



Weekly Bulletin for Parents & Carers

Week commencing Monday 28th October 2019

Principal's Message

We have been conducting an exercise as part of our regular monitoring of teaching and learning which takes place throughout the year. This process involves taking in all of a class or year groups' books and looking through them to check the quantity and quality of work which the students are producing. This process takes time but it is extremely important as it provides a clear picture of the quality of teaching and learning over a period of a number of weeks rather than just one lesson.

It is truly inspiring for me to see the transformation which has taken place in recent years in the quality and quantity of work that our students are producing on a daily basis from Year 7 right through Year 13. A good example of this is in English where our students now tackle the George Orwell classic, *Animal Farm* in Year 7. This novel has many complex themes and subtleties which from a much earlier age our young people are now discussing and writing about with confidence.

Secondary school students can sometimes be reluctant to share with their parents the work that they are doing in school. I usually find when talking to our students that although this may be the case, they are invariably very proud of their work and like us all, enjoy receiving praise. I would strongly encourage you to ask your child if you can look through their books over the forthcoming half term holiday. It will provide you with an opportunity to see what they are tackling at the moment and I am sure as a result you will be praising them for their hard work and effort. I am also sure you will be impressed at the work they are doing, whatever age they are.

I appreciate that some parents will have work commitments over the coming week so it may not be a 'holiday' for everyone but I do hope you are all able to enjoy some time together over the half term school break. We'll look forward to seeing all of the students back in school at the normal time on Monday 4th November.

Mark McKelvie
Principal

General Notices

Children in Need - Friday 15th November

To raise funds for Children in Need, Friday 15th November will be a non-uniform day. Students are asked to donate £1 via ParentPay. Lots of fun activities and stalls are planned to raise additional funds if students would like to bring some spare change.



Year 7 and 8

Year 7 Mandarin Showcase Event

Thank you to all parents, carers and their guests who came along to support our Year 7 Mandarin students at their showcase event on Tuesday 23rd October. The students were a credit to the school and their resilience, ambition and hard work really shone through. 做得好

Mrs Maloney – Subject Leader of MFL

A Great Start

Year 7 and 8 students have made a great start to the new academic year and we have been really impressed by their efforts in the first half term. It has been evident in our classroom observations and learning walks how hard students are working. We have also seen some excellent work in different book scrutinies we have conducted for Year 7 and 8 students.

The messages as we break up for half term to our Y7&8 students are:

- Enjoy the break and rest up
- Make sure you don't leave your homework until the end of the holidays
- Come back after half term with a positive mindset ready to make more progress and improve on a great start.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit."

We hope you have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4th November. We are looking forward to making outstanding progress and pushing on to the next level. To support your child please do continue to take an active role in their learning.

A few things you can do to help prepare students over the holidays:

- Ensure they have full equipment and the correct uniform.
- Reduce screen time before bed. Research has proven that this can lead to better sleep patterns and rest for the next day (it can be easy to slip into bad habits over the holidays).
- Check homework via the ClassCharts app.

Children in Need - Friday 15th November

For a donation of £1 students will be able to attend in non-school uniform (to be paid via ParentPay). All the money raised will go to Children in Need.

All Year 7 and 8 students will engage and participate in raising money for Children in Need. They will have the opportunity in Form time to plan, prepare and advertise their fundraising activities. Form Tutors will support but we expect students to take a lead with the activities as they embrace Grangefield's tradition of supporting charities. One of our school values is compassion and we hope all students participate and engage in the experience.

Students will run activities at break time in specified areas and there will be the 'Staff Tug of War' at lunch time in the main hall. We thank all parents/carers for their contributions.



Key Dates

Please be aware of the following dates after half term:

Year 7 Parents Evening	–	Thursday 7th November
Progress Update 1	–	To be distributed to students after half term
Children in Need	–	Friday 15th November
Bush Craft Trip	–	Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th June

Mr Matthews – Year 7 & 8 Director of Studies

Year 9

Progress Update 1

All subject teachers for Year 9 have been inputting 'Attitude to Learning' grades for students this week and parents/carers will receive this after half term. Parents will receive key information on students attitude to learning in all subjects, for the following three areas:

Classwork
Behaviour
Homework

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening will take place on Monday 4th November from 6-7pm. Letters and information can be found on ParentMail.

Mrs A Mitchell – Year 9 Director of Studies

Year 10 and 11

Year 10 YELLIS tests

On Tuesday all our Year 10 students took part in the YELLIS tests. These online tests are used to help the school set targets for students' GCSEs. I wanted to thank all the students in Year 10 for their exemplary behaviour and approach to the assessments, every student did exactly what was asked of them with no issues. Well done all.

Year 11 Walking Talking Mock

On Tuesday this week all Year 11 students took part in a English 'Walking Talking Mock'. A Walking Talking Mock involves students completing a full exam with guidance from their teacher. It is a useful tool for students to gain confidence in the style of exam papers and what is being asked of them. The feedback from staff was extremely positive, so well done to all Year 11 students for their excellent effort and attitude towards this activity.

Mr Sammons – Year 10 & 11 Director of Studies



Post 16

Week commencing Monday 4th November

Y13 Trial Exam Week

All Trial Exams will take place in the Main Hall (please see the attached timetable)
<http://www.pudseygrange.co.uk/sixth-form/exams/>

GCSE Resit Dates

Monday 4th November - AM GCSE English Language Paper 1

Tuesday 5th November - AM GCSE Maths Paper 1 (Non Calculator)

Wednesday 6th November - AM GCSE English Paper 2

Thursday 7th November - AM GCSE Maths Paper 2 (Calculator)

Monday 11th November - PM GCSE Maths Paper 2 (Calculator)

Mrs Smith – Year 12 & 13 Director of Studies Miss Fisher – Post 16 Pastoral Support & Careers Lead
