



Allerton High

January 2019

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Newsletter 3, January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We have welcomed all students back after the Christmas break and wished them every success in 2019.

The Winter Concert was an excellent way to end last term with fabulous performances by all contributors. I am very grateful to Mr Cockerill and Mrs Mayger for their time, energy and commitment at the very end of a long term.

Year 7 students hosted an impressive 'Celebration of Festivals'; and also enjoyed their end of term disco. Students from all years attended the Book Fair, buying £600 worth of books which helped generate £300 in free books for the library. Many students took part in the Book Fair quiz and 3 winners won a book of their choice. Year 12 Music students ran and hosted the final of Allerton's annual music competition, 'Elevate'; two of the acts were asked to perform again for the audience to vote on – Marc & Yasmin Smith and 'On the Spot' – Joe Luke, Julian Kazanietz, Matthew Longworth and Kate Richardson. Congratulations to Marc and Yasmin who were declared the overall winners.

Y11 mock examinations went very well and we wish Y12 and Y13 luck with their forthcoming January mock and external exams. Post-16 students organised the annual Christmas party for some of our elderly neighbours through our partnership with Maecare. Our guests enjoyed their food and entertainment with Santa making his customary appearance.

Thank you for supporting our Gift Collection where Coaching Groups delivered a Christmas Hamper to elderly residents in the community. All students support this initiative, an important tradition at Allerton. The charities involved were: Caring for Life, St Anne's Shelter, St George's Crypt, St Vincent Support Centre, Trussell Trust Food Bank and Maecare. Representatives from the local charities were very grateful to everyone for all the very generous donations and asked us to pass on their thanks.

Ofsted

We had a full Section 5 School Inspection on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 December 2018 where four Inspectors spent time in lessons observing teaching & learning and talking to staff, students, parents and governors. Though the outcome is confidential until we receive formal notice, I can say that we are delighted with the outcome.

The staff as ever worked tremendously hard and the students were every bit as impressive as I expected them to be. Inspectors asked to see specific groups of young people but also spoke to many more throughout the day and were highly complimentary.

I am very grateful to parents for their best wishes and for their support in completing the Ofsted questionnaire; the parent survey was extremely positive. My particular thanks to parent Mrs Noorain who comes to Parents' Forum and who made herself available at very short notice to meet with the Lead Inspector along with parents Mrs Hameed, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Peter.

As soon as I receive the report and can release it, I will forward it to you by letter and email though it will of course be on the web site.

Start & end of day arrangements

A reminder that school opens each day at 8am; breakfast is available in the canteen from this time finishing at 8.20am.

At the end of the school day, students in Years 7 to 9 should only stay on the premises if they are involved in activities supervised by members of staff. Homework Support is available in BS1 Monday to Thursday until 4pm. Students in Years 10 to 11 can remain in school until 4pm to work independently in IT 4 and the BUB provided that they are sensible, although many of them will choose to attend drop in sessions or study support. However, **all** students should leave by 4pm because they cannot remain on the premises unsupervised. We are finding an increasing number of students are waiting for lifts until gone 5pm, which is not acceptable when we cannot guarantee supervision. We would appreciate your support on this matter.

New door system

Please note we now have a newly seated waiting area for all visitors/parent/carers visiting school. Please press the intercom button on the left of the front doors to speak to the receptionist, who will find out the purpose of your visit. If you have an appointment with a member of staff, they will come to collect you.

Governors

Governors are always keen to hear from parent/carers. They analyse parent response to Subject Consultation Evenings and regularly check Parent View, Ofsted's mechanism for gathering parental views – www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. For example, governors strengthened security to the cycle sheds following parental concern so if any parent wishes to contact Governors please use the following email: govs@allertonhigh.org.uk

Alternatively, we have a 'Governor Box' in Reception where parents can leave messages for governors who will check its contents regularly.

Duke of Edinburgh

Though we always try to offer students the opportunity to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Y11, some parents may prefer to access local provision and have their youngsters complete it at a different time. The following websites may be useful: www.herdfarm.co.uk/youth-groups/duke-of-edinburgh-award and www.lupineadventure.co.uk/about-us.html.

Free School Meals

To see if you qualify to apply for free school meals, please see the attached application form. The completed form should be returned to the general office; it will be processed in confidence by the Business Manager, Mrs Hameed. We receive additional funding into school to support those on free school meals so it directly helps your youngster if you apply.

Poor weather

A reminder to parents that although we hope to avoid any school closures, the decision to close the school for severe weather or power cuts is usually taken before 7am. The closure is published on the LCC and School web sites

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/School-closures.aspx> or

<http://www.allertonhigh.org.uk/> and announced on local radio stations including Radio Aire 96.3 FM and Radio Leeds 92.4 FM. We have never failed yet to get to school and so the phones should be working even if we have to take the decision to close.

The Junior Leadership Team

The Junior Leadership Team has met several times this term to discuss a range of issues. They have also been working on making the JLT more high profile and have been more involved with students around school, introducing themselves in assemblies. They are working on projects including a new recycling initiative and a bullying noticeboard. Students have collected for their separate year group charities, which are as follows:

- Year 7 – Simon on the Street (Homeless)
- Year 8 – Macmillan
- Year 9 – Rainbow
- Year 10 – SANE (mental health)
- Year 11 – NSPCC
- Post 16 – CARE (international poverty and health)

Charity events

The school supported 'Children in Need' in November by organising a non-uniform day and raised £1285.11 for Children in Need, including the £277.26 raised by the PE Department alone. Staff and students held a Christmas Jumper Day and raised £777.01 for 'Save the Children.'

