

We've had a great week this week with much better attendance in school, and some really successful events which you can read about below. On a different theme, I have also received a few questions about the coronavirus which I have tried to address below...

### **Coronavirus Update**

Following the on-going concerns around the coronavirus situation, I would like to update parents on the latest measures we are taking in school.

In line with the Public Health England guidance (and normal sensible precautions) Form Tutors have been asked to remind students of the importance of washing their hands at key times in the day, and after going to the toilet etc. We are also reminding students of the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.

We have had a problem over recent weeks where the soap dispensers have been frequently vandalised and we have had to repeatedly replace them. I'm sure you will understand that instant replacement is not always possible, but we work hard to ensure it is done as soon as possible.

I have delivered assemblies over this, we have put up notices in the toilets explaining why the soap is important (and asking for witnesses to damage to come forward), and we have instigated a new measure from last week where we use the on-call system to monitor who is using the toilets during lesson times so that we can limit the opportunities for vandalism. We also have duty staff and prefects around these areas at lunch and break.

As ever, we are talking about the actions of 1 or two students, and we are taking measures to identify the culprits and to then take appropriate action with them.

I am aware of the importance of hygiene, (regardless of the Norovirus / Coronavirus) situation and we will continue to do all we can to encourage high levels of hygiene at all times. I receive a daily update from Public Health England which includes the latest guidance for schools and we are following this.

### **BHS Colour Run – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020**

We have been exploring events and projects that will give different groups within the community the opportunity to be involved in planning, volunteering and participating in a way which involves everyone. Miss Bradbury and Miss Temple are organising this event which will be a 5km run in and around the grounds of Bedale High School, running through a number of colour stations. It is a fund-raising event for school, and we will be consulting with students over how they think any money raised should be spent. For those of you not familiar with the format of a colour-run – the idea is that you run through a number of colour stations on the route, where helpful volunteers cover you in an array of paint colours! The course will be fully marshalled to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all involved. As part of the day, we will also have lots of fun stalls and food stalls in the school car park. The run is open to all ages (however, due to health and safety, children under the age of 11 must run with an adult). The event will cost £10 per entry and is also open to the public and wider community. Please keep an eye out here and on FB for further details on how you can become involved. Letters and entry forms will be going home on Monday with students, and further details around how to pay will be confirmed next week.

## **Mental Health, Online Safety & Cyber Bullying message**

### **– Performance by The HARA**

Mr Childe writes: On Wednesday afternoon, an upcoming band from Manchester called The HARA delivered a fantastic performance to all of our Year 8, 9 and 10 students. The band, who have just gone to Number One in the UK rock charts, played a short set of their own material which was followed by a presentation about mental health, online safety and cyberbullying.

The students found it really engaging, particularly the parts of the performance where individual band members gave advice on how to stay safe online as well as discussing cyber bullying and where to go for help. They also discussed personal stories linked with a time one of them was affected by cyber bullying, how they felt at the time, how they reacted, and the outcome of the situation. They spoke to students about mental health, the causes of mental health problems (stress at school, relationships etc), and who to turn to for help as well as the importance of speaking up.

Overall, this event proved to be a really useful enrichment activity as part of our PSHE curriculum – and a unique experience for students to chat to real-life rock stars! Please see FB for photos of the event.

### **World Book Day**

Mr Wild writes: On Thursday we celebrated books and reading for World Book Day. It was great to see so much creativity from the many staff and students who dressed up as their favourite characters; Seth Piper (Newt Scamander), Ava Monkhouse and Isabella Thompson (The Mad Hatter and Alice), and G. Rendall (Grendel) won special recognition. Well done also to Katie Elsdon and Michaela Pampalou (1st place), Rachel Whitaker and Charlotte Iveson (2nd place) and Grace Barker (3rd place) for completing the World Book Day Quiz in the fastest time. Please see FB for some fab pics.

### **Yr 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition Exams**

Mrs Bradley writes: Students have been reminded numerous times and a text has been sent home about the Year 11 GCSE assessed practical exams for Food Preparation and Nutrition which take place on 11th and 12th of March. These exams are very important as they do contribute to the students' actual final GCSE grade. If any student or parent has any questions or concerns, please email me at [bradleya@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:bradleya@bedalehighschool.org.uk)

### **Year 11s - Wellbeing**

Please be aware that every Yr 11 student has been given a hard copy of the 'Looking After Yourself – Healthy Approach to GCSEs' booklet that is also attached to the newsletter today. It contains useful tips and guidance on how to get through the exams without succumbing to stress or anxiety. We are also very aware of the associated stress that can affect other members of the household during this time, so please also take some time to read through the attached Parent Guide which may also prove useful over the coming weeks.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or pastoral team if you have any specific concerns over their wellbeing.

