



Allerton High

April 2019

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Newsletter 5, April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We had a busy run-up to the Easter holidays with many events scheduled through February and March.

The debating teams have had more success. Before the holidays we took six students from Y7-10 to compete in Round 2 of the Urban Debate League against students from Mount St Mary's and Cardinal Heenan. They won both debates and are obviously following in the footsteps of our older, more established teams. Congratulations to: Charlotte Clark, Sneha Masawan, Maryam Hussain, Elycia Jakes, Shelly Masawan and Isabelle Ward.

We held a Non-Uniform day on 15 March for Comic & Sport Relief raising £887.93. I am grateful to Mr Odu for planning the Family Sport Evening in school for Sport Relief and Mrs Sammon and Ms Thomson for their help with this event. Mrs Gill organised our usual 'Vaisakhi celebration' on 22 March raising £89.82 for Khalsa Aid.

The BTEC Music Showcase was on 19 March where over 30 Y10 - Y13 students performed some of their work to an appreciative audience. The music featured a wide range of styles and ensembles from 'The Pixies' to Pharrell Williams. Students were assessed on the evening and were also responsible for setting up equipment and hosting the event. Well done to all students for their amazing performances and hard work and my thanks as ever to Mr Cockerill and Mrs Mayger for supporting our performers.

Y11/13 History and Politics students visited Berlin during the Easter break. My thanks to Ms Sweeney for leading this visit and Ms Jones, Mr Haigh, Miss Convy, Mr Ulrich-Oltean and Miss Crudden for accompanying the students.

GCSE and A Level Examinations

I have thanked staff for the numerous sessions which were held over the Easter holidays to help students focus on revision. All sessions were well attended and were appreciated by students. Lots more activities are planned and we wish all our students good luck in the forthcoming examinations. We know it is a stressful time for our young people and do remind them during the Final Assemblies to contact us if there are any concerns at all during the revision and examination period.

Please note that data enabled watches such as the Apple Watch are now included in the list of prohibited items by the Joint Councils for Qualifications. As with mobile phones these should be left in a secure place outside of the exam room.

Tour de Yorkshire 2019 Road Closures

The Tour de Yorkshire cycle race takes place on 2-5 May and there will be a significant impact on this area. The women's race is due through Alwoodley [then on to Bramhope and Pool] on Friday 3 May at 10.30am with road closures from about 10.00am to 11.00am and the men's race is due through Alwoodley, with some roads around school closing from 2.45pm.

We are assessing how many staff will be affected by this and it may be necessary to close earlier so everyone gets away promptly and safely. I will notify you shortly of any early closure.

Kooth

Our students now have access to Kooth, an on-line support and advice service for all young people in Leeds' secondary schools. It gives students the chance to talk to a trained professional if anything is worrying them. We will speak with all year groups about the service this term. A link with further information can be found on the Student Welfare page of our website.

'Educational Outcomes Awards'

I am delighted that we have been invited to Beckfoot School in Bingley to collect two awards later this term from the 'SSAT – The Schools, students and teachers network.' Allerton High is placed in the top 10% of schools nationally for attainment and progress in 2018. This is based on students' grades and progress across 8 subjects. Well done to all staff and students involved for their hard work; it is quite something to be nationally recognised for both attainment and progress for the third year running.

Calendar 2019/20

We are finalising the calendar for next year and will send home a leaflet of relevant dates with my next and final newsletter of the year on Friday 7 June. However, some advance warning is that though staff return on Monday 2 September, students return on **Tuesday 3 September at 10-30am ready for Lesson 3 apart from Year 7 who register at 8.30am and Year 12 who register at 9.30am.** We have also agreed to 'spread' one Training Day out over the new academic year as we have through this year; students will finish at 12-00 on three occasions throughout 2019/20 so that members of staff can train from 1-4pm.

New points of contact

We said goodbye to Mrs Magras, Mrs McMurrough, Mrs Carter and Mr Hewitt before the Easter break furthermore Mrs Merrill is retiring at the end of May. We are grateful for all that these members of staff have done for students at Allerton High and wish them well in the future.

The following are key points of contact for the summer term:

SEND issues - Mrs Matthews and Mrs Merrill [until May]
Safeguarding Issues - Mr Haigh

As ever, please direct your concerns to the general office if you wish to speak with your child's Achievement Team leader:

Year 7 - Miss Dowling
Year 8 - Mrs Campbell
Year 9 - Mrs Malkinson
KS3 Manager - Mr Horsley
Year 10 - Mrs Horsley (Miss Broadhead is now married) and Mrs Whittaker
Year 11 - Mrs Hodges and Miss Convy
Year 12/13 - Mr Harding [Mrs King & Mrs Brookes]

Please note Mrs Malkinson is not in school at the moment. Y9 students and parents are asked to direct concerns to Mr Horsley (KS3 Manager) in the first instance.

Parent Contact Information

Please remember to update us if you change contact details as we are sending more information electronically than ever before and we also text parents with reminders about school events so your co-operation with this is vital.

Parents' Forum

The next Parents' Forum meeting is on Wednesday 12 June from 6-30 to 7-45pm; we will discuss feedback from parents/carers in 2018/9 and the new school improvement plan. All are welcome.

