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KBO/JBI
13 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carers

Happy Friday everyone! I hope you have had a good week and despite the sudden snowfall on Thursday morning are enjoying seeing the start of Spring with some sunnier days and the daffodils in bloom.

This week our Year 11 have been incredibly focussed on the second and final week of their mock exams. A big well done to the whole year group for their resilience, effort and hard work. Teachers have started to complete the marking of papers and there are so many positive individual and whole cohort stories of improving percentages and grades across all subjects. Not only have students been focussed on the mock exams themselves but also on attending all the warm up sessions beforehand, breakfast club and Champions Hour. I also want to thank staff in particular for the extra efforts made to give students every support we can to give them the best chance of success. In particular those staff who have been part of the extended Blaise Bus team each morning. The team have been setting off at 7am daily to collect students and help improve punctuality to the early morning sessions. This has been really effective and attendance throughout the mocks has been exemplary.

On Friday this week, we are running two exciting trips. The first is for Year 10 students to see the poet laureate Simon Armitage speak. Simon will be speaking about a series of poems all of which are part of an anthology that students learn through their GCSE English Literature course. These include Mother, Any Distance, Remains and Bayonet Charge. These is a trip that includes students from across the Greenshaw Learning Trust and is a really exciting opportunity for both staff and students to work collaboratively. I will update you next week on how the trip went and get some feedback from students to share with you too. Secondly, we are taking a very select group of 12 Year 11 students to the cinema for a rewards trip. The students were selected as the group with 100% attendance, 100% homework completion and 0% behaviour incidents. These are students that are doing everything right every day and deserve a reward for their efforts, particularly at the end of a long fortnight of mock exams! Mr Bird, Head of Year 11, will be taking them on Friday afternoon to see the new Disney Pixar film called "Onward". We will be treating the students to snacks as well as their tickets, I really hope they enjoy the opportunity to relax!

Last weekend we took 11 students on their first Ten Tors training weekend (with the other GLT schools), which included learning camp skills and the best way to pack hiking bags, as well as a 12-mile training hike yesterday (after a VERY windy night).

Not all students were able to complete the hike, but the fact that they, out of the entirety of Y9 and Y10 who were offered this opportunity attempted to take on the challenge is very commendable and I am proud of each and every one of them for coming. A very big well done to: Andrew Hannam, Tyrese Redgers, Thomas Wilson, Jamie Thomas, Sam Powell, Aimee Grayston, Tegan Jackson, Ali Qasem, Ioan Chiselta, Tallie O'Keeffe and Faith Dawes.

Continued



Mr Wallis and students at Ten Tors Training weekend



Sport Relief - Our aim for sport relief this year has been to “try something new”.

Here are some of the events the students have had a go with this week. On Monday, Ultimate Frisbee, Tuesday, 35 students took part in a Table Tennis event, Wednesday Volleyball, Thursday Skipping and Friday Badminton.

During lesson times, the KS3 students took part in a Bench ball tournament and the Sport Relief mile. Eight Year 7 students opting to double it and run 2 miles! Alternatively, other students jogged, skipped, walked and even wheelbarrowed their mile!



Finally, on Tuesday the Key Stage 3 PIP went to the Lifeskills Centre. Where they learnt all about keeping safe in the home, where we should put fire alarms and what to do if we smell gas.

The students also experienced some outside situations learning about road safety and first aid. We found out what to do in an emergency and got to practise calling the emergency services. Whilst one group were learning about dealing with a fire in the home they got to put their new skills and knowledge to the test when the centre's fire alarm went off!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Brown".

Ms K Brown
Headteacher