### **Coast To Coast Cycling Event (for Children's Cancer)**

We are still pushing for more involvement with this event (28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May) which has been a massive success in previous years. Next week, students will be reminded again about how they can take part. I've attached the letter that has previously gone out which has all the relevant details – but please consider either encouraging your son/daughter to take part in something that they will always remember and feel proud of, or feel free to volunteer yourself as a helper!

### **Yr 11 PPEs**

This week our Yr 11s have completed the first week of their second round of PPEs. The vast majority have maintained an impressive level of focus and hard work, and deserve credit for their conscientious approach to these exams. We continue to encourage them to make the most of the support on offer through mentoring, pastoral support, form tutors, additional revision sessions, and the subject teachers who know them best. Please also remind them to keep filling in their Prom Passports as they engage with this support.

### **Year 10 Football: Semi-Final Success**

Mr Bielby writes:

On Wednesday 4th March our Y10s played SFX in the area football semi-final. In a one sided encounter BHS triumphed 8-1 with a hat-trick from Charlie Lancaster and a brace apiece from Thomas Bailey and Makonen Nicholas. However, the biggest celebration was for Ned Stevens who won and converted a penalty. Well done also to Callum Felton who was awarded the man of the match award for his sterling defending. Also a big thank-you to Mr Chapman who officiated the game. We now play the winner of Richmond v Northallerton in the final. Please see FB for a team photo.

### **Year 7 & 8 Rugby Festival**

Mr Bielby writes: Bedale High School hosted the Y7 & 8 Rugby Festival yesterday after a pitch inspection at Ripon RUFC deemed their pitches unplayable. It was great to have a team for each age group. Both of our teams were in the developing schools league and although the Y7 team lost all their games they improved as they went on. The Y8s fared much better and won all of their games playing some excellent Rugby. Although we are heading towards the end of the season it would be great to see all the boys involved more in the Monday after-school practices because they showed lots of potential. Can I also thank Y10 Students George Bramley, Bradley Whitwell and Jake Bowles who did a fantastic job officiating at the event.

### **Pastoral Manager Vacancy**

I would like to draw parents' attention to a vacancy that we are currently advertising for the role of Pastoral Manager. Sadly, Mr McMillan is retiring at Easter. He has had a massive impact on the improvements that the school has made over recent years and will be sorely missed. If parents know of any suitable candidates who may be interested – please point them in the direction of the advertisement, job description and person spec on our website (link here): <https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/whats-happening/vacancies/> .

### **Yr 11s – Message from GSK re Work Experience Opportunity**

Applications for GSK's Work Experience for GCSE students at Barnard Castle are now open:  
30th June - 3rd July 2020

The GCSE work experience week is for year 11 students following completion of their GCSEs. During this 3½ day programme, students will take part in various simulated exercises and activities, meet and hear from subject matter experts and tour the site to learn more about the healthcare industry, GSK and their career options. Students will also receive an Industrial Cadet Award as part of the programme. There will also be the opportunity to find out about our Apprenticeship Scheme. There are a limited number of places available and therefore we can't guarantee that all students who apply will be offered a place, it is a competitive process based on student application forms. We are unable to provide assistance with food, travel or accommodation and students will need to be available for the full programme. Timings will be approx. 9.00 – 17.00 Tuesday to Thursday and 9.00 – 12.30 Friday. Applications close on 3rd April 2020 and also require a teacher reference. We have an online application form for both the student and teachers. Students can apply online and find out more here: <https://uk.gsk.com/en-gb/careers/school-work-experience/>. The website states 3 days and closing date of May, but it is 3.5 days and closing date is April. Although we are a Pharmaceutical Company, there are many and varied roles on site for which you do not need to be a scientist and therefore we welcome applications from all students.

Please be aware that we are fully intending at this stage to run this programme, but the event may be cancelled if we are advised to, due to the Coronavirus situation.

Please contact for further details:

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### **Staff/Student Weekly Football**

A few weeks ago as part of our focus on wellbeing within the school community, we launched Yr11s vs staff football which takes place every Friday after school. I just wanted to thank the students and staff who participate in this each week – it has been a really enjoyable activity and definitely helps to get the weekend off to a positive start for all involved. Players of all abilities and experience (including none!) are welcome to join in. Matches are keenly contested (but with a sense of fun and player safety always paramount). While it's true to say that the staff team have won most weeks...I should point out that this is often due to the Yr 11s who join the staff team to even the numbers up. That, combined with the deadly finishing of Mr Gill, the pace of Mr Parnell and Mr Mugisha (yet to use his left foot in any match!) and the combined stopping power of Mrs Drysdale and Mrs Barry have proved to be a formidable combination. The highlight is having a side-bet on which member of staff is most likely to pull up with some sort of strain or joint injury after attempting a 10 yard sprint. Last week it was me. Again.

