

Blog: 21.4.23

It is hard to believe that we have completed another term and are now two thirds of the way through the year! Time goes so fast especially when times are busy and it has certainly been a full and enterprising last few weeks of term. I do hope you have all had an opportunity to enjoy the break and that you have had a restful and peaceful Easter.

Of course, Year 11 and Year 13 are busy preparing for forthcoming exams as we enter the last few weeks before they begin. The senior team have been visiting those lessons this half term to talk to students about how they feel about the support and preparation they have had from their teachers. The response was overwhelmingly positive and it was great to see students fully engaged in lessons and taking their studies seriously. My thanks go to staff who are going above and beyond to ensure that students are well prepared and feeling as confident as they can be at what is always an anxious time.

Lent as expected, has also been particularly busy as students have got involved with fundraising and focusing on good work in preparation for the forthcoming festival of Easter. This year, students from across different year groups led the Stations of the Cross during assembly time. It was truly very moving and powerful seeing our young people leading their peers in reflection and prayer. The response for each year group was duly attentive, respectful and appreciative.

Looking ahead at the new term –there is a palpable air of excitement around our very first Cultural Appreciation Week which will be happening between the 26th and 28th April. Our Notre Dame Afro Caribbean Society (NDACS) have taken the lead on this but they have been pushing at an open door! So many students from different backgrounds and cultures have been asking about when it is happening and discussing what they want to wear and the food they want to bring in!

There are many opportunities for students to take part in the activities throughout the week and Mr Neal has sent a letter with further details on. We will take lots of pictures for the website and ensure that you will be able to share in the joy of the days with us.

The new term starts on Monday 24th April and we are straight in to Y9 Parents evening on Wednesday 26th April. This will again be in person and we hope to see as many parents as possible on the night. For many of you this will be the first time that you have had this face to face opportunity in school due to the COVID restrictions we were previously under. It is such an important way for us to build relationships and establish ways of working together to support your child.

As I write this today, it has turned cold and rainy again! I am reminded of the reality of a good old British summer- totally unpredictable where we can see 4 seasons in one day! It is appropriate therefore to remind you about our expectations around school uniform. Students must have a waterproof coat (with full sleeves) with them every day throughout summer. Similarly, shoes must be waterproof and wipeable, therefore no mesh, suede or fabric is allowed. The reasoning for this is that students are expected to be outside at all breaks and lunch unless the weather is extreme, and therefore it is essential they have the right coat and shoes to ensure that they arrive for lessons dry and warm and in the right frame of mind for learning. We will be checking uniform in the first week and would therefore urge you to send them in as per our policy.

Sadly, at the end of last term we also said good bye to two members of staff. Firstly Miss Allen, who covered a maternity leave in RE. We wish her well in her next post at Penistone. Sadly, Miss Madden, Y11 Pastoral Manager is also leaving us for family reasons. She has been instrumental in the setting up of NDACS and has provided great support for the students in Y11. We wish her all the best for the

future and will do our best to ensure that we continue the great work that she has achieved in her time with us.

Finally from me, we have been approached by Petition (Change.org) – about a campaign to provide pedestrian crossing points at Fulwood Road, Hangingwater Road/Gladstone Road junction. This has been raised by a Broomhill resident and parent at Nether Green Juniors who is concerned about a dangerous crossing point on the route to school for a significant number of Notre Dame students.

Could you please take a look and if you feel happy to do please respond. The petition is viewable via this link: <https://chng.it/z2TSqMBFxt>

In other news

The following gives you a flavour of what our students have been up to and their amazing achievements in the last few weeks.

Below are the students who competed in the Sheffield Badminton Key Stage 3 finals competition on Monday 13 March 2023:

1. Reynard, Joe (9GN)
2. Kirkman, Harry (8AB)
3. Loh, Caleb (8MH)
4. Sweeting, Jack (9JQ)
5. Plunkett, Hugh (9GR)
6. Bruce, Zachary (9GR)
7. Goddard, Walt (8MH)
8. Drury, Kavan (9RNI)
9. Beare, Erin (9GR)
10. Fekete, Boro (8KC)
11. Brumpton, Abigail (8KC)
12. Abraham, Olivia (8KC)
13. Hayes, Catherine (9MCO)
14. Xu, Chris (9JQ)
15. Vas, Miriam (9RNI)
16. Sawicka, Emilia (9MCO)

They all played fantastically well throughout the day!

The students were playing against the best players in the city, with boys and girls categories each containing over 100 players

Highlights were **Erin Beare** reaching the semi-finals of the girl's singles and **Caleb Lowe** reaching the round of 16 in the boy's singles competition. Well done to all!

Miss Giampalma

Y10 B Team Football - Tuesday 28th March

Our team achieved a great win of 3-1 against Westbourne School. Two goals from George Taylor and one from Elliott English. Excellent performances all-round. Brilliantly refereed by Mr Downs.



Y9 to Y11 Athletics – Thursday 30th March

Great turnout for athletics Thursday evening. Special call out to Amari Samuels as he was the only Y11 in attendance.



We had some great athletes. Thanks to all staff and students involved. Athletics will recommence first Wednesday back after the Easter break.

Mr Downs Head of PE

Y7 Rugby Team Notre Dame – Thursday 30th March

Our Y7 team came so close to winning the end of season circular tournament. Having played by far the best rugby of all the schools, had a mix-up with which lines were being played on for consecutive matches on the same pitch not occurred, ND would have scored the winning try, won the last match and been top of the table.

But sport is all about the what ifs and a nil-nil draw (with a disallowed try to Wath due to an illegal handoff in the last second) left them third! What is certain is that all 10 players were 100% committed – making tackles, passing the ball wide, supporting the runner and playing some fabulous expansive rugby.

They (and everyone else who has played for the Y7s this year) should be really proud of their first year of school rugby and look forward to more of the same next year. We are always looking for more players too!

Thanks to all their teachers that allowed them to take part by missing P5 on Thursday 30th March and to Miss Tazzyman for rugby kit and transport arrangements.

Yours in rugby - Mr Noble



English Writing competition

Winners of the February Writing Competition were Elspeth Buchanan and Maria Kozłowska. The winner of the March competition was Phoebe Pitchfork.

Well done to all of them!

Mrs Cramphorn

Headteacher's Breakfast Club

Thursday 30 March 2023 - attendees:

The following students took part in the Six Teen Edition Drama Production in December 2022:

Honor Walker, Rose Lehane, Madison Bland, Emily Davies, Grace Scott, Freya Goodwin, Eve Illien, Alishba Khan, Grace Farnsworth, Charlotte Taylor, Annie Jones, Ashleigh Unarce, Mina Fowkes, Camille Vas, Hollie Waller, Lilly Waller, Cicely Reed and Ophelia Larder-Lee.

It was an incredible joy to spend time with the group and listen to how much they have gained from participating in the production. A wonderfully talented, eloquent and interesting bunch!

Typically many of them are also involved in other clubs and activities, whilst at the same time concentrating on their studies. Well done to each and every one of you - you impressed me so much!

God Bless and all the best for the new term
Mrs Cleary