

Mrs Cann will soon be sharing a recommended reading list for Yr 9 students after consulting with staff in school. If any parents or students would like to contribute suggestions for this list, please email her your ideas at canns@bedalehighschool.org.uk . We have some great readers in school, and we are all very aware of the importance of encouraging regular reading as such a vital skill that is still required as students move towards their GCSE exams. Perhaps more importantly though, we should ensure that we do all we can to encourage young people to see the benefits and enjoyment that can be had from spending some time with a good book!

Assemblies This Week

A variety of topics have been covered this week. 8RCR delivered some great messages on Tuesday when the students presented an assembly based around body image and self-confidence.

On Thursday Yr 9 and 10 students were introduced to an online counselling service that promotes good mental health and signposts young people to appropriate support (see the link here for more information): <https://www.kooth.com/> .

This morning I spoke to Yr 7 students about how we deal with each other's differences and we looked at how autism can affect some young people. This is just one example of the work they are doing this half term as they focus on diversity and celebrating the things that make us unique.

Behaviour System and Responses

As we approach the halfway point of this academic year, it may be a good time to remind parents of the Behaviour Model we use as part of our Behaviour Policy in school. We have had a few queries from parents recently which has prompted me to summarise this here, but the full policy can be accessed via the school website.

In lessons, we operate a simple 3 warning system:

Phase 1: Verbal Warning (e.g. for talking during silent work)

Phase 2: Lunchtime Detention (for a second low-level incident of behaviour/disruption)

Phase 3: Removal from lesson + after school detention (for repeated disruption/behaviour incidents, or can be used without previous warnings for a more serious incident).

We get a lot of queries around after-school detentions. We are always willing to work with parents to rearrange them to an evening that suits, - but obviously the sooner the better so that it does not drag on. 'Schools don't have to give parents notice of after-school detentions or tell them why a detention has been given.' (Taken from the Gov.uk School Discipline and Exclusions guidance). That said, we would never knowingly allow this to happen, and we are committed to what I consider to be 'good practice' – in other words – to ensuring that parents are informed in advance of any after school detentions.

Parents of older children who have been through the school will remember that we developed this behaviour model almost 3 years ago, as part of our response to improve the school and improve behaviour. Repeated disruption and poor corridor behaviour was a massive issue at that time, and this model, together with the work of the staff and students, and the ongoing support from parents, is a huge part of improving and maintaining high expectations of students.

Parking Issues – Leisure Centre

I have recently received a request from a member of the public to ask parents to be mindful of the users of the Leisure Centre, when dropping off/collecting students. One concern is with some parents parking at the junction of the High School and Firby Road – apparently there have been some recent near-misses as these drivers arrive/set off and other Leisure Centre users are coming past.

Another issue has been the speed at which some drivers are coming through the car-park and up the road where the Lollipop Lady stands, near the entrance to the primary school. I know that the primary school are currently working on a project with the local Police, looking at parking in general on Firby Road.

Please can I ask parent drivers in this area to be vigilant and considerate towards other drivers, and to maintain a safe speed at all times. Thank you for your support with this.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Melly', with a horizontal line underneath.