



Allerton High

February 2019

Business & Enterprise Specialist School
King Lane
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS17 7AG

T. 0113 203 4770
F. 0113 393 0631
E. info@allertonhigh.org.uk
W. www.allertonhigh.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs E. Silson BA (Hons), M.Ed, NPQH

Newsletter 4, February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

For students in Year 10 -13, January to Easter is dominated by the completion of key pieces of work for examinations. Members of staff are working hard, giving up lots of evenings to assist students and time is of the essence. When subject teachers are happy they have covered all elements of the course programmes, students will formally start the final revision period before external examinations begin. Traditionally it is the most difficult part of the year and we are trying to encourage our students to keep up the pace as Easter approaches; so far, they are responding well.

The Guided Choices Evening on 24 January for students in Years 8-10 was very well attended. Y12/13 students have completed mock exams and we have received visits from professionals in Architecture, Creative Arts, Engineering and Hair & Beauty as part of our guest speaker programme. The programme involves an external speaker addressing students over lunch/coaching about job opportunities within a particular sector and provides students with a chance to ask relevant questions about the industry.

Some students in Y8 also attended a 'Boys into Education and Health Day' to introduce them to careers/opportunities in these areas. We frequently receive information about apprenticeships and work experience opportunities from companies and organisations in the locality that are advertised in the weekly student bulletin.

Our KS4 Debating team performed exceptionally well this term, winning their regional heat against Cardinal Heenan. Hannah Parkinson and Lizzie Snow argued for the motion "we should build on the green belt" and Miriam Warm and Frankie Smith argued against the motion that "Trigger Warnings stifle debate.' Mr Harding and Miss Stagg thought our students were magnificent and we are very proud of them all.

They have now qualified for the final in March at the Heart Centre in Headingley; the 7th year in a row the Allerton team has won through to the final.

Congratulations also to Maryam Hussain (Y10), Sneha Masawan (Y9), Shelly Masawan (Y7) and Isabelle Ward (Y7) for an excellent first round in the Urban Debate League. On 5 February we debated twice against Mount St Mary's, narrowly losing the first debate but winning our second. Particular congratulations to Shelly and Isabelle, novice debaters who took part for the first time.

We have also had lots of sporting success in recent weeks.

Our KS3 Table Tennis team beat Roundhay in both their home and away fixtures. Outstanding performers included Finn Hoey, Sam Hoey and Josh Herstell (Year 7). Impressive notable performances came from Lauren Bellamy (Year 9) and Marco Magagnin (Year 8).

I am very grateful to Y13 student, Sadie Wilson who delivered assemblies before February half term to all year groups about positive mental health. Her assembly was well researched and interesting but it was also delivered in an extremely accomplished and confident manner.

Use of social media

I should make parent/carers aware that staff can spend considerable time in school unpicking incidents where students have verbally abused others on different forms of social media after school. Often, students make hateful comments using their phones.

We have spoken to students in assemblies and Coaching about using phones sensibly but would appreciate your support in reinforcing this message. We appreciate that it is helpful for parents to be able to make direct contact with children after school but if we have evidence that students have misused their phones to hurt others, we will keep the phone during the day or insist that it is not brought into school.

If you have any concerns about this matter, please contact your child's Achievement Team Leader in the first instance.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Momo Challenge; it has recently been in the news and is a game played over WhatsApp where participants contact the character Momo and are then told to do a series of challenges, with the final challenge allegedly being suicide.

The tabloids claim that the phenomenon has reached the UK and there isn't just one Momo WhatsApp user causing trouble — there are multiple accounts claiming to be Momo.

In line with all online safety advice, parents are encouraged to:

- Ensure they know what their children can access online
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know
- Tell their children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do
- Use parental controls to keep children safe

Among the most common signs to watch out for include children who:

- Become very secretive, especially about what they are doing online
- Are spending a lot of time on the internet and social media
- Are switching screens on their device when approached
- Are withdrawn or angry after using the internet or sending text messages
- Have lots of new phone numbers or email addresses on their devices

Please also see the attached information guide for parents on this challenge, provided to us by the Safeguarding Team in Leeds.

