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WETHERBY

SENIOR SCHOOL

11th October 2019

Autumn Term Week 6



Dear Parents,

I wrote to you last Friday before what was a very busy and successful Open Morning. Oversubscribed, we have had to book many families in to visit us in future weeks and, as always, the feedback we received from our visitors repeatedly referred to the strength of the boys, the care they took over their responsibilities be it tour guiding or representing a department and their pride in the school. I am very grateful to all the boys who gave up their Saturday to help, some staying until long after the official end of the duties to chat to families and their sons.

Also taking place last weekend was the Model United Nations at Godolphin and Latymer. We are still a relatively new kid on the block at MUN conferences and, even though there were a large number of schools with a long tradition of MUN, some of our delegates came home with prizes. We did, in fact, gain more of these awards than any other school. Maarten Van Berckel and Jack Henniker-Gotley won 'Delegate Most True to their country' in their committees for their representation of North Korea (a challenging country to research) and Salem Nusseibeh won 'Best Delegate' for his work in the Security Council. It might surprise you to know that it is very hard to get spaces at these conferences but, based on their performance and their character, the school has received invitations to attend more of these. I cannot speak highly enough of this society and encourage boys to speak to Miss Smith if they want to be involved.

On Wednesday, when the Year 9 sailors were wearily heading home, I enjoyed the Year 11 GCSE devised performances. This is always an interesting and entertaining evening as the boys write a short play in their chosen style. This year, a dramatically ambitious group chose styles that I had not seen pupils tackle before: Theatre of the Absurd and Theatre of Cruelty. The first play was set on a submarine with a crew that was going nowhere and it was all the more interesting for it, the second in a hellish restaurant; it was the stuff of nightmares and I was relieved to hear afterwards that their plan to throw maggots into the audience was dropped before the performance.

Another event worthy of note this week was the activities around World Mental Health Day. Shaun Goodwin, one of our wellbeing team led a practical lunchtime session with the boys where they learned how to pull themselves out of a low mood when they've had a bad day. Prefect, Nelson Tobin worked with younger boys to raise over a hundred pounds with a tuck shop, from which the proceeds will be going to a Mental Health Day charity. This, of course, was preceded by a talk from Head of Wellbeing, Rachela Leonello who spoke to parents this week about how to guide your son to peak performance. I know that parents requested further sessions from Rachela on sleep (something I might tackle in a future newsletter) and talking to teenagers. We are looking into them for future terms.

Finally, on my way in this morning, I witnessed an accident which reminded me of the importance of being easily seen in the dark mornings and evenings. If your son rides a scooter to and from School please ensure he has lights and/or reflective clothing.

I look forward to seeing Year 9 parents at the parents' evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes, Seth



NOTICES:

Cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support:

The annual cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support is taking place next **Wednesday, 16th October** at lunchtime in Hannah House Hall. Macmillan is a charity that provides people who have been diagnosed with cancer with financial, practical and emotional support. The cake sale is being organised by some members of Tyburn. Please bring money to buy cakes and donate generously.

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 single use plastic cups at water stations have been removed. 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. A small foldable, lightweight umbrella in your son's bag would be a good addition to his school kit.

MRS SKINNER WRITES:

Thank you to all of those boys who supported World Mental Health Day by buying treats from the tuck shop sale. We raised a total of £146 for Young Minds, a charity that helps promote good mental health in young people. A big thank you to our Wellbeing Prefect, Nelson Tobin, for organising the event and to all our other helpers including: Enzo Thomaz, Lewis Hiranandani and James Davies.

MR LEVERAGE WRITES:

This week's Y12 A Level Plus French Cuisine dish was Mac'n Cheese: not the most obviously French of dishes... However the boys started with a butter and flour roux, in the classic French tradition and went on to develop this, by the addition of milk, in to a béchamel sauce, to which the cheese and macaroni were added. The last flourish was the addition of a French white truffle infused olive oil.

MS RIDLEY WRITES:

On Tuesday 8th October, Rachela Leonello, our Head of Wellbeing, gave a talk to over sixty parents on how to facilitate peak performance in their children. It was hugely successful, and the Pastoral team will be organising more talks from Rachela throughout the year!

CALENDAR:

Monday 14th:

Football U13 A/B WSS vs Kew House (A) 14:30
Sixth Form Lecture - *Pornography*, Isla van Tricht, Francis Holland, Regents Park
15:00

Tuesday 15th:

Oxbridge applications deadline
Rugby U14 A WSS vs Eaton Square (A) 14:30
Rugby U15 A WSS vs Latymer School (A) 14:30
Year 9 Parents' Evening (Surnames A-K), Hannah House Hall 17:30-19:30

Wednesday 16th:

Rugby 1st XV WSS vs Emanuel School (A) 14:30
Football 1st XI/2nd XI WSS vs Kew House (H) 14:30
Year 9 Parents' Evening (Surnames L-Z), Hannah House Hall 17:30-19:30

Thursday 17th:

Football U14A/B WSS vs Kew House (H) 14:30
Parents' Art Evening for Years 7-9, New Art & Graphic Design Studio, Bulstrode St
18:30-20:00

Friday 18th:

Optional theatre trip to see 'Great Expectations' 14:30
All school assembly, Hinde Street Methodist Church 15:30-16:00

GCSE PE Boys Table Tennis, Hannah House Hall 16:00-17:00
Boys break up for half-term



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