



BRS Newsletter

Love - Respect - Hope - Kindness - Resilience

February/March 2022

Headteacher Update



It was a pleasure to welcome students back and to hear all about their half terms and see them all refreshed.

Furthermore, it was great to see that our students are certainly striving towards

excellence with our school focus on fundamental standards and I know they will continue to do so. A reminder that our focus for this half term is for students to be organised with homework and their planners. I would also like to take this opportunity of reminding parents about our Sutton Experience and extensive extra-curricular programme which has been updated for the current half term. I know how enriching these clubs can be for our young people, including learning new skills as well as meeting new people.

Attendance Updates

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

Most parents/carers want their children to get on well in life.

Nowadays, it is more important than ever to have a good education behind

you if you want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly. If children do not attend school regularly, they may not be able to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up and it's not only the academic work: missing out on the social side of school life can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will also help your child later on. Employers want to recruit people who are

reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and are thus more easily drawn into crime. Those children who play truant are more likely to offend than those that do not. Research also shows that less than 40% of pupils in secondary schools with an average of 17 days or more absence get 5 good GCSEs (grades 4 plus compared to more than 90% in schools with an average of less than 8 days absence). Many parents are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence.

Every lesson in school matters and children who have time off find it difficult to catch up.

What does the law say?

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure this happens, either by registering your child at a school or by making other arrangements which provide a suitable full-time education. Once your child is registered at a school you are responsible for making sure he or she attends regularly. If your child fails to attend regularly – even if they miss school without you

Upcoming Events

29.03.22	Parental Forum, 6-7pm
31.03.22	Parental Workshop, 6-7pm
07.04.22	Year 7 Parents' Evening
02.05.22	Bank Holiday—School Closed



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knowing – the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you. The Local Authority (Staffordshire County Council) is responsible for making sure that parents fulfil their responsibilities. Parents are responsible for making sure that their registered children regularly attend school and any alternative provision for them. We want to work with all our students and their parents/carers to maximise attendance and give every student every opportunity to maximise their choices throughout life. We understand that there are many reasons why a student's attendance might not be as good as we or you might wish and want to work together to support the student in attending school and maximising their life chances.

Message from Head of Year 7

It has been another busy term for our wonderful Year 7. Not only have they been instrumental in our charity fundraising event for CAFOD and Ukraine, a lot of them have also been actively involved in the school play, Acts of Worship and various committees throughout the school. Furthermore, it has been a pleasure to watch them flourish and enjoy their new playground freedom, which allows them to socialise with another year group for the first time in their BRS journey. This has been so successful and just shows us what we already know - how amazingly resilient they are. Plus, it was superb to welcome some of their Year 6 teachers into the school on our INSET day. It was a wonderful opportunity to show off some of the Year 7 books and to allow their Year 6 teachers to see that their past students are still thriving and showing amazing pride in the quality and presentation of their work.



Message from Head of Year 8



Thank you very much to all Year 8 students who have done so much to help the people of Ukraine. Year 8 joined the rest of the school in doing a two hour walk as a symbol of solidarity and a way to raise money to help the most in need.

Some people brought in donations. This particular donation was brought in by Lizzy Sharratt which had all been carefully boxed and labelled so the right people could benefit.



Harley Starmer also raised over £10.00 by doing a Sponsored Silence and many other members of the year group have been really generous with donating thoughtful items. Thank you so much.

Message from Head of Year 9

Year 9 have been fantastic in choosing their options. It has been lovely having conversations with them about their aspirational dreams and all of their plans for the future. It is clear they are a year group who have big ambitions!

Year 9's contribution to the charity day for CAFOD and the Ukraine appeal was brilliant. It was wonderful to see the effort they put into completing the walk and the fun they had with friends, whilst raising money for two very important charities.

Spring is upon us! It is the season of rebirth, joy and love. Spring is the one season that shows how good always defeats evil and light over darkness. I hope for this term that Year 9 take this forward in everything they do, both at home and in school.

Message from Head of Year 10

Year 10 have returned with a

positive attitude from their half-term break. They have continued to work hard and flourish in the subjects that they have chosen for GCSE.

Moving forward Year 10 should continue to focus on completing their homework to a high standard, enabling them to consolidate the work completed in lesson.

Recently, the Year 8 students have moved onto the yard with our Year 10 students. Year 10 have been brilliant at adapting to this change and have

Boys Rugby



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been exemplary role models. Finally, several of the Year 10 Prefects have been working exceptionally hard to support their younger peers with their homework during lunchtime in the Silent Study. Moving forward, they are looking to model reading to younger years to complement our Reading to Succeed programme.

Message from Head of Year 11

Well Year 11 you have completed another set of mock exams and again your behaviour during these mocks exams has been amazing. You are all certainly exam ready. As the final countdown begins towards your actual exams, you must remember to take care of your own wellbeing. Remember to take regular breaks and to watch the videos that staff have placed onto the school website about the exams and how to revise for each subject. As you all know, Form time has also now been dedicated to revision, so take advantage of these extra revision boosts in school. You have all been given Exam Checklists so make sure you have completed those too! As always, if you need any extra help or support, myself and your Form Tutors are always willing to help and guide you where we can. I know this time is stressful for you all butYOU HAVE GOT THIS ! Well done Year 11, I am one very proud Year Leader.



