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KBO/JBI

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Dear Parent / Carer

It has been an incredibly busy week here at Blaise High School but we've loved every minute of it. We've had sports matches, Ivy League Lectures, reading highlights, visits from past students, Y11 Tassomai launch and our Open Evening!

Starting with our youngest students and their amazing reading achievements in the first few weeks of school. Our wonderful Librarian, Mrs Middleton, ensures all our students are reading using the Accelerated Reader Programme. Through their Library lessons, students are given the opportunity to excel in reading and to test themselves on their understanding of their books. Mrs Middleton has now completed the first assessment of Y7 and I am pleased to announce that the year group has read over 12 million words so far. Keep it up Y7! As well as this, Dillan Kerr (Y10) received an amazing reward this week for his dedication to reading. Over the summer, Dillan read the entire Henderson Boys series of books. The author, Robert Muchamore, was so impressed that he presented Dillan with a personalised gift. Congratulations Dillan!

I was really proud of our Netball team for their efforts against Oasis Brightstowe. Unfortunately, we didn't win but Ms Griffiths reports that the girls played really well and there was a good balance between possessions at both ends. We need to focus now on our shooting skills to ensure that possession can be converted to points. Ms Griffiths was most impressed with team's determination even in the face of a defeat and it's this growth mind-set that will ensure we will keep getting better.

Key stage 4 have had a big week. Firstly, our Science teachers have launched Tassomai with our Y11 students. Tassomai is intelligent learning programme, which uses micro quizzes to boost confidence in Science. Students will be answering 90 questions each a week to help ensure their Science knowledge is second to none. We launched this during P6 on Wednesday and by Thursday morning, our students had answered a total of 1300 questions already, this is amazing and really shows their ambition to be successful.

As well as our Tassomai launch, students in Y11 and Y10 from our top ability sets took part in an Ivy League lecture on Thursday. We had a guest speaker from Cambridge University helping to ensure our students are ambitious to attend the top Russell Group Universities in the country. The students thoroughly enjoyed the speech and spoke highly of how inspired they felt to aim for those top destinations. It's incredibly important to me that our students truly believe that, as long as they work hard enough, they deserve exactly the same opportunities as anyone else. This is encapsulated in our school mission of Social Justice.

Speaking of university success, I was thrilled this week to meet Milena Rogala. Milena joined the school in 2014 speaking no English. She was an exceptional student during her time here and went on to take a key role in Student Leadership. She achieved highly in her GCSEs and went on to 6th form at St Brendan's. She was thrilled to see Mrs Brightley, who had been her Head of House, and to let us know the excellent news that she was about to go off to university. Milena will be studying Chemistry with Japanese at Keele University. To think of how far she has come from her starting point is incredible and really shows the power of Growth Mind-Set. We wish her every luck in starting her degree and are sure she will be massive success.

Finally, the highlight of my week was our Open Evening. We were very busy with over 130 families visiting us. The staff did an amazing job of showing off their departments and our school. Our students were outstanding, both those helping in department areas and our Y11 tour guides. My personal best bits were:

1. Our amazing entrance organised by our admin team with our red carpet and refreshments. Everyone that visited knew, straight away, that this school is a special place
2. The incredible praise for our student leaders. In particular Shannon, Millie, Layna and Christian who all impressed the families that they showed round so much that those visitors sought me out to tell me how great they were
3. Our excellent Head of Performing Arts, Ms Harper, for running a Zumba class in our dance studio all evening long. She must have been so worn out by the end!
4. Our incredible Science team, and in particular Mr Maloney, who was demonstrating the most incredible experiments which involved some very impressive flames
5. The brilliant Food Technology students who were baking Welsh cakes all evening with our visitors and produced some delicious snacks that they shared with all of us

It truly was a team effort and every single person poured their heart into selling our school. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone for that. Blaise High School deserves to be renowned locally as being exceptional and Open Evening really showed that! We still have more opportunities to show how great we are at our Open Mornings. They are being held from 9:15am to 10:45am on October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. I really look forward to those days so prospective students and parents can see all our school in action.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Brown
Headteacher