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KBO/JBI 11 October 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been another exceptionally busy week here at Blaise. We've had sporting events, Geography field trips, Mental Health Awareness Day and celebrated the success of our champion readers in our Library.

First to our Geography fieldtrip, which as I write this (on Thursday) has not yet happened. Ms Murray, Ms Pearce, Mr Bransfield and I will be taking the Y11 GCSE Geographers to Swanage to complete their physical Geography fieldwork in preparation for their Unit 3 GCSE paper. The students will be taking measurements and analysing data to assess the impact of coastal engineering. The students have worked really hard in lessons this week to prepare for the field work, including learning about risk assessment, reliable data collection techniques and methodology. Fingers crossed that the weather is in our favour tomorrow! However, come rain or shine, I know that the students will be ambitious and hardworking throughout the day.

Next some congratulations are in order for our students who are world class readers. In particular we have our first Word Millionaire in Y7! Congratulations to Reece Wilson of 7SMR, he's read 1,289,223 words and quizzed on 18 books so far. He's now placed 2<sup>nd</sup> highest reader in the school, slightly behind Isabella Allsop of 8AEP. Also, Natalia Balasco of 7SBS recently read a book in one night! The author, Chloe Seager, contacted our wonderful librarian, Ms Middleton, asking if she'd like to read her 2<sup>nd</sup> book and sent the copy direct to us. Natalia will be the first to read it once it arrives! All Y7 students are being gifted a book to keep. This week they have been choosing their favourites from a choice of 17 titles. Authors of all the books have been beamed into library lessons to describe their stories, so they can make an informed choice. All our students shall receive their gift by Christmas. Finally, our top book borrower so far is Prokop in Y9. Reading every day to improve his English language skills. Well done Prokop!

On Thursday, we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Day. Many of our students and staff took the opportunity to wear a splash of yellow in support of the #HelloYellow campaign. Our brilliant Student Leaders and Direct of Fun, Mr Wallis, worked tirelessly to make Mental Health awareness ribbons so all our staff and students could pin them onto their uniform. This symbol helped remind us all of the care we have for our own mental health and that of our friends, family, loved ones or simply anyone that passes by. The final part of our mental health focus will be our Friday lunchtime activity of Mindfulness Meditation, this will be a great opportunity for any student or staff to come along and relax.

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This week saw netball competition for our teams from all year groups. In particular I want to congratulate our Y11 team who have only been playing together this year. It is with the biggest thanks to Ms Griffiths that she has forged such a brilliant group of young women together so quickly. On Wednesday, they played in a Bristol-wide Netball Festival against 6 other schools. All the other schools had very established teams and our girls had to work very hard. They played their matches back to back without rests. The star of the team was Millie Barlow who got our player of the tournament, by being voted the best player by the other school in 5 out of the 6 matches. In fact, she was then voted the overall player of the festival! Congratulations Millie!

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to promote our new school website. I apologise that the site wasn't live from the start of term. The site is packed with information about the school and will be updated regularly with the latest news. We would appreciate your feedback on additional information you think we're missing or that isn't clear enough. If you'd like to email us that feedback our contact email address is <a href="mailto:info@blaisehighschool.co.uk">info@blaisehighschool.co.uk</a> otherwise you can share feedback in person, over the phone or through your child. The web address is <a href="mailto:www.blaisehighschool.co.uk">www.blaisehighschool.co.uk</a>, I'm working closely with search engines to ensure that you'll soon also be able to find us by searching too.

Yours faithfully

Ms K Brown Headteacher