Congratulations to Evangeline for being our first student to complete the Lexia Literacy programme and receive her certificate and gift voucher. Evangeline will now be working on the Beyond Lexia reading programme.

Well done Evangeline!

Rewards and Recognition

Over the past term we have looked to refocus our Rewards system and try to ensure we are rewarding as many students as we possibly can that are following the Sutton Way.

This has seen the weekly introduction of various rewards challenges that place students in a Rewards Raffle as part of afternoon registration 'Feel Good Friday Sessions.'



Artists of the week



Viktoria.T
Year 9



Keely
Year 11

W/C 21st March	W/C 7th March	W/C 14th March
W/C 28th March	W/C 4th April	
All nominated pupils will receive achievement points , post cards home or positive phone calls.		



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All students entered will receive a Postcard home recognising their achievement and the lucky few selected by the Wheel of Fortune will enjoy prizes, including chocolate hampers, Amazon vouchers, Chip Friday tokens, Pick your Picnic and much more.



Abi Sempebwa was the lucky recipient of the Chocolate Hamper for **Excellent Homework**.

The winners of the '0 Behaviour points since September Raffle' chose MacDonalds as their 'Picnic of Choice'. Incredibly there were 277 pupils that were entered into the raffle.



In addition to our weekly Rewards Challenges and normal Rewards systems, we have introduced **Gold Tickets**.



Staff have been asked to give these out to students that stand out in a lesson as going beyond 'The Sutton Way.' Each ticket will become a raffle entry for a £40 Nando's Voucher.

The more Golden Ticket a student has the greater their chance of winning this incredible prize.

News from the Maths Department

18 students from Year 10 and 11 participated in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge.

The UKMT challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. We had 2 students receive Bronze awards, 5 with Silver awards and 1 student got a Gold award.

Congratulations to all students who participated, especially to Ali in Year 10 who have progressed onto the next round.

We had some great submissions for the February Maths Challenge which was about the 4-colour theorem. Here were some of the submissions:



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Sporting News

On Tuesday 8th March the U14 Netball Team competed in the East Staffordshire Netball Tournament held at de Ferrers. The girls played exceptionally well, with some fantastic netball skills shown by all the team. The afternoon was really enjoyable, and the girls were a pleasure to take. The superb team effort enabled them to come third place out of nine teams. Really impressive!



On Tuesday 1st March 13 excited Year 7/8 pupils travelled to Fenton Manor in Stoke for the Sportshall Athletics County Finals. The enthralling team event consists of pupils competing in running, throwing and jumping events where points are awarded per event, with all scores going towards a final team total.

All pupils worked extremely hard, showcasing their talents with the Year 7 girls finishing 6th and the Year 8 boys picking up a well-earned Bronze medal.



The pupils were a pleasure to be around and great credit can be given to their attitude and commitment.

Boys Football

During the last month there have been plenty of Football matches played across all year groups. Early in the month the Year 11 team had two matches, losing 3-1 in a hard-fought match against Queen Elizabeth School before putting in a solid team performance to defeat de Ferrers 1-0.



Both the Year 8 and Year 9 teams have also had fixtures this month, with both teams playing matches against Paget.

In the Year 8 game BRS put in a fine performance to run out 5-0 winners. The Year 9 team played out a convincing 6-2 victory to end the month in style.

Olympic Football Tournament

Early in the month, boys and girls teams from Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 all took part in the St Ralph Sherwin CMAT Olympic Football tournament against other schools in the CMAT. All teams did themselves and the school proud with their performances and effort levels.

Our Year 9 girls finished runners-up and the Year 10 girls won their competition.



Well done to all involved!!



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Over the course of the last month, Rugby teams from Year 7, 9 & 10 have competed in tournaments held at Burton Rugby Club, playing matches against schools in the local area.



Year 10 fielded a team of relatively new players, who put in a few solid performances against very good opposition, battling hard and putting in a good account of themselves.



In the Year 9 tournament, BRS played with great desire and determination, beating strong opposition and giving each team a headache with some

neat attacking play.

Both sides played with great spirit and desire, making the tournaments enjoyable to be part of.



Dodgeball

At the start of March, a group of Year 7 & 8 students took part in the East Staffordshire School Games Dodgeball tournament held at the school.

Five teams competed in the tournament, with the winners advancing to the Regional Finals later on in the year. Both BRS teams were unlucky to lose their first matches, with the Year 8 team narrowly losing to the eventual tournament winners. The Year 7 team lost their first match on the last throw of the game. Both teams balled well during the competition, winning a few matches against other schools, whilst showing good teamwork and perseverance.



Well done to all involved!

From our Year 10 Prefects

For the past few weeks, the Student Leadership Team have been working on a few projects to help either the school, the students in it or the world around us. Some of the projects that the Student Leadership teams are doing are:

- School reusable water bottles.
- Better recycling in school.
- Giving away old school uniforms to people that can't get them.
- And much more.

