

Headteacher's Blog 10/02/23

It might have been a short half term but it has been packed full of activities and events!

For me, the highlight of the half term was the Shoah service, which we commemorated with Y9. The service took place on Holocaust Memorial Day, on the 27th January. This date was chosen to commemorate the date when the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated in 1945. On this day all around the world we remember the killing of six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. It is also a time to remember the genocides that have followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The service was incredibly moving and our Y9 students showed impeccable respect throughout. My thanks go to Mr Scriven, Mr Neal, Mrs Wragg and Mr O'Farrell who led us on this special occasion.

In other news

History Department

The History Department were very involved in delivering further activities to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. This year the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) set the theme as 'ordinary people,' and form time sessions have focused on ordinary people and the Holocaust each week. These sessions will lay the foundations for later study of the Holocaust in the summer term of Y8.

On Wednesday 25th January an outreach worker from the HMDT came into school to deliver a range of workshops to our Y7, Y8 and Y9 students. These workshops looked at topics such as; what was the Holocaust? Jewish resistance to the Holocaust, anti-Jewish laws in Germany and the Kindertransport rescue project. Our students were so keen to get involved and learn as much as possible in preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Four of our sixth form History students have also been selected to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project this year. The students have the opportunity to take part in two seminars, listening to a talk by a Holocaust survivor. The students will also be visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of this project. Following this they will be sharing what they have learnt from the project with students lower down in school, so please look out for this later on in the year.

Thackray Museum School Trip

On the 19th January the History Department took a number of our Y9 and Y10 GCSE History students on a school trip to the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds. The trip was a huge success, with students being able to recap the content they have already studied for their GCSEs, whilst being able to participate in a workshop that introduced students to the next part of our course. The workshop was about the First World War, and medicine on the Western Front.

Students enjoyed being able to study artefacts from the museum and use source material to learn about injuries, shell shock, new medical developments and the role of women during the war. Students also enjoyed tracking medical developments through time and take a tour

down 'disease street'. The museum staff were so helpful in guiding our students through the important history of medicine and developing their understanding of source analysis, a key skill students' focus on during our exam.

Miss Coates

A Level Business Studies



Congratulations to Chama in Year 13, the winner of the school's annual Toniolo Economics Essay competition. Yvonne Jones and Nye Roberts also produced notable entries.

Students had to produce a fully-referenced 1500-word essay tackling the question:

"At the time the pandemic began most economists thought its effect would on balance be deflationary. The reality is that inflation has surged. How and why did this happen".

Mr Horner

Music and Performing Arts

The Music, Drama and Dance team are collaborating to draw together the Performing Arts Spring Showcase – date: Tuesday March 21 2023 at 7pm in the Chapel.

Rehearsals on Songs from Matilda are taking place on Monday lunchtimes in the Chapel, the orchestra are polishing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto midday on Tuesdays.

The GCSE, Commercial and Y7 dance teams are working hard on their creative contributions, and the Drama department are developing some wonderfully engaging scenes.

We may even have some cross-genre performances from our superbly talented body of students at Notre Dame.

Mrs Francis, Mr Ward and Miss Carrigan

Headteacher's Breakfast Club attendees;

Thursday 26 January 2023 - 12 students that undertook voluntary work at St Marie's Cathedral St Bernadette Relics Tour in early October. Earlier in the summertime they also worked really hard during their time volunteering during the Lourdes Pilgrimage trip. The feedback we had from the organisers of the Lourdes pilgrimage was very complimentary about our students.

Thursday 2 February 2023 - 8 students from U13 girls football team who performed in football tournaments all year. The results of these accumulate and the top 4 will go through to a finals tournament. We are very much on track to be in this currently! - However, this referral to HBC was for their exceptional performance, efforts and attitude in the all-day tournament they played in on Friday 18 November 2022. Well done to you all.

We have had three parents' evenings in the last half term and it has been great to see parents back in the building. These evenings are such important opportunities to discuss how things are going in school for your child with their teachers. Students are also invited, and we are delighted when they attend too. It allows staff time to give them individual feedback and students have an opportunity to also communicate how things are for them. Very often it is lots of praise which is being passed on! Where things are not going so well, it is a great opportunity to discuss what we can do together to support your child.

On that note, the next parents evening is for **Y8 on Tuesday 21st February**. This is straight back after half term so do please make sure that you have made your appointments and don't hesitate to contact us if you are having any difficulty.

I am sure there will be many of us who are delighted that half term is here! I wish you and your families a happy holiday's and we look forward to seeing students again on **Tuesday 21st February**.

God bless,

D Cleary

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

- **Half term begins** Friday 10th February
- **Training Day 4** Monday 20th February

Events happening in school

- **Ash Wednesday Services** Wednesday 22nd February