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KBO/JBI

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Dear Parents and Carers

Happy Friday everyone! It has been a jam-packed week here at Blaise High School with lots of fun & togetherness, wider character development, external visits and opportunities for all.

Firstly, on Tuesday we were very proud to host 11 Headteacher and senior leaders from across the South West. They were from a Multi Academy Trust called STEP and wanted an opportunity to see our school and speak to our staff about how to rapidly improve schools. Blaise High School and the Greenshaw Learning Trust has some expertise in this area and we were really happy to collaborate with colleagues to share strategies. The visitors were very impressed with students and staff alike and were full of appreciation for our support and hospitality. Thank you to every staff member and student who took part in hosting our visitors and showing such pride in our school.

Tuesday, was also a busy day as a group of 50 Y7 students went to We the Curious science centre in Bristol. During the day students took part in a workshop, learning all about levels, gears, pulleys and cams, as well experienced the wonders of Winter stargazing in the planetarium. Everyone ended the day having learnt a lot and a brilliant time was had by all. It's so important that we have an ambitious academic and character offer for our students and this trip really demonstrated this.

For Fun Friday last week, students tested their dingbat's knowledge in Mr Wallis' challenging quiz. Special mentions to Freya Hunt and Ellie-Mae Jones (Y7) for persevering against some rather challenging catchphrases and coming out on top. This week we are having a chop stick challenge as we celebrate Chinese New Year together as a school.

If you have a child in Y10, hopefully they have come home and told you about the fantastic opportunity open to them this year to take part in Work Experience during the week beginning 6th July 2020. This is a valuable part of a child's journey through education to work and therefore we would like every student to participate. Although the date seems quite a long way off, it is very important that the students start investigating options and applying to businesses as soon as possible so they have the best chance of securing a placement and also gives us a chance to ensure placements are suitable. Please can you encourage and support your child to secure a placement and send the Work Placement Form to Student Services as soon as possible and by Wednesday 26th February at the latest so all the necessary checks can be made. For any help or advice, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Brightley or Mrs Cook in school.

Library News

- Our new Blaise High library cards have arrived. Congratulations to Rhyley Reece Y9 & Lola Brunning Y8 for their winning designs. The new cards are being given to students during library lessons.
- We are really excited to announce that we have an author visit for Year 7 on Mon 3rd February – Tom Palmer will be holding a talk and book-signing, please help ensure as many Year 7s attend as possible.
- We have really invested in many new books in the library so there is even more to choose from. We have focussed especially on diversity and inclusion to ensure our library is full of books that reflect our key values. Check out the collection and whole library catalogue here: <https://uk.accessit.online/hnb00/#!/dashboard>

Finally, I want to remind parents of the opportunity to 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>

Yours faithfully



Ms K Brown
Headteacher