Anti-Bullying Policy

We have recently updated our Anti-Bullying Policy, a copy will be available on the web site.

Please see the following advice for parent/carers which will also be added to the Personal Organiser and website:

- Look for unusual behaviour in your children. For example, a bullied student may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their normal standard.
- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with, how lunchtime was spent etc.
- If you feel your child is being bullied inform the school immediately. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow. Your child may well prefer you not to contact school but it is extremely important that you do so, without delay.
- It is important that you advise your child not to deal with this on their own as it could make matters worse and to seek help from a member of staff.
- Tell your child/children there is nothing wrong with them. It is not their fault that they are being bullied.
- Make sure your children are fully aware of the school policy concerning bullying, and make them feel that they are able to ask for help.

Winter driving tips from LCC

Leeds City Council's Travel Department has notified us of its latest blog which is aimed at all drivers; it has hints and tips on how to stay safe driving in winter.

<https://saferroadsleeds.wordpress.com/2019/01/21/winter-driving-getting-ready-for-the-cold-spell-preparation-for-the-road/>

Exam Success

Validated Year 11 examination results were released in January and the headlines for Allerton High are impressive once again. All students made outstanding progress placing the school's overall progress score (for every student across 8 subjects) in the top 5% nationally and top in Leeds. Attainment was also strong and in the top 10% of schools nationally for the fourth year running. We are delighted that everyone's hard work paid off and we wish our current students best of luck as they approach the exam season. We have every confidence they will also achieve great results.

Red Nose Day – 15 March 2019

There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 15 March to raise money for Comic Relief. Students are asked to bring £1 for the privilege of not wearing school uniform. Students should not dye their hair or wear hats inside the school building on the day and should be appropriately dressed in clothing that is not revealing. Crop tops, shorts, vest tops, and very short skirts are not appropriate clothing for school. It will be unfortunate if students have to be sent home to change because they are inappropriately dressed so your support is appreciated.

Comic Relief Family Sport Evening

On Wednesday 20 March 16:30-18:00 we are hosting our first Family Sport Evening for Year 7 & 8 students. The event is an opportunity for parents, carers and family members to engage in school sport by competing against students across a number of sports challenges. All students will need to be partnered with an accompanying adult who they will be competing against. Challenges range from sports specific skills to athletics and fitness exercises, where the emphasis is on participation and enjoyment. This is a fundraising event in aid of Comic Relief 2019 and a part of a wider PE Department effort to increase pupil participation in school sport. We would welcome voluntary donations towards Comic Relief from entrants. All students will receive a letter to advertise the event. It is compulsory for all attending this event to have given consent forms back to reception by Friday 15 March.

Ring Road Developments

You may be aware of proposed changes to the Ring Road near Sainsburys on King Lane. There have been meetings about the installation of new crossing points and part of the plans could involve the removal of the footbridge. I have pointed out that many of our students use the footbridge and that the new proposals are not in the best interests of students' safety. You can give your views at www.leeds.gov.uk/connectingleeds and follow the 'Have your say' link. Deadline for feedback is Friday 15 March 2019. There is a public drop-in event on Sat 2 March 10-2 at the Caribbean Cricket Club, Scott Hall Road.

Exceptional Circumstances Leave Requests

I want to remind parents that an 'Exceptional Circumstances Form' must be completed for all requests for absences during term time. This includes requests for absence for religious observance. Completed forms must be submitted to the Attendance office before the date requested; a form can be downloaded from the school's website under the Parents section / Holiday Requests or collected from the Attendance Office or Reception. Please be aware that requests for absence for holidays will not be authorised during term time.

On a few occasions recently, parents have objected to being fined and stated that they were unaware of the rules and procedures. A penalty notice is a fine to parents or carers if they fail to ensure that their child/ren attend school regularly or if they take their children out of school for a holiday in term time. Leeds City Council is responsible for issuing penalty notices on behalf of schools in the city.