Attendance

Our expectation is that all students attend school every day. Please respond to Truancy Call because we have a safeguarding duty to ensure your youngster is either with you or at school with us. If you don't respond and we cannot locate your child, we have to keep calling which is obviously very frustrating.

Poor attendance can sometimes creep up on families and it is worth remembering that 90% attendance equates to 4 weeks absence in one school year [or a half day off a week]. Please contact the Attendance Office if you have any concerns about getting your child to school.

ARM (Alwoodley, Roundhay and Moortown) Cluster

Through the Cluster, we have access to student and parent/carer counsellors and family mediation services. If you feel that your child or your family would benefit from the support provided, please contact your child's Achievement Leader:

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| Year 7 | Miss Dowling |
| Year 8 | Mrs Campbell |
| Year 9 | Mrs Malkinson |
| Year 10 | Miss Broadhead |
| Year 11 | Mrs Hodges |

A Career in Teaching

Our school is part of a growing number of schools leading the way for more school-led teacher training. This is really important to us because it means we can choose the very best talent and develop it for the future of the teaching profession.

We work in the Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance (YTSA) which is a partnership of Yorkshire Secondary schools and top Universities. Together we provide an outstanding training programme for prospective teachers, offering high quality placements and excellent support and guidance in schools across the region.

We're looking for people who have (or will have) a degree, have a passion for teaching and want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential. If you would like to arrange to come in and have a chat about exciting teacher training opportunities available, please contact Mr Andy Haigh here at school on 0113 2034770. Alternatively, you can contact YTSA at

admin@yorkshiretsa.co.uk or by telephone 01423 818512 to arrange a date. We look forward to hearing from you.

Parking

We continue to receive complaints from members of the public about irresponsible parking in the Park & Ride, on King Lane and on Nursery Lane with cars doing an immediate U-turn into and out of Birkdale Drive.

Please encourage your youngster to walk to school and park showing consideration to the needs of others.

Training Day & Early Finishes

Just to alert parents, we have a Training Day on January 25 when school will be closed to students all day.

We will finish early on February 12 and March 20 as part of our planned training provision for staff. **All students including Year 7 will leave school at midday on these days** so that staff can train for the afternoon.

Events this half-term

January 7	-	Y13 Applied Science visit to Bradford University
January 9	-	U13 girls' football at Altrincham Y8 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm
January 14	-	Post 16 Interviews for Y11 students through the week.
January 17	-	Full Governors' meeting [training]
January 21	-	Y12 & 13 exam week/study leave
January 24	-	Y13 Science coursework visit to Bradford University 6-8.30pm Guided Choices Evening for Y8, 9 & 10 students/parents
January 25	-	Training Day – school closed for all students
January 28	-	Y7 & Y11, + KS4 1 yr courses & Y10 RE Progress Review 2 [0/1/2/3] sent home this week
January 30	-	Y12 SCE 4.30-7.30pm
February 1	-	Y11 GCSE climbing at Roundhay BTEC Business exam 1-3pm
February 4	-	Y12 Progress Reviews home this week
February 7	-	Immunisations for Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio/Meningitis C [Y9] (for half the year group)
February 8	-	Immunisations for Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio/Meningitis C [Y9] Leeds Climbing wall visit [Y11]
February 11	-	Y11 & Y13 Reports home this week 5.30pm C1 AS Drama exam – Monologues
February 12	-	Training Day early finish 12 noon for all students
February 13	-	Y11 Geography field visit 6pm Berlin visit parents' meeting
February 14	-	External applicant day for Sixth form
February 15	-	Y11 Geography field visit School closes for February half-term

Some additional key dates:

February 27	-	Geography field visit Y12 Physics visit
March 4	-	Y11 English/Literature/Maths/Science & Y10 RE exams C2 GCSE Drama exam 6pm (tbc)

- March 5 - Governors' Inclusion Committee
- March 7 - World Book Day
- March 11 - 6pm C2 A2 Drama exam this week tbc
Y12 Geography field visit leaves after school today
returns March 13th
- March 13 - Parents' Forum [6-30 to 7-45pm]
- March 14 - Maths Inspiration event at the Town Hall
Teenage Cancer Trust Assembly for Y10
Governors' Resources Committee
- March 15 - Comic Relief - Non Uniform Day tbc
- March 18 - Governors' Learning & Curriculum Committee
- March 19 - BTEC Music Showcase 7pm
- March 20 - Training Day early finish 12 noon for all students**
- March 25 - Progress Review goes home this week for Y11, 12 & 13
- March 26 - Full Governors' meeting
- March 29 - School closes for Easter holiday
- March 30 - Berlin visit leaves today (Y11-13) returns 1 April

At the next Parents' Forum meeting on March 13 we will discuss issues brought up by parents and issues relating to the calendar for 2019/20 and uniform – all are welcome.

Elaine Silson
Headteacher



enabling young people to achieve success