



Newsletter

April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now in the final week of what has been a very busy and successful spring term in school. Our Year 11 pupils are now nearing their final few weeks of learning and preparation for this summer's examinations. We wish them well.

As we prepare for the Easter break, the following information is being shared with families:

Pupil Well-being: This term we have spoken to, and listened to what our pupils are telling us about what they get up to and what worries them. As a result of this, we have added information and advice onto our school website for reference by pupils and also families.

This information can be found on the school website by following the title banners from 'Parents' and 'Safeguarding'. These headers then allow you to access information and contact details under 'Wellbeing resources' where you will find information on:

- Support for self-harming concerns.
- Suicidal thoughts support.
- Staying safe online/on mobile phones.
- LGBT support.
- Substance and alcohol misuse.

In our discussion with our Year 10 pupils, we were surprised to learn that, on average, pupils are spending two to four hours a day on social media. Of more concern, though, was that a number of pupils said they could spend up to 8 hours a day, at the weekend, using gaming networks. They were doing this in their bedrooms through the night.

The pupils we have spoken to said they often rushed homework and revision in order to get back 'online'.

As families, you may wish to talk through sensible use of social media and online gaming with your children. The following website provides good information on, having the conversation with your children, choosing appropriate games as well as setting the 'ground rules' and taking parental control of the situation:

<http://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc/child-protection>

Year 11 Easter Holiday Revision: Please see below a revision timetable for Year 11 over the Easter holiday. Some of these are targeted groups, and your child will have been informed if they are involved:

Week 1		
Monday	English	9 – 1 pm
Tuesday	Math's Child Development	9 – 1 pm 1 – 4 pm
Wednesday	Science Child Development	9 – 1 pm 1 – 4 pm
Thursday	Geography History	9 – 1 pm

Friday	MFL 9-9.30/ 11-11.30 Revision of tenses and key impress language 9.30 - 10.00/ 11.30-12.00 - role play skills 10-10.30/ 12.00 - 12.30 Photo card skills 10.30 - 11/ 12.30- 1 General conversation skills	9 - 11 Foundation tier pupils 11 – 1pm Higher tier pupils
Week 2		
Monday	Choices (Tuesday) Drama RE Art & Design	9 – 1 pm
Tuesday	Choices (Thursday) Dance RE Art & Design GCSE PE BTEC PE	9 – 1 pm
Wednesday	Textiles	9 – 1 pm
Thursday	Graphic Design Textiles	9 – 1 pm
Friday	Good Friday	

Attendance: We all know how important it is for pupils to attend school every day, as this helps them with their learning without having to catch up on lessons and work missed. This year we have 338 pupils, across the school, who have had 100% attendance for the full academic year to date. Very well done also to the seven Year 11 pupils, amongst the 338, who have had a 100% attendance every year since joining the school in Year 7. Most impressive.

World Book Oracy Day: It is good to talk: The school held an oracy day on World Book Day on March 7th. The theme was on choices and pupils listened to and discussed the choices made by the characters in the story 'The Monkey's Paw' as the narrative was shared in instalments throughout the day. Pupils also took part in debates based on key issues across all their subject areas. We were thrilled with the oracy skills shown and over 600 pupils received postcards home to celebrate their successes.

We are planning three days of oracy on July 10th, 11th and 12th. This will involve Y7 and Y8 pupils who are not attending the Bushcraft trip and will focus on who inspires us. Pupil teams will hear about great figures from a range of subjects and decide who they would like to put forward and argue the case for their inspirational person. Pupils will then vote on the figure they feel most deserves to be recognised by the school as a whole.

Lexia: A huge well done to our 25 Lexia pupils who graduate on Friday 5th April. They have successfully completed a 12 week programme of intensive reading and literacy practice over the last term to secure at least, a Level 2 pass. Over a third of pupils, have also gone on to complete level 3. Our new cohort of pupils have already been identified and will start their programme on Tuesday 23rd April.

Pupil News

DT Rotary Club Competition: Very well done to our pupils across Year 7 and Year 9, for their involvement in the recent competition in Featherstone. The Year 7 stole the show, were joint winners and won £50. A great effort.

Little Princess Charity: Well done to Amelia Wilkinson, in Year 9, who has had over 9 inches of her hair cut off in order to create a wig for a child with cancer. A super gesture.

Pinderfields: A group of pupils visited the neonatal unit to present the hospital with a cheque for £3000. This money is to be used to purchase kangaroo chairs, to enable parents to hold their babies when out of their incubators. Very well done to everyone involved here.

Football Champions: Our Year 9 boys' team have won the Wakefield Schools' Cup beating Castleford Academy, 3-2, in the final. A first, as the boys have never beaten Castleford before. Nice one, Cyril!

World Karate and Kickboxing: Sarah Mathur continues to do well in competition. She is now the WKKE British champion and has qualified for the world championships. Impressive, Sarah!

Year 7 Netball: Recently, the Year 7 team were runners up losing to Wakefield Girl's High in the final. They have still qualified for the West Yorkshire finals. We wish them well.

Pole Vault: Well done to Amy and Erin, twins in Year 9, who took part in the England Athletics Championship, recently. Erin cleared 2.6 metres and Amy 3.10, which got her a bronze medal. Nicely done.

Rugby: Very well done to Ella Greensmith, Year 11, on being selected for the Yorkshire under-18 team and who also scored seven tries in games against Lancashire and Cheshire. A real talent. Well done!

Indoor Athletics: Our boys' and girls' Year 8 teams recently took part in a local competition which saw the girls coming first against some strong competition. They now go through to the West Yorkshire finals. The PE staff reported that the pupils were a real credit and their behaviour was second to none! Nicely done!

Powerchair Football: Al Haigh, in Year 11, continues to excel in this, his chosen sport. He recently played for Leeds against Scotland, winning 4-0 which meant Al kept a clean sheet in goal. We will miss you next year Al. All the best with the future.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: Well done to Mr Page and our alternative curriculum group in Year 10 for all their work replanting wildflowers and cleaning the beck that runs through school. This will help to attract insects over the summer as well as help them with their studies. Great work here!

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 05 April 2019:	School closes for Easter break.
Monday 22 April 2019:	Easter Monday, school closed.
Tuesday 23 April 2019:	School reopens at 8.40am.
Monday 06 May 2019:	Bank Holiday Monday, school closed.
Tuesday 07 May 2019:	Year 11 Exams start.
Thursday 16 May 2019:	Year 9 Consultation Evening.
Friday 24 May 2019:	School closes for spring half-term break.
Monday 03 June 2019:	School reopens at 8.40am.
Thursday 20 June 2019:	Year 11 Prom, The King's Croft Hotel, Pontefract

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T. Griffiths
Headteacher