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KBO/JBI

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Dear Parents/Carers

Happy Christmas everyone! This is my final Head's newsletter of the term and what a term it has been. I have decided in this newsletter to share with you some snippets from the end of term speech that I will be sharing with staff. I have used my speech as a way to reflect on all we have achieved, to thank everyone for their contributions and to celebrate the outstanding people and moments that have been part of Blaise High School so, here it is:

109 days ago, we all met together for the first time here at our school, Blaise High School. We set ourselves a mission of social justice. We come to work every day determined to promote a fairer society. One in which every young person we serve has an equal opportunity to determine their own future no matter their background or starting point. What have we done in those 109 days? Well quite a lot actually!

We are a school of local winners, national competitors, European medal holders and even world champions.

We brought Benjamin Zephaniah to Gloucester Cathedral, and stole the show doing it. KS3 PIP, brought a tear to my eye when they performed it in front of over 200 peers without making one mistake.

*We are a school of climate activists, new arrivals, cheerleaders and refugees
We are a school where Mantas in Y7 has spent every single lunchtime beating every opponent he meets at table tennis, including ones 5 years older than him, including ones that involve 5 Y11s attempting to play against him at once!*

*We're a school where consistently, about 1 in 6 Y11s stay and study till 5pm every night.
We've read and read and read. Our students have experienced literature from Jules Verne to Agatha Christie, Swift to Dickens. We've loaned 1000s of books and read millions of words.
We are a school that's gone from 307th to 36th in the National Hegarty ranking this term, students have spent almost 6 and half thousand hours hegartying away.*

We're a school that takes our staff development as seriously as that of our students. We've recruited and promoted. So many staff are on a new journey this term – Trish & Kate in BMT, Sarah in Literacy programme, Melina in intervention teaching, Joe now permanently in Thrive, Tanya in PIP teaching, Lisa as Head of Year and Matt Wallis wearing a plethora of hats, with new ones seemingly being added daily. We've welcomed Sarah in Maths, Jessica, Florence, Harriet, Rebecca and Vanessa in SEN and inducted so many new staff from September, all of which have made a huge impact in just a few months. That's Miss McCall, Miss Curtis, Miss Swindell,

Mrs Griffiths, Ms Stevenson, Miss Bywater, Mr Ackland and Miss Shelton who have all got to the end of their very first term. We've qualified a teacher – congratulations to Mr Leese on passing your NQT with flying colours. As a teaching body we've completed 8 rounds of DDIs that's 456 action steps that move our practice forward. We've had CPD, NPQ, MLTP, BTT, BPB, exam training, moderation, standardisation and so much more.


We're a school with a Gideon, who... and I know I am not supposed to have favourites, but is my most favourite staff member. That dog has cheered me up no end and does the same for others every time he is here....apart from, it should be mentioned, Miss Shelton who is as afraid and anti-Gideon as she was in September. All I can say is, Josie, this is what New Year Resolutions are for! We're a school on track for positive progress for the first time. There are 3 subject areas where Autumn results are already better than their public results last year, and that's with a term to go! We've moved P8 up by 0.5 from the end of Y10 already. In one term, we have almost tripled the number of students achieving a grade 4 pass in both maths and English. We've sent every Y11 home with the Christmas gift they've always wanted....flashcards and an index box to keep them in! And the biggest win of all is that as I shook the hand of every Y11 yesterday and they all smiled and wished me Merry Christmas.

We haven't always won in our mission. Sometimes we've lost, sometimes by a bit and sometimes by a lot. But we never give up, we always keep pushing because we know it's what right. Thank you to everyone that has made this term possible. Thanks for your work, time, effort and relentless attitude to our mission. You all deserve a well-earned rest this holiday. Enjoy every second of it. I can't wait to get cracking again in January, let's say a cheers to our first term as Blaise High School!

I'll finish with a quick reminder:

- Return to school from Christmas Holidays. Students from all year groups will be returning to school at the normal time on Wednesday 8th January. It will be a week 2 on the timetable and after school activities including clubs, Champions Hour and study support will begin straight away.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Brown
Headteacher