

Term 2a Newsletter 2019/20

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a relaxing half term break. We finished the half term with our fantastic production of The Addams Family which was watched by pupils from two of our feeder primary schools and audiences on three nights. The staff and cast did a great job of bringing this story to life and we had lots of positive feedback from members of the audience.

Coronavirus advice

The Department for Education have asked schools to disseminate information about the Coronavirus. You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your child catching the virus. Students should continue to attend school as normal.

A UK wide campaign is in place to provide clear advice and what steps can be taken to minimise the spread of Coronavirus. Information can be found through the links below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please also see the attached letter from City of York Council.

This half term brings a number of important events for students in different year groups, particularly those preparing for external exams.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 and Year 9 interim reports will be sent out to families at the end of March. These will give an overview of academic progress, behaviour and attendance for the term.

Year 8 reports will be sent out in the first week back after the Easter holidays. These will link in with the Year 8 parents evening on Thursday 7th May.

Year 7 Kingswood Residential

Year 7 will be taking part in the annual residential at Kingswood on 30th and 31st March. A reminder of details and kit information will be sent out just before the week and will also be available on our website.

Year 9 Options

I would like to thank everybody for their support with regards to the recent options process undertaken by Year 9 students. All forms are currently being processed and over the coming term students will be seen directly around any changes and reserve options which may need to be taken as the timetable for next year takes shape. As per the information given at the options evening, all students will have their final option choices confirmed in writing during the summer term.

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

Year 10 Parent / Carer Evening

Information about this evening on Thursday 26th March will be sent out later in the half term. This will include details of the online booking system that will allow you to log on and make appointments. Please stick to the timings of your appointments as these are busy evenings and members of staff often have a lot of people to see. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available if you require further information.

To help gather further views of parents and carers we will be handing out questionnaires at the Parent / Carer evening. Please take the time to complete these and return them before you leave. Your views on the school are important to us and will help us identify areas to improve.

Year 11 RSC Macbeth Performance

On the 5th March the English department have been able to secure a free viewing of the RSC production of Macbeth for the whole of Year 11 to support their understanding of the set text.

The whole year group will be off timetable from 8.50am to the end of P3 in order to watch this performance, which will be streamed to the school. We hope that they will enjoy the performance and it will develop their appreciation for the play.

Year 11 transition into Sixth Form

We are now holding the vast majority of applications and are currently processing them to check students have made appropriate choices based on their predicted grades. Where students need to make an alternative choice they will be spoken to in order to help with this. As we complete the process of planning for September some students will be approached about courses that won't run due to low uptake and where this is the case we will help students to find alternatives. Letters confirming offers of places will be sent home before the Easter holiday, by which time all applicants will have had the chance to make their amended choices where they were required.

Year 11 Revision Evening

On the 5th March, 6-7pm, we are running a Revision Evening aimed at providing tools and resources for parents to use in supporting their child in the run up to exams. This is a really useful opportunity to ensure that you are as informed and equipped as possible to support in making sure that this is a successful year for your child. The evening will take place in Vaudeville Theatre and will touch on support around topics such as coping with the pressures of examinations as well as most effective approaches to revision. This session will be mainly aimed at parents, while students are welcome to attend it will not be directed at them and so they are not required to be there. Parking is available in the school car park

Year 13 Mock exams

Year 13 have their mock exam fortnight commencing on Monday 2nd March. Exam timetables are with students and there will be no regular lessons for examined subjects over this two week period. Students studying design subjects will be asked to come in during this period to maintain progress on their design brief.

Easter Concert

Our annual Easter Concert will take place on Tuesday 24th March in the Vaudeville Theatre at 7pm. We are looking forward to the many ensembles and soloists that will be performing for us. Ticket information will be available closer to the event.

Site Security and Safety

We have continued to improve the security system of the school over the half term holiday. Our CCTV system has been upgraded and we have installed a number of new cameras in the school. Our intention is to have comprehensive coverage of the school building internally and externally by the end of the 2020/21 academic year. As part of the latest installation we have increased the number of cameras on the main corridor and also have cameras monitoring the publically visible parts of the main toilet areas. This is in line with many modern school buildings. This will allow us to identify and act on any incidents of bullying, vandalism or poor behaviour more swiftly and effectively.

I am pleased to report that the car park is much safer at the end of the day now. Parents and carers who are picking up their children by car are waiting until after 3.30pm to arrive at school. The buses can now come onto the school site and exit safely and easily. This has also led to much better traffic flow on Haxby Road. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Please also be aware that we have had a second incident of bikes being stolen from the bike sheds at the front right of school. We are working closely with the police in relation to these recent thefts, with bike thefts in York generally being on the increase. North Yorkshire Police recommend that cycles are locked using two locks one from the front and one at the rear of the cycle. It is also recommended that the locks should be around 10 per cent of the value of the cycle. Also a reminder that there are alternative and more secure bike sheds to the left side of school that are behind our locked safeguarding fence line that are available (locked up between 8.45am -3.10pm each day).

