



Year 8 Newsletter

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DEC 2014

The time seems to have come around very quickly for our second newsletter of the year, but still there have been a huge number of exciting things happening amongst the year group. I have been fortunate enough to meet with many parents and I hugely appreciate the support you offer in helping us to ensure your child gets the most out of their time at College. A personal thanks to those who attended the Coffee Morning with Mrs Bryant last week. As a College, we strongly believe that parents are key players in the effective learning of our students and we value your feedback in helping us help them.

Assessment Parent Information Evening

The Parent Information Evening on our new assessment criteria was very well attended with over 200 parents, and I appreciate that there was a huge amount of information to take in. The students are beginning to get used to our new language of learning and raised expectations, and they seem to be continuously raising the bar in terms of what they would like to achieve. If you were unable to attend the evening, then your child should have brought home a copy of the parent booklet. If you have any queries regarding the changes to GCSE's in 2016 or how we are now assessing your son or daughter, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 8 Music Concerts

I had the pleasure of attending the Year 8 Music Concerts where all students, regardless of their experience, were given the opportunity to showcase the work they are doing in class. The hall was filled to the rafters with beaming parents and excited students, especially on the Tuesday evening. We heard every genre of music you could imagine, from outstanding flute solos to Jensen Hatcher's rendition of Bruno Mars 'Count on Me', and Shannon Walker's 'Read all about it' by Emeli Sandé. Thank you to the Music Department for organising an event where the students gained so much and a huge thanks to the parents who attended.

Children in Need and Save the Children

This term has brought many opportunities for us to raise money for charities and Children in Need Day was no exception. The Year 8 students turned out in their best superhero gear, ranging from Batman outfits to wearing their pants on the outside of their trousers! As a College, we made over £1500 and Year 8 alone raised £88.76 in just 15 minutes by collecting pennies; thank you for your support with this. This week we are raising money for Save the Children by wearing Christmas jumpers on Wednesday. I too have reluctantly succumbed to the glitter and tinsel and will be donning a Rudolph jumper!

History Trip

There are still a few places left on the History trip to the First World War battlefields in Belgium and France, which takes place between the 16th & 18th July 2015. Students will visit the *In Flanders Fields Museum* in Ypres, the Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, Newfoundland Park, the Thiepval Memorial and also Vimy Ridge amongst other places of historic interest on the old Western Front. The cost per student is £285 for three nights, including a £50 deposit which must be paid via *ParentPay* as soon as possible please, since places are going fast. Please see Mr Trevithick for a letter and further details.

Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Thursday 18th December in St. Michael's Church. All Year 8 students and their parents are welcome to attend this festive highlight. The service begins at 7pm and we would love to see you there to celebrate the build up to Christmas.

For the most part the students have worked incredibly hard this term and they very much deserve the Christmas break. I wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday and I hope the New Year brings you everything you wish for. I look forward to seeing the students on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

Best wishes,

Mrs L Allsey
Head of Progress – Year 8