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WETHERBY

SENIOR SCHOOL

4th October 2019

Autumn Term Week 5



Dear Parents,

I hope those of you who follow the School's Instagram account (you can find it [here](#)) have been enjoying the pictures of the Year 7 & 8 boys getting to know each other better in the wilds of Hertfordshire. The urban nature of the school means that giving the boys the opportunity to explore outside their comfort zone and experience life away from Uber, McDonald's and the other diverting trappings of city life are important. There is also nothing like being away from home with your mates for helping them to learn about teamwork and leadership, develop resilience and just enjoy getting dirty. I hope they return to you today tired, smelly and feeling as though they have been challenged. Equally, I hope the Year 9 enjoy their trip early next week.

This newsletter is actually an outside broadcast as I, and other members of the SLT are spending Friday at the annual APG conference. Each year this provides us with a fantastic opportunity to take a break from the day to day and hear from others in education about possible future directions for the sector, reflect on the challenges that we may face and share good practice and experiences with others. This year we have heard from those working in the field of AI about how that could impact schools, on educating for creativity and innovation and also from Emily Maitlis about the challenges of reporting on the world's news.

Rather different to the boys who are out in the wilds at the end of this week and the beginning of next, a number of the senior boys are this weekend at the first Model United Nations conference of the season. The boys are representing North Korea and Spain and will be debating topics including child labour in Africa, the admission of Kosovo into the UN, people trafficking and the right to accessible healthcare. This is a fantastic activity for the boys to broaden their horizons, develop a detailed understanding of some complex issues and also to practice their debating and public speaking skills. Having been involved at previous schools, it is a challenging and rewarding activity and I commend it to all boys in the school as it can give them so much. I am very grateful to Miss Smith for giving up her weekend to guide them.

Tomorrow sees our annual Open Day and I am grateful to the many boys who are helping out in departments or showing the prospective parents around. Such has been the popularity this year that we have had to stop taking bookings and arrange other dates later in the term for families to visit. The boys continue to be our best ambassadors, so please encourage them to come and support on Saturday if they have not already volunteered. I shall be in early with the England game on so the boys will not have to worry that they are going to miss out.

Have a wonderful weekend

Best wishes, Seth

MR SULLIVAN WRITES:

I have ordered 50 WSS 'Oddballs' hats which are available to staff, boys and parents. They are excellent quality and perfect for Games/Activities for the boys and indeed, fantastic for keeping warm whilst supporting the boys on the touchline at Wetherby Sports Grounds. The hats are part of a campaign to raise awareness about testicular cancer.

"The aim of the bobble hats is to get sport and schools teams across the UK wearing our bespoke, personalised bobble hats. We want to get teams talking about testicular cancer and raise awareness, as at the moment it is still a taboo subject and many are uncomfortable talking about it. We are trying to change that and with entire squads and clubs wearing our bobble hats we feel it is a big step in the right direction."

The hats retail at £12 so if you would like to place an order, please let me know by emailing – james.sullivan@wetherbysenior.co.uk



NOTICES:

Mental Health Day - Thursday 10th October:

Our Wellbeing Prefect, Nelson Tobin, is organising a Tuck Shop sale at lunchtime from **13:35-14:00** on **Thursday 10th October** to raise money for Young Minds. Bring some cash to purchase treats or just donate to this amazing charity.

Activities:

There are spaces available for boys to take part in the following activities. Please let Mrs Skinner know if you would like to take part:

Monday - Bouldering (17:00-18:00)

Tuesday - WSS Gym (16:25-17:15)

Thursday - Spinning (16:30-17:15)

Friday - Climbing (16:00-17:00)

Change to lunch timings:

We have reviewed the timings for lunch and have created an additional earlier slot at **12:55** for boys in Years 7 and 8 from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays, Year 9

will have their lunch in the early slot and Years 7 and 8 will have theirs at 13:20 upon their return from games.

Water Bottles:

In a bid to increase our practical commitment to a sustainable environment at School we will remove single use plastic cups at water stations next week. Please ensure that your son brings a water bottle to school so that he can fill up from the bottle fillers and water coolers.

Wet weather:

Please ensure that the boys have a waterproof coat for rainy days as many boys this week seem to have been poorly equipped. A small foldable, lightweight umbrella in your son's bag would be a good addition to his School kit.

MR BOLDEROW WRITES:

As you may have read in the press, the group Extinction Rebellion are planning two weeks of action in London. They will be shutting two bridges, Westminster and Lambeth, and also closing a number of roads in Westminster. A map can be found on their [website](#) of the roads they intend to close but this is likely to be a protest that changes locations over the course of the two weeks. Please ensure you son leaves plenty of time for his journey to school as there is likely to be congestion on the roads and impacts on public transport; some boys may have to adapt their route so the TfL website should be checked for updates.

Last year, for the environmental protests led by and aimed at young people, I supported the small number of boys who wished to attend provided they were accompanied if under 16. The nature of these protests is different and the School will not grant permission to attend the demonstrations.

CALENDAR:

Monday 7th:

All Year 9 Residential to UKSA, Isle of Wight, returning 9th October
Sixth Form Lecture - *Conservation*, Mr Hill, Brad Frankel, Francis Holland,
Regents Park 15:00

Tuesday 8th:

Rugby U14 & U15 WSS vs St. Benedict's Ealing (H) 14:30
PSHE workshop for parents - *Being me in my world* (Adolescents and identity),
Rachela Leonello, Hannah House Hall 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 9th:

Football 1st, 2nd & 3rd XI WSS vs Harrodian (A) 14:30
Middlesex Cup - Plate Knockout Final 16, Rugby 1st XV vs Vyners School (H) KO
14:45

Thursday 10th:

Football U15A/B/C WSS vs Harrodian (H) 14:30

Friday 11th:

Upper Sixth predicted gradse
All school assembly, Hinde Street Methodist Church 15:30-16:00
GCSE PE Boys Table Tennis, Hannah House Hall 16:00-17:00



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