Uniform

We have been really pleased with the support that parents and carers have given us as we have tightened up our expectations of uniform. We will continue to have high expectations of uniform and ask that you do a quick check of uniform and jewellery before your child leaves home in the morning. If you are buying new uniform and are unsure if it will meet our expectations please contact your child's House Team to check before you buy.

A reminder that trousers should be formal black trousers, fitted and not elasticated or lycra based, where they cling to the leg. Trousers should also not be cropped, and should reach below the ankle, and socks should be black ankle socks, and not trainer style socks.

Can we also remind parents that only one ring per hand should be worn, and only one pair of studs (one in each ear). There should be no nose jewellery or any other piercings and plastic retainers are not allowed. If you have any queries about uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the House team for your child.

Attendance

We continue in our drive to have excellent levels of attendance and punctuality. Attending and taking part in learning is fundamental to making sure that our young people become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. Lost days at school also result in lost examination grades. It is easy to think that an occasional missed day from school does not really matter but, all missed days do count, and for year 11 students, could have a direct impact on grades.

The law states that students must be here every school day of the academic year. The only exception to this is if they are too ill to come in, or where permission has been granted in exceptional circumstances from the Headteacher. Where a student's attendance falls below 90%, they are classed as a 'persistent absentee' and we are required to report on this to the local authority. Our school target is for every student to have above 96% attendance, to ensure that they have the best possible chances of success.

Each half term, we reset our 100% attendance reward incentive, giving each student a fresh chance to take part. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate with our students during a range of pop up rewards throughout the term and we were delighted to take the winners of the final prize draw for a trip out of school for their chosen reward. These included a special afternoon tea, time practicing skills on a ski slope, or students testing their ability to solve clues in an escape room. This half term, the winners have a choice of a trip to York Dungeon, testing their climbing skills at Bouldering, or a trip out to eat pizza with their friends.

Rewards

It was fantastic to be able to award nearly 200 students with their Bronze certificate award last half term, and even some Silver certificate awards! To gain these awards, students need to collect Achievement Points, which are gained for excellent work, contributions, and effort in class, in addition to their wider contribution to the school and House Events. Reaching one of these awards really is a testament to students who are a credit to the school and yourselves. Congratulations to all the students who received an award and we look forward to giving out many more as students continue to gain Achievement Points.

Key Dates

Please see the list of key dates for this half term for our main events before Easter. If you require any further information, please contact school.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school.

Regards



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher

Key Dates - Term 2 2019/20

Monday 2 nd March	Year 13 Mock exams week
Monday 2 nd March	Full Governing Body meeting
Thursday 5 th March	Year 11 viewing of RSC Macbeth
Thursday 5 th March	Year 11 Revision Evening 6-7pm
Monday 9 th March	Year 13 Mock exams week
Tuesday 24 th March	Easter Concert
Thursday 26 th March	Wiltshire Afternoon Tea
Thursday 26 th March	Year 7 & Year 9 interim Reports issued
Thursday 26 th March	Year 10 Parent / Carer Evening 4.30 – 7.30pm
Monday 30 th March	Governor FSR Committee meeting
Monday 30 th March	Year 7 Kingswood residential
Tuesday 31 st March	Year 7 Kingswood residential
Tuesday 31 st March	Extended Rewards assembly
Wednesday 1 st April	Extended Rewards assembly
Wednesday 1 st April	Year 13 Reports issued
Thursday 2 nd April	Extended Rewards assembly
Friday 3 rd April	Extended Rewards assembly
Friday 3 rd April	Year 11 interim Reports issued
Friday 3 rd April	School closes for the Easter Holiday at 3.10pm
Monday 20 th April	Training Day
Tuesday 21 st April	School open to all students at normal time



Customer & Corporate Services
West offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

Tel: 01904 551550

Date: 2 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to get in touch with you to share the latest advice and information in relation to Coronavirus (COVID-19), as you may be aware that advice for people who have travelled from affected areas across the world is rapidly changing.

Travel to some areas of the world means that people, regardless of whether they are showing any symptoms, are being asked to call NHS 111 and stay indoors.

Travel to other parts of the world means that people are being asked to be vigilant of any signs or symptoms of a cough, fever or difficulty breathing. If this occurs, they should follow the advice to call NHS 111 and stay indoors.

It is likely that these areas will change, and you should therefore look at the following information to ensure that you have the most up to date advice:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

The risk to individuals remains low, however we ask that people continue to check the latest advice from Public Health England. There are simple steps that you can take to protect yourself, your family and others:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub available to buy in most supermarkets and community pharmacies.
- **'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'**. Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue ensuring the nose and mouth are fully covered to prevent any spray escaping. Dispose of the tissue as soon as possible in the bin and wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand rub to kill any germs.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home and work environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Hatton', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Amanda Hatton
Corporate Director Children,
Education and Communities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Stoltz'.

Sharon Stoltz
Director of Public Health