Penalty fines are £60 per child per parent if paid within 21 days, and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days. If the fine is not paid, the next step is prosecution. In the event of a Penalty Notice being lost, parents can ring **0113 378 2480** and the Leeds City Council Education attendance team will issue a PN number and the telephone number needed in order to pay the fine. Parents can also email the attendance team on ENEAttendance@leeds.gov.uk.

Financial Support for Families

The school receives Pupil Premium funding for all students who have been eligible for Free School Meals during the last 6 years. Information about how we use this money to support learning is on the school's website. We do use some of this money to provide financial support for school visits, revision books and school uniform. If you are struggling financially and want to discuss how you can access this support, please contact the Finance Team at school.

Urgent Treatment Centres

The NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are leading on some engagement work with regards to Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs) and want to keep people fully informed of their proposals and give people chance to have their say. To complete a survey (**deadline Monday 15 April**) as well as download more information please use the following website link:

www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/utcsurvey

There are a number of events and drop-in sessions around the city where you can find out more and have your say. Details can be found at: <https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/utcevents/>

Farewells

Some members of staff are leaving us at Easter. We say farewell to Mr Hewitt, Deputy Headteacher, who has secured a Headship at a school in York. Mrs McMurrough, SENCO, is also leaving us to work in the SEN Inclusion Team for Leeds City Council and Mrs Magras, Data Manager has retired. We will miss all three colleagues; they have given so much to Allerton High during their time with us and we wish them every success in the future.

I will clarify new points of contact in my next Newsletter at the start of the Summer term.

Training Session and Easter break

Just to remind parents, we will finish early on 20 March as part of our planned training provision for staff. All students will leave school at midday so that staff can train for the afternoon. If this presents a problem for you, please contact Reception in the first instance so we can discuss alternative arrangements. We close for the Easter holidays on Friday 29 March at 2.40pm and re-open on Monday 15 April.

Events this half-term

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| February 27 | - | GCSE Drama Component 2 exam 5pm Y11 Geography Field visit Y10/11 Business Studies exam Y12 Physics trip to Damsbury Laboratories |
| February 28 | - | Y11 English/Lit/Maths/Science mock exams |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| March 1 | - | Y10/11 Business Studies exam GCSE Drama visit to Allerton Grange Gateway to Music lunchtime concert |
| March 4 | - | Y11 Mock exams this week Drama A2 Component 2 exam 6pm |
| March 5 | - | Governors' Inclusion Committee |
| March 7 | - | World Book Day GCSE/A Level Drama visit to York |
| March 11 | - | Y12 Geography field visit to Scarborough returns 13 March C2 A2 Drama exam this week |
| March 13 | - | Hospitality & Catering Controlled Assessment Parents' Forum [6-30 to 7-45pm] |
| March 14 | - | Y10 Teenage Cancer Trust Assembly Maths Inspiration event at Leeds Town Hall Governors' Resources Committee |
| March 15 | - | Comic Relief: non-uniform day Y11 MFL Visiting Speaker |
| March 18 | - | Governors' Learning & Curriculum Committee |
| March 19 | - | BTEC Music Showcase 7pm |
| March 20 | - | visit by author – Paula Rawthorne for Y7 Hospitality & Catering Controlled Assessment 12-1 Y11 memory skills revision session Training Session early finish School closes at 12 noon for all students |
| March 25 | - | Progress Review (3) goes home this week for Y11, 12 & 13 Y10 RE mock exam |
| March 26 | - | Full Governors' meeting |
| March 29 | - | Y9 Words in the City Poetry Slam workshop School closes for Easter holiday at 2.40pm |
| March 30 | - | Y11-13 Berlin visit leaves today. Returns 1 April |
| April 15 | - | School opens Progress Review 3 for Y9 & 10 sent home this week |
| April 18 | - | Y12 Higher Education Evening for parent/carers |
| April 19-22 | - | School closed for Easter break |
| April 24 | - | Words in the City Poetry Slam event (for some students) GCSE Art & Photography exams |
| April 25 | - | A Level Textiles exam |
| April 26 | - | GCSE Art & Photography exam |
| April 26 & 27 | - | Enrichment Y11 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition |

Elaine Silson
Headteacher

