



24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### ***Weekly Newsletter***

This week's newsletter is taking the form of an actual letter rather than the usual format. Apologies for the fact that it is less visually appealing than usual and I promise that the usual format will be back with a vengeance next week!

#### **Year 8 Parent Evening**

Thank you to all of the Year 8 parents and carers who attended this event on Thursday night. It was so lovely to be able to do this face to face again, and really positive to see such a good turnout. There is certainly a role for virtual meetings and they can make a big difference in terms of convenience and saving travel time etc, but we returned to the face to face format on the back of parent feedback last year. The feedback from last night suggests that there is something about the face to face meetings that promotes a more useful conversation and hopefully some more meaningful communication between school and home.

#### **Next Friday – Staff Training Day**

A reminder that next Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December is a staff training day when students are not in school.

#### **Christmas Fair**

This event takes place tonight...please come along and get into the Christmas spirit! It is a really lively event and has proven to be a massive success over the last couple of years. Why not come and grab a few early pressies or treats for your loved ones. It is free entry and runs from 5-7pm.

#### **Student Health and Wellbeing Survey**

Mr Childe is encouraging all students to complete the survey on the link below. If your child has not yet done this in school, please can you encourage them to do it as soon as they can. The information from this survey is collated and then filtered to give us an indication of any key areas of concerns that students feel we need to change or improve on. It genuinely informs our actions at leadership level and gives us an opportunity to show students that they are a valued core of the school community, with a voice that is listened to.

<https://forms.office.com/e/wK00wudymf>

#### **Webinar for Supporting Your Child with Anxieties or Worries Around Attending School**

Please see the attached poster from the Wellbeing In Mind Team who are keen to support our parents with any issues around school attendance. There is a lunchtime session and an evening session for this webinar. Parents and Carers just need to email this address to register their interest [teww.wellbeinginmind@nhs.net](mailto:teww.wellbeinginmind@nhs.net) .

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## **Message from the Children's Commissioner for England**

*By now, I hope that you have seen my national campaign The Big Ambition. Please ensure you have shared this survey with the children and parents within your school community. Children or parents can complete the survey here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition) . Further resources are available on our website <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/> .*

*I want to ensure that the voices of all children in North Yorkshire are fairly represented in the findings so that I can share their views with the most senior members of the country.*

*I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.*

*Please share the survey and resources with teachers in your school and encourage them to use it in their lessons. Children can complete the survey in assemblies, form times, PSHE or in other lessons this term. The survey can also be done as homework and parents can assist children who cannot complete the survey themselves (children under 5 and children with Special Educational Needs). This is a great opportunity to teach children about politics and why it is important for them to use their voice. Be sure to check out the lesson plans on my website if you want to teach your pupils more about politics before they fill in the survey!*

*Dame Rachel De Souza*

*Children's Commissioner for England*

## **Attachments**

There are three documents attached with this newsletter: the Christmas school dinner menu, details for the Wellbeing In Mind Parent webinar and a Renew For Youth poster promoting a wellbeing service for young people based in Northallerton.

Have a lovely weekend, everybody.

Yours faithfully

*T.Kelly*

Tom Kelly

Headteacher

Bedale High School