

Rishi Sunak Visit

It was a pleasure today to welcome Rishi Sunak, MP for Richmond (Yorks), into school. In response to a letter he received from Millie Pattison in Y11, he held a discussion with a group of Y11 students who have decided to look at the impact of mass media in today's society as part of their Year 11 Citizenship project. Rishi faced a series of questions from the group and it led to some lively discussion. There was nowhere to hide, and the students even managed to get him talking about his personal use of TikTok. I laughed along at the time - (and then had to Google it to find out what it is!). But on a serious note, we are really grateful for the time he has taken to personally respond in writing to a number of students about their concerns over issues such as the role of media, mental health, pollution and so on. As you can imagine, things are a little frantic for politicians around the country at the moment, so it was brilliant that he managed to make the time to visit us today, before jetting off to London for the big decision tomorrow!

Exam Results Confirmed

Last week I wrote about the school's Progress 8 score. Yesterday, the school performance tables were published and they confirmed that the average score for all state-funded schools in England is -0.03. Our score is +0.14. Essentially, it shows our continuing improvement, a significant increase on last year's P8 (+0.02), and confirms that there was no 'let-up' in our efforts following Ofsted. By 'our effort' I mean the whole community – students, parents, staff and governors. Let's hope and plan for more of the same this year!

Have your cake and eat it!

It was lovely to receive some photos of Lucy Archer baking a cake for her Granny's 70th birthday this week – it really did look like a very professional effort. I'm always happy to receive news and pictures of the many fantastic things that our students are involved in outside school – so please do keep us informed. As for Lucy...I've checked with colleagues, and if you ever want to try out an untested cake recipe on a wider audience – we have a very discerning group of staff in school who would be more than happy to give constructive feedback! See Facebook for some lovely pics of Lucy's fab cake.

Drug Awareness Evening

I would like to thank all the parents and students who attended our Drug Awareness evening on Monday which was organised by Mrs Knight. Representatives from the police, Early Help and Youth Justice came into school to give an informative presentation on different types of drugs that young people are able to get access to, and the effects that they can have. There was also a really useful session on how we as parents can speak to our children over this difficult issue. What became clear was that the more informed we are, the better prepared we can be to have those conversations. They also stressed the importance of the usual practical parenting top tips: know where your child is, who they are with, check with parents of friends, arrange reasonable pick-up times, take time to talk to them and so on. Sadly, the reality is that no matter how much we try to protect our children, there is likely to come a time when they are offered drugs, or in a situation where they are available. Preparing our children to respond in the right way to this is so important. Our guests who delivered the evening have contacted us since the event to say how delighted they were with the parent responses on their feedback questionnaires, so I'm pleased that you found it a useful event. Please

find the PowerPoint from the evening on the school website in the Parents' Letters section. Feel free to pass it on to other parents, or to signpost them to these resources.

Restart A Heart Day

Mr Childe writes: On Wednesday 16th October 2019, Bedale High School joined over 160 schools across Yorkshire in holding the annual Restart A Heart Day. This year, 118 of our students from Years 7-11 took part in the event – and were trained in what to do when they come across someone who has had a heart attack or developed an irregular heartbeat and how to deliver CPR which could potentially save their life. Students were also trained about what to do when they dial '999' and learnt about some of the roles and responsibilities of a paramedic. It was a great day, and we were fortunate to have the expertise of 8 volunteers from external organisations, including PCSOs, local community first responders and a paramedic to deliver this important lifesaving training. Also, this week a survey revealed that people in Yorkshire are the MOST likely to perform CPR anywhere in England; the training that young people in our region have received on Restart a Heart day will undoubtedly have played a part in this. I must add that the feedback I have had from David Emison and his team of volunteers, who delivered the training, was extremely positive and showed that they have really enjoyed visiting our school again – and I was particularly impressed by how well behaved, engaged and enthusiastic our students were. Please see Facebook for photos of the event.

Y11s: Parent Evening and PPEs

We look forward to seeing all parents of Y11 students on Wednesday 23rd October, start time 4pm. Please check with your son/daughter that they are making appointments with their teachers. To inform these conversations, we are aiming to hand out the Yr 11 reports to parents as they sign in, with the AP1 assessment grades hot off the press. This will provide you with a first indication of whether they are on track in this crucial year, and highlight any areas where extra focus may be needed.

On a related note, please see attached the information about the first set of Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) for Yr 11. They commence on Monday 25th November and a letter and timetable are attached. Over the next few weeks, we will be working towards these exams as the next staging post of their progress towards the final GCSEs. Please encourage them to take these exams seriously. Many schools hold these exams right after Christmas, but we deliberately place ours earlier for a number of reasons. Firstly, for their own wellbeing, I think it's really unfair if students go into the Christmas holiday after the longest and arguably toughest term, having to then worry about intense revision over the Christmas period. Secondly, having them earlier allows us a little more time to intervene where needed and to focus on targeted interventions, before the second round of PPEs in March. After-school revision clubs are already up and running, and the Hub is open every lunchtime for Yr 11s who wish to study then. However, none of this replaces the crucial independent revision programmes that they should be following at home.

Year 7-10 Assessments

This week students have completed revision lessons in all subject areas to help prepare them for their assessments next week. This half term we have had a focus on recap activities at the start of each lesson, aimed at helping students improve their longer term retention of information.

Hopefully this, combined with students' own revision, should lead to some very positive results for the first round of assessments.

Sport Updates: Yr 7 and Yr 10 boys' football; Yr 10 and Yr11 Rugby

Mr Bielby writes: The Y7 and 10 boys' football teams played Stokesley away on Thursday. The Y7s came up against a very strong team and if it wasn't for man of the match Jacob Johnson in goal it could have been a lot worse. They play again next Monday at home versus Easingwold so have a chance to get back to winning ways.

After a fantastic win versus Thirsk in the area cup last month the Y10 team had a big game in the plate final that should have been played last season. BHS went 2-0 up thanks to two goals from Charlie Lancaster. In a tense final, BHS managed to win the plate 3-2 in a thrilling match. Congratulations to all the boys involved. Tom Beighton was deservedly awarded man of the match by his peers followed by Will McWhinney who had another excellent match and has been a fabulous addition to the team since he joined us.

Open Evening Back-Up Event

Finally, just a quick reminder to ask parents to pass on the word that Miss Bradbury and I will host an event on Thursday 3.30pm for any parents of Yr 5 or Yr 6 children who could not make our recent Open Evening. There will be a brief presentation, the chance to meet students and a tour of the school.

Attachments

- Year 11 PPE timetable and letter

Yours faithfully,



Mr T Kelly

Headteacher