



Weekly Bulletin for Parents & Carers

Week commencing Monday 3rd February 2020

Principal's Message

We have been marking Holocaust Memorial day with assemblies right across the school this week. As I'm sure you will be aware, Holocaust Memorial day is held on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and this year marked the 75th anniversary. As the horrors of that place fade from living memory into the history books, it is more important than ever that we ensure our young people are aware of what happened, so that we can make sure it never happens again.

The assemblies told the students a brief history of the Nazi concentration camp, included excerpts from Anne Frank's diary and a recording of a poem. The final part of the assemblies emphasised the growing concerns about the rise of neo-Nazis today and the assemblies finished with the following speech by Martin Neimoller who was a German pastor who opposed the Nazis during the war who regretted not speaking out sooner:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We finished by reminding the students the importance of speaking out against injustices even when they do not directly affect us. As a result of the assemblies, we have also managed to arrange for one of the last Auschwitz survivors to visit our school later this year to talk to our students.

Mark McKelvie
Principal

Year 7 and 8

Year 7 Pudsey Grangefield's 500 word competition

The English department would like to launch its own version of the 500 word writing competition that is being promoted by Radio Two at the moment. It is an incredible opportunity for Year 7 students to show their creative side. Therefore they need to write a short story (no more than 500 words) on any topic they can think of. It needs to be handed in in the lesson after February half term. The English teacher will then mark it and the best three stories will be entered into our own internal competition. There will be prizes for the top 3 stories across Year 7. Use the 500 word website to help with ideas and tips and enter the story to the national competition - you never know how far you can go until you try!

Mrs Gough – English Department



Year 8 Parents Evening - Thursday 27th February

All Year 8 parents/carers will be invited to attend the evening on Thursday 27th February. On the evening you will have the opportunity to speak with your child's teachers to discuss their academic progress. The evening is scheduled to begin at 4.30pm and end at 7.00pm.

We have been really impressed by the progress students are making this year and hope to welcome you to discuss their success and any areas they can develop. We will be sending details on the evening in a letter to all parents/carers on Monday 10th February and the booking system will go live on Friday 14th February. Should parents/carers need any support with the booking system please contact the main school office.

Progress Update 2

All Year 7 and 8 students will receive their next progress update on the week commencing Monday 10th February. All subject teachers have been inputting 'Attitude to Learning' grades for students this week. We will be quality assuring this information this week and parents/carers will receive this information before half term.

Parents will receive key information on students attitude to learning in all subjects, for the following three areas:

- Classwork
- Behaviour
- Homework

Parents/carers will receive projected grade bands and progress update 3 once students have completed their end of year assessments in June.

As always we thank parents/carers for the active engagement and support. Home support can have a massive impact on students' progress, so please discuss this progress update with students. Please praise them for their positive grades and set targets for where they need to improve.

Checking ClassCharts and Parent Mail

Students in Year 7 and 8 are excelling in a number of areas and as always we like to share this information and their success with parents/carers. At the end of term assemblies we celebrated a number of students who had zero behaviour points on ClassCharts and praised students who were achieving a high number of positive points.

Please can parents/carers continue to monitor their child's ClassCharts and Parent mail accounts. This will help keep you informed about their positive behaviour, homework, equipment and any negative behaviour. We would like to thank parents/carers for continuing to support our school systems. This support and relationship is vital for students' success and progress.

Mr Matthews – Year 7 & 8 Director of Studies

Year 9

Year 9 Parents Evening - Thursday 13th February

The booking system will go live on Thursday 30th January to allow plenty of time to make appointments with staff.

A letter has been sent via parent mail with instructions on how to make bookings on the Parentmail system.



Progress Update 2

The students will shortly receive their second progress update with recent data regarding their most recent ATL score. This data will also show predicated grades as given by their class teachers and scores for their behaviour, class work and homework over the last term.

Mrs A Mitchell – Year 9 Director of Studies

Year 10 and 11

Post 16 Pathways

All students who have selected PGS as first or second choice should have received a message via Parentmail plus a letter in the post that details current subject choices.

If a student has not received a letter (and should have) please can they see/contact Mrs Smith to discuss.

Students who have received their letter need to complete the return form on ParentMail ASAP. The deadline for this is Friday 14th February.

Mr Sammons – Year 10 & 11 Director of Studies

Post 16

W/c 3rd February

Year 12 Assessment

Assessments will take place during normal lesson time (with subject teachers).

W/c 2nd March

Year 13 Trial Exams

Assessments will take place during subject lesson time - in the Main Hall.
An overall timetable will be issued before half term

If you would like any further information (Year 12 or Year 13) or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Post 16 team.

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