Uniform

I attach information relating to uniform requirements for September 2019 which has been discussed at different meetings within school. Both girls and boys are asked *not* to wear skin-tight drain pipe/legging style trousers, which are unacceptable. We are purchasing some stock in different sizes/prices and will provide a tailored trouser version if this becomes a problem. Trutex stock the

correct style which can be ordered on Parent Pay. A uniform and PE kit order form can be obtained from reception. Skirts in a 'house style' should be purchased through school.

Can I remind you that if students arrive at school inappropriately dressed and we do not have spare uniform for them to change into, they will be isolated at break and lunch so that others are not confused into thinking there has been a change in policy and start to copy infringements to the dress code. Students may also be required to work in Isolation rather than attend lessons.

We appreciate your support on all matters relating to uniform.

Attendance & Punctuality

The vast majority of students in school have excellent attendance and punctuality though there is a small minority who arrive at school late for lessons. Students' punctuality is closely monitored not just first thing in the morning but to every lesson. It is frustrating when lessons are interrupted with late arrivals and irritating for teachers when they have to repeat vital information so we rely on your support in our drive to improve punctuality and attendance.

We have received significantly fewer requests for 'Leave of Absence' in term-time which is really encouraging and we look forward to your continued support. Please contact Mrs Taylor in the Attendance Office in the first instance if you have any concerns regarding these issues.

Personal Organiser

We are spending a lot of time chasing students who do not have their Personal Organisers and would appreciate your help in ensuring students have them every day. Some are late to lessons as they don't know where they are supposed to be, others are forgetting homework and some are deliberately misplacing theirs in an attempt to avoid you knowing they have gained a number of codes for not behaving as they should in lessons!

Please can you check your son/daughter has their Personal Organiser in their bag on a daily basis?

Ramadan

As some of you will know, Ramadan falls within the examination season over the next few years and we are aware that the combination of a long days fasting and examinations will put extra pressure on our young Muslim students.

At Allerton High School we respect the individual's approach to observing Ramadan. However, from past experience we are aware that some students may feel unwell e.g. faint or feel dizzy. We will deal with the situation in the usual way by providing appropriate medical assistance which may include the administration of medicines or giving water to drink.

We will ensure students who are fasting can rest over lunchtime in a supervised, quiet space away from the cafeteria and we always give students the opportunity to be exempt from PE; they watch/umpire rather than participate in sport and may sit out altogether if necessary. We suggest students look at the following websites for advice and you may like to check them yourself.

www.student.com/articles/exams-during-ramadan-how-to-prepare/

www.birminghammail.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/ramadan-2016-7-tips-students-11442577

www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-40065481/exams-in-ramadan-what-should-i-eat

Please contact school if you have any concerns about observing Ramadan and speak with the relevant Achievement Team Leader in the first instance.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Picking up/dropping off students

Thank you to the vast majority who park appropriately when collecting children from school or dropping them off. Can I remind those using the 'Park & Ride' facility to enter the car park and find a space to park or use the 'drop off' layby rather than hovering at the entrance, as this causes congestion on the ring road?

Events this term

Monday 15 April	-	Y10 Science exams
Tuesday 16 April	-	Y10 Science exams
Thursday 18 April	-	Higher Education event for Y12 parents/carers 6pm Y10 Science exams
Friday 19 April	-	Good Friday – school closed
Monday 22 April	-	Easter Monday – school closed
Tuesday 23 April	-	School open following the Easter break
Wednesday 24 April	-	Art and Photography exams Spanish oral exam
Thursday 25 April	-	A level Textiles exam GCSE Spanish oral exams
Friday 26 April	-	Y11 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice expedition (returns 27 April) GCSE Art & Photography exams and Spanish GCSE oral exams Y9 STEM Challenge Day
Monday 29 April	-	A level Textiles exam and French GCSE oral exams
Tuesday 30 April	-	A level Textiles exam and French GCSE oral exams
Wednesday 1 May	-	French/Spanish orals, GCSE Art/Textiles exam & PE moderation
Thursday 2 May	-	Y10 RE Revision day & GCSE French oral exam
Friday 3 May	-	GCSE Art / Textiles exam & GCSE French oral exams Silver Duke of Edinburgh Silver practice expedition Y11 Leavers' Assembly
Saturday 4 May	-	Y13 Leavers' Ball
Monday 6 May	-	May Day Bank holiday / school closed
Tuesday 7 May	-	GCSE/AS/A2 exams start & Panjabi speaking exam Y10 Science exams
Wednesday 8 May	-	Y9 DTP Mop up immunisations AS & A Level Fine Art & Photography exam
Thursday 9 May	-	A Level Fine Art & Photography exam & Y10 Revision Day
Friday 10 May	-	AS & A level Fine Art & Photography exam Y13 Final Assembly 'Words in the City' Poetry Slam event for Y8 & Y9
Monday 13 May	-	Spanish A level oral exams
Tuesday 14 May	-	Y10 RE Revision day
Wednesday 15 May	-	Art moderation
Thursday 16 May	-	Gateway to Drama devised performance
Friday 17 May	-	A level French oral exams Art moderation
Monday 20 May	-	Y9 exams this week
Thursday 23 May	-	Resources Governors' Committee
Friday 24 May	-	School closes for half-term at 2.40pm.

At the start of the next half-term students in Y7 and 8 will be involved in examinations in English, maths and science. This is to help inform setting for the new academic timetable which begins on Monday 17 June.

Monday 3 June	-	School opens for students Y7 & 8 exams
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Elaine Silson
Headteacher



enabling young people to achieve success