

Headteacher's Update – Friday 12th January 2024



Reflection

Our prayer theme next week is:

Serving Others

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Mark 9:35

The disciples perhaps found it confusing at first when Jesus told them that if they wanted to be first, they must be last. How could someone be both first and last at the same time? Jesus, of course, wanted his disciples to understand that they should be a servant to all by putting other people before themselves. This is also the example Jesus sets for us – whilst it is not always easy, God wants us to always think of other people first.

Attendance Update

Please see below our whole-school attendance level for the current week and the academic year overall, which you can compare to the attendance level of your child in Class Charts.

Whole-school attendance this week: 92%

Whole-school attendance this year: 93%

BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour:

Sophie Collister (Year 7): Excellent Behaviour and Attitude

Excellence:

Jason Sandford-Jones (Year 10): Lamda exam, Grade 5 with Distinction

Shakeel Ali, Eve Culshaw, Jonathan Downes, Thomas Dilks, Elena Duffill, Kuba Dunajko, Pedro Gomez-Guerrero and Phillip Greenwood, (Year 10): French Speaking Test

Cecily Richardson (Year 11): Duke of Edinburgh – Silver Award

Devotion:

Chloe Naylor (Year 8): Charity work volunteer

Presentation of work

This week, we have spoken to pupils about the importance of taking pride in their work by maintaining high standards of presentation. Congratulations to the below pupils who have produced beautifully presented work this week:

Year 7: Tobias Choudhury, Daisy Daniels, Ebony Ogier, Xanthe Rhodes.

Year 9: Lottie Bowler, David Chike-Okonkwo, Seb Jones, Vinny Palmer, Emily Weafer, Poppy Whitelock.

Year 11 Update

This week, our Year 11 pupils discovered the results they achieved in the recent Mock Exams on our formal 'Mock Results Day.' During assemblies, form period and PSHCE this week, we have been talking about how pupils can make the most of the learning opportunity provided by the mocks to maximise their potential in the summer.

From next week, we will be providing additional support to Year 11 pupils as they continue to prepare for exams. Our 'BEC' classroom will be offered to Year 11 as a silent study space before school (from 8am), at lunchtime, and after-school. Computers are available for online revision and study. During the weekly PSHCE lesson, we will be running a series of university lecture style 'masterclasses' in the school hall, an approach that has proved to be popular and effective in previous years. A weekly Year 11 newsletter will be produced, highlighting the revision activities being offered by the various departments each week. Finally, a selection of pupils will be offered additional small-group support in English and Maths during the morning registration period.

Parents' Evenings

We look forward to welcoming Year 10 and Year 11 parents and carers into school as below:

Wednesday 24th January: Year 11 Parents' Evening (4pm-7pm)

Wednesday 31st January: Year 10 Parents' Evening (4pm-7pm)

Further information regarding the Year 11 Parents' Evening, including details of how to make appointments, has been issued separately. Further information regarding the Year 10 event will follow soon.

Uniform and appearance

Thank you for your support with maintaining our high standards of uniform and appearance as pupils have returned to school this week. Please could I draw your attention to three areas of concern relating to a small number of pupils:

- Trainers are not acceptable for school and must not be worn. If there is a short-term exceptional reason your child is not wearing acceptable school shoes, please contact your child's form tutor. Pupils who arrive to school without acceptable school shoes without any contact from home may be removed from lessons to our Inclusion Room until the issue has been corrected.
- Our expectations regarding the wearing of the school skirt have been regularly made clear to pupils and to parents/carers. Pupils who are not wearing the skirt correctly will receive negative uniform points in Class Charts, which leads to detentions. Where a pupil is wearing a skirt that cannot be worn in an acceptable manner because it is too small, parents/carers will be contacted to ensure it is suitably replaced.
- Make up, false tans, false eyelashes, eyebrow enhancements, nail varnish and false/acrylic nails are all inappropriate for school and should not be worn. This applies equally to all pupils in all year groups.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher