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KBO/JBI

17 January 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Happy Friday everyone! We have come to end of our first full teaching week here at Blaise High School. It has been a great week; we have worked incredibly hard and are certainly starting to feel ready for the weekend. Five full school days back after the long Christmas break can be very tiring, I hope that all staff and students have a well-deserved rest over the weekend so they are energised and ready for next week!

On Wednesday, we hosted a lovely event for our Y11 students organised by Miss Bywater. This term in their English lessons, they are focussing on revising Romeo and Juliet. This is a text taught in Y10 and so for many of our students remembering all the key plot points is a challenge. To support them, Miss Bywater hosted a movie night. Our students stayed late and watched the Baz Luhrmann production of Romeo and Juliet with treats like popcorn and drinks. The students really enjoyed the film and it reignited their interest in the play. Thank you to Miss Bywater for all her work in promoting and organising the event and a big thank you to all our Y11s who went the extra mile to stay late to take part.

Last Friday, students showed off their hula hooping skills as part of Fun Friday. Miss Bywater and Mr Wallis demonstrated their abilities with limited success, but a massive shout-out to Luke Dixon in Y9 who sustained many minutes of uninterrupted hula hooping and Jamie Thomas Y9 who was able to hula with four hoops at a time!

Last week, I promoted the new extra-curricular timetable from Mrs Griffiths in the Sports department. I want to remind you all about those opportunities and let you know that the Sports team are now adding some incentives to attend. During PE lessons, students will be receiving reward cards. They can collect stamps on these for attending each club and once they fill the card they will receive a prize. We are incredibly ambitious for our students, not just in lessons, but also in their character development. This is why we reward students for showing ambition in the clubs they attend.

Also, with character development in mind, I wanted to promote opportunities for outdoor education at Blaise High School. We are a proud licence holder of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This week Mr Wallis, of DofE Manager and I met with Charles Wool, the regional DofE lead for the South West. This was an important meeting to ensure that the school can keep completing the DofE awards under our new name of Blaise High School. The meeting went really well and the organisation was impressed with the work Mr Wallis has done to ensure DofE will be successful here. Mr Wallis will be working with Y9 students to achieve their Bronze Award this year. There are a group of students ready and eager to go, but if anyone else would like to join then do encourage

them to speak to Mr Wallis. A group of Y10 students started the award last year, Mr Wallis will be working with those students too to ensure they successfully complete and can begin the Silver Award if they chose.

As well as DofE we are working across the south west Greenshaw Learning Trust schools to run the Ten Tors competition. This is an annual challenge on Dartmoor where teams of six hike over 55miles in a single weekend in May. The training for this began on Tuesday and our school teams are getting ready to take on this epic challenge and hopefully win! It is a fantastic opportunity to train with students from across the trust and collaborate. We want to thank Hannah Hatch, who is the Outdoor Education Lead from GLT, for providing so much support to our students.

Finally, on to this week's library news.

- Congratulations to Temi in Y7 for receiving recognition from author/actor (Peaky Blinders) Benjamin Zephaniah for his fantastic recital of Benjamin's poem, Talking Turkeys. Temi's performance is being screened during library lessons for everyone to enjoy.
- So far this term, our Y7 & Y8 students have read over 10,000 words and passed 249 book quizzes. And it's only week 2!!
- 8AWA is top of the Y8 Tutor Group Wordcount Leader board with 800,000 words – for the first time ever! Mrs Williams is very proud.
- Y9 students have sent postcards to our author penpal, Bex Hogan, recommending their favourite books.
- Students have started their training this week to become our new Student Librarians. They will be mentored by our Senior Student Librarians.
- We have an author coming to Blaise High! Tom Palmer, multi award-winning author, will be visiting Y7 on Mon Feb 3rd. Books will be available to purchase on the day for signing, so please bring in money on the day (£6.99). A letter will be sent out to Y7 parents before the event.

Yours faithfully



Ms Katherine Brown
Headteacher