Reusable Water Bottle

Upon our research we have found out that a single plastic bottle can last up to 450 years in the marine environment, slowly breaking into smaller and smaller pieces which eventually end up so small that it won't be visible but never truly go away. This means that nearly every piece of plastic that has ever been

produced is still within the ocean. This fact inspired us to start having reusable school water bottles. So, we have contacted the Headteacher of our school, Miss O'Leary, and have politely asked if it would be possible for the school to fund this project. Further, from our research we have discovered that around 100 million marine animals die each year from plastic waste alone. Some studies have even found out that 90%

of certain species have ingested some plastic, and by 2050, nearly all 99%, will have eaten plastic. Counteracting this will be hard to do, however, as a whole we can help reduce our plastic waste to do our part in the contribution to saving our environment. The water bottles we are planning to order will provide students, who may require them, an appropriate, well-designed bottle with the school logo on and will last longer than single-use water bottles, thus not contributing to the amount of plastic pollution nor the drastic effects on our environment, which we are attempting to at least reduce and eventually completely stop.



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Amazing Y7 Drama Homework - Alicia Sikora



The scene I chose from the film 'The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas' is the last scene in the movie. It starts by Shmuel and Bruno being led to a sinister looking building with many other old-looking Jewish men. Not long after, the Jews are led down a flight of creaking stairs creeping

into the depths of the building. As the men scabble and fight to get down as quickly as possible, Bruno's parents and a few German soldiers with Police dogs struggle to find him. As Bruno and Shmuel look around the bizarre looking building, several men start undressing. All the while confused and shocked, they start to do the same. As Bruno looks around, he sees miserable looking men hang their clothes on old, wooden, rotting pegs. On the other side of the fence, the German soldiers finally reach the fence slowly, obviously taking their time. However at the same time, German soldiers inside the electrical fence push elder Jewish men into a room made of fire-proof walls and door. As they lock them inside, Bruno's mother and sister-Gretel notice clothes right in front of the fence which happen to have been what Bruno was wearing that day.



As the German soldiers inside the fence set the screaming and pleading Jews on fire, Bruno's father bursts into countless huts but fails to find his dear son. As the father and the German group of soldiers reach the building where his lifeless son had died, he shouts his son's name 'BRUNO!' Upon hearing her now dead son's name, the mother realises that her beloved son is now gone, she bursts into tears and has what is called 'a breakdown'. Grabbing her child's clothes which lay on the muddy ground, she starts screaming in despair. Seeing her own mother like this, Gretel tries to calm her down but has no luck in trying to. As Bruno's miserable father stands in the rain, shocked, his dear wife hugs the ground, surrounded by her only emotions - hopelessness and pain.

Message from the RE Department

This is an exciting term for the RE department as we celebrate Lent. Students have been reflecting on themes such as prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Tutor time and through their RE lessons.



Team RE have been exceptionally pleased with the attitude to learning since returning in September and have given out over 900 achievement points! We are also looking forward to giving out lots of Golden Tickets for students to be in with a chance of winning a great prize.

Key Stage 3 are studying some interesting topics this half term including Sacraments of the Church in Year 7, relationships and living responsibly in Year 8 and expression of religious beliefs through the arts in Year 9. The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been purposefully designed to prepare students for further study and for living in the wider world, including maintaining healthy relationships.

Year 10 and Year 11 are continuing to study for their GCSE's and have now sat all of their mock exams. The next few weeks for Year 11 are a crucial time for exam preparation; the countdown to their real exams has now begun! The RE department are here to support Year 11 with their revision, exam preparation and wellbeing and we urge all students to ask for any additional support they require.

Miss Gibson's Debate Club is thriving and she is always looking for keen public speakers to join! Some of the topics from last half term were: Should we all be vegetarian? Are footballers paid too much money? Should violent video games be banned? All year groups are invited to come along on a Thursday after school 3pm—4pm in A112.



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A special thank you goes to Avi Odedra (Y9) who ran the soup station, Lilly Edwards and Zara Pettit (Y7) who baked and sold lots of delicious cakes and cookies and Kacey Hughes and Orla Millward (Y7) who ran the popcorn shop.

CAFOD'S Family Fast Day and Ukraine Appeal

On Friday 11th March we took part in CAFOD's Family Fast Day. CAFOD's initiative this year '*Walk Against Hunger*' aims to help communities across the world who are living in poverty to thrive. Every student donated money to come to school in non-uniform and Years 7-10 took part in a two-hour walk, as a way to stand in solidarity with our neighbours across the world. We walked over 4800 kilometres! A massive achievement, well done everybody!



We managed to raise a total of **£1,059.61** from all of the activities on the day. Half of the money will go to CAFOD's '*Walk Against Hunger*' campaign and half to the Ukraine humanitarian appeal.



Students were also invited to swap their usual Friday lunch for a simple option of soup and our Spiritual Ambassadors organised a delicious cake sale.

Well done everybody and thank you for your support!



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