

Congratulations everyone for making it to the end of our longest half-term! There are some tired faces about (amongst staff and students) but it has been a really positive start to this academic year.

### **Co-op Funding Bid Appeal – BHS Creative Workshops**

We received some welcome news at the end of last week...Lynn Riley-Fox recently submitted a funding bid for our Arts Department for up to £20K. We have now heard that Bedale High School Creative Workshops has been chosen to benefit from the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. We can now look forward to our Arts Department enjoying the benefits of this tremendous opportunity. The funding round will open on 27 October 2019 and close on 24 October 2020. During this funding phase, Co-op Members will be able to choose Bedale High School as their local cause. Every time a member buys selected own-brand products and services, 1% of the money you spend will go towards our fund. We encourage you to get ready for the launch, and ask parents/carers, supporters, volunteers, friends and family to become a Co-op Member. You can join online at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>

Please see the attached letter for more details and pass on to anyone who you think would be happy to support us in this venture. Our main aim is to use this as an opportunity to engage with the local community around further art projects, building on the success of previous work over the last couple of years.

Many thanks to Lynn Riley-Fox and Sarah Allsop for their efforts with this work.

### **Survey for Bedale Park Play Area**

Bedale Town Council has the potential to access funding for secondary-age play facilities in Bedale Park. There is a grant of around £100,000 available for renovation or replacement of the existing skate park, and another of around £50,000 for new play equipment alongside it - in the space between the skate park and the boundary path, and/or the skate park and smaller children's play area.

The council is keen to hear the views of young people in order to provide facilities which will be best used in the community. They have set up a short survey which can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y6KQB5L>

If you have strong views or particular ideas for play equipment, you can also email [clerk@bedale-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bedale-tc.gov.uk).

### **New Appointment to the Pastoral Support Team**

Congratulations to Stuart Rigby on his appointment to the Pastoral Support Team following interviews this week. He joins Mrs Gray and Mrs Freeman in Mr McMillan's team following

his stint here as supply cover for the last couple of months. Stuart has made a fantastic first impression and is looking forward to starting the role on a permanent basis.

### **Year 7 Homework Support Evening**

As we start next half term, we wanted to offer an opportunity to parents of Year 7 students to come in to school and discuss any ongoing concerns around this issue. We will be holding an event on 28<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm, and further details will follow after the half term break.

We know that one of the biggest challenges facing Year 7s is the increase in homework compared to what they have been used to in primary school. In almost all cases, we find that once a period of adjustment has taken place, they soon adapt. The students who are most successful are the ones who quickly settle into an organised routine, completing homework on the day it is set where possible, rather than letting it stack up. Our homework timetable is also designed to prevent students getting too many subjects on one night, so that they are spread over the week. Why do we bother with homework? The answer is that with the format of exams now, the ability to work independently to further the learning from lessons is even more vital. Papers require more and more extended writing, and questions are more challenging in content and language used. I will not claim that we always get it right in terms of the tasks we set. But it is something we are continually looking at to try to ensure that the home-learning tasks genuinely support the work in lessons, or set up the learning for the next lesson.

### **Year 9 and 10 Students: The Rotary Young Chef Competition**

The Rotary Young Chef is inviting students from Year 9 and 10 to enter this year's competition. Last year it was a fantastic event with Lucy Atkinson surging through the early rounds to reach the penultimate heat. She was awarded lots of prizes including a trophy and an apron, but I think she would agree that the best part was earning the chance to cook at Betty's Cookery school in Harrogate. Please could any interested students see Mrs Bradley for more details so that we can aim to replicate this success again this year, but more importantly, to give some of our aspiring chefs an opportunity to have a brilliant experience.

### **Congratulations to Miss Temple!**

Well done to Miss Temple (PE), she has been doing a Masters in Education over the last 2 years (as though her full time teaching job was not enough of a challenge already!). Miss Temple submitted her final piece of work in September which was a 15,000 word dissertation (title: "Gifted girls or below average boys: an exploration into the gender gap issue in secondary education"). Having already received her marks for all the other units of the course, she found out on Monday that she has now passed her dissertation, meaning that she has successfully completed the Masters. It is great for us to have staff who are so passionate about their roles, and the wider issues in education. Well done to Claire for all

the hard work and long hours of study that have finally paid off. I have given her next week off as a reward for all her efforts.

### **Yr 11 Parent Evening**

Many thanks to parents and students for coming to this event. We had an excellent 90% attendance which is yet another sign of the commitment and support we receive from parents. It was also really useful to have some post 16 providers on site to provide further advice and guidance. We look forward to seeing this year group go from strength to strength over the next few vital months.

### **Equipment and Uniform for the new half-term**

A reminder to parents that this is the list of basic equipment we ask students to have to ensure that they are fully prepared for learning:

- Sensible school bag, large enough for several exercise books
- Pencil Case
- Black pen and spare pen
- Scientific calculator
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Protractor
- Compass
- Pencil
- Green pen
- Highlighter
- Glue stick

PLUS:

- Locker Key
- Reading Book

Fully stocked pencil cases are available through school at a cost of £2.50. Please purchase via Parent Pay and ask your child to collect one from the main office.

Also, should any parents need to refresh uniform items for the new half term, please follow the link here: <https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/information/school-uniform/>

### **Thank-you for a Great Start**

My final message to our students, parents, staff and supporters within the community is just to say a massive thank-you for your continued hard work and support. We had a visit from our Local Authority School Improvement Adviser yesterday and she was very pleased with the way that the meetings went, and the information that she received in terms of forming an accurate picture of where we are at on our journey. This has been a long and challenging half-term. But as the weather closes in, and the days become shorter, I hope that we can share a sense of collective pride on a really positive start to this academic year. If you're

lucky enough to have some time off next week, I wish you all the best and hope that you manage to enjoy some precious time with your families and loved ones.