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KBO/JBI

29 November 2019

Dear Parents/Carer

Happy Friday everyone. It has been another busy week here at Blaise. I want to start by congratulating our amazing, hardworking Year 11 students on getting to the end of a fortnight of mock exams. They have been working so hard, having to be incredibly resilient and deserve a good rest this weekend before cracking back into lessons on Monday. Many staff have already marked the papers and the initial signs are really positive. In particular, there are a number of top grades in Triple Science, some huge mark uplifts in Foundation Maths and really impressive Geography answers.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter I would also like to continue to promote future events:

- Join our governor team! We are looking for staff and parents to take on roles in our Local Governing Board. The governing body is a key tool in the success of our school. The governing body is responsible for the strategic leadership of the school, for oversight of the school's financial and academic performance, and for holding the Headteacher and school's senior leadership to account. It is incredibly important to me that the governors have representation from both our parents and our staff as they are at the heart of our school. If you would be interested in applying or the role please find out more on our website here: <http://www.blaisehighschool.co.uk/information/statutory/governance>
- Join us for our annual Blaise High School Christmas Arts Evening on Wednesday 18th December. This is an opportunity to see the exceptional talent of our designers, artists, actors, dancers and musicians in action. The evening will begin at 5pm and will include festive refreshments. We look forward to seeing lots of you there to enjoy the exhibition and show.
- On Tuesday 3rd December, our Year 7 Choir are performing in Gloucester Cathedral along with Year 7s from across the Greenshaw Learning Trust in the South West. This is such an exciting opportunity for the students to perform in a professional setting and they have been rehearsing carefully with both Mrs Evans and a top choirmaster. There have been another group of parent tickets released for the event so more parents can sign up to come. And most importantly I want to remind Y7 parents to ensure they have signed and returned the permission slip so all students can take part.

On Wednesday, the Performing Arts team took a selection of Dance, Acting and Music students to see Peter Pan Goes Wrong at The Theatre Royal, Bath. It was a fantastic afternoon of comedy theatre, and a great opportunity for the Performing Arts students to see a real theatre in action, with professional actors and production elements. The students represented the school impeccably with their conduct in the theatre, and have been using their experience to tell their peers about the skills needed to create a professional production in lessons this week.

News from the library - The Christmas BOOK FAIR is next week, Monday-Friday in the library. Latest book titles, posters and gifts at half price! Books starting from £1.50 and novelty stationery from 50p. Parents welcome to browse & purchase Monday-Thursday 3-4pm. Come and bag a bargain!

Congratulations to Finley Malcolm, 7SSA, & Cameron Norris, 7SSA, who are currently our top readers this term. Reece Wilson, Eleanor Skuse, and Jessica Williams (6th Form) are close behind. Also, congratulations to Matthew Lopez, 8AWA, for moving up from nowhere to 5th highest reader – the result of his discovery of Darren Shan, the King of teen horror. Charlie Hillier, 8JBA, has discovered the ever-popular Robert Muchamore & read The Recruit in 2 weeks - a big step-up and huge improvement in attitude to reading.

News from our Sports team - Tuesday afternoon saw the first groups of Year 11 BTEC Sport students leading their planned coaching sessions. As part of their qualification, students are required to independently plan and lead their own coaching sessions. We welcomed 40 students from Years 4 and 5 from Henbury Court Primary School, to use Blaise High School Astro and Sports Hall for a football and basketball festival. The Year 11 students were exemplary in their approach to engaging the student and making sessions fun and active for the primary students. The Year 11 students were confident and supportive to all students and the staff that came along reported how well they made the students feel comfortable. We look forward to a second festival in Term 3 for the remainder of students.

Also, this week saw the start of the Year 7 and 8 girls swimming lessons. We are so fortunate to have access to the swimming pool. Lessons focus on building water confidence as well as individual stroke development. This also ensures that students gain confidence in an important life skill. Please can I remind students that they will need their swimming costume, towel, goggles, hair band, t-shirt (if needed) and a bag to put wet clothes in. The boys in Years 7 and 8 will be having their swimming lessons after Christmas.

Finally, I want to introduce you to the newest members of Blaise High School, our Science Axolotls! On Friday, we invited students down to the science department to meet these fascinating creatures. There were lots of inquisitive students and we also had a visit from Mr Ambrose; the interim Headteacher from last year, who popped down during feeding time to give them some worms!



Yours sincerely

Ms K Brown
Headteacher