



20th October 2017

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to be able to write to you to update you on another half term of successes and achievements at Wetherby High School.

Following on from our third year of improved examination results, we were pleased to see our school ranked as the most successful secondary in the locality for securing children's good progress in the Department for Education performance tables published in October.

In addition, we were thrilled to learn that one of our students has received recognition for being one of only 2000 youngsters nationally to secure three prestigious 9 grades (A*) in the new English Language, English Literature and mathematics GCSEs.

This half term has seen the performance of John Godber's "Teachers" by our drama students to a packed audience of staff, students, families and WHS alumni. It was a real joy to see the school community coming together for such an exciting and enjoyable event and we send our warm congratulations to all involved for such a successful evening. We are looking forward now excitedly to our students performing at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in the spring term, following our selection to be part of a nationwide project in conjunction with the National Theatre.

Autumn term 1 has also seen the first of our annual House charity weeks. Bremner House have led the way with a superb effort focusing around a Great Wetherby Bake Off competition that ran throughout the course of the week in October. Students from each house cooked a variety of tasty treats judged by some of our very most discerning staff judges and the proceeds from the competition and bake sales have raised in excess of £350 for the West Yorkshire Ambulance service.

WHS was proud to host the Restart A Heart day, when over half the school population were trained in the vital skills of CPR. Additionally, our local MP, Alec Shelbrooke, came to visit the school to see the day in action, as well as to meet with myself and pass on his thanks and congratulations for the progress the school is making and our achievements.

The number of pupils accessing Flexible Learning clubs continues to rise as children engage with the broad range of clubs and activities offered at lunchtime and after school. Similarly, we were thrilled to reward over half of all KS3 students who had successfully completed to a high standard a series of home learning tasks over the summer break. To see students wanting to and choosing to enter into extra-curricular activities that extend their development and learning exemplifies our school values of enjoy and aspire and character for achievement.

Student attendance and punctuality to school remains a priority for high achievement with so many references for Colleges, Universities and Apprenticeships frequently asking for attendance percentages as students move onto the next pathways. Parental support and continuing to work with the school around maintaining a high attendance is vital in the work that we do to ensure no child is disadvantaged as a result.

Both History and Geography GCSE cohorts have travelled out of school for their all-important field trips to York and Flamborough respectively. These are pivotal days in ensuring that the students have the best possible opportunity to excel in their controlled assessments and remain an important part of our curriculum.

Over the half term break, there are numerous revision and study support sessions being offered to those facing examinations later this academic year. Please encourage your son or daughter to access the sessions to which they have been invited; it is a key way they can accelerate their progress and prepare effectively for the forthcoming mock examinations.

We were proud as ever of the whole school effort when we welcomed prospective parents to visit the school on Open Evening. Thank you to those students who supported the event and, as always, were such impressive ambassadors for our school. The evening saw over 200 families visit the school, and the feedback reiterated again and again some common themes around; values led organisation; strength of relationships between staff and students; confidence, manners and eloquence of the students.

Finally it was a real pleasure to welcome so many of you to our Meet Your Coach day in the final week of term. The partnership between student, coach and home is an important one. We know that the Coaching programme here ensures every child is known as an individual and maintains our relationship led approach to developing the whole child. It was a privilege to hear feedback from so many parents as to just what a positive impact Coaching has for the child, as well as so many Y7 parents citing it as a key reason their child is settled and thriving.

A reminder, the School operates the secure 'ParentPay' cashless payment system for the payment of school meals, trips and for other items purchased on your child's behalf by school. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments through a highly secure payment website providing peace of mind that your child is not having to carry large amounts of cash into school. If you have not yet used ParentPay or require a new log in, please contact our finance officer on 01937 545256.

Please look on our website at www.wetherbyhigh.org.uk for more details of news events and information. Additionally you may want to follow us on Twitter @wetherbyhigh to keep up-to-date with the latest events.

Key dates:

30 th October	New term
1 st November	Y10 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
w/c 6 th November	Sixth Form mock examinations
15 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
w/c 20 th November	Y11 MFL mock examinations
22 nd November	Y12/Y13 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
23 rd November	Presentation Evening
24 th November	INSET Day – school closed to students
27 th November	Y11 mock examinations
8 th December	Christmas Meal and Jumper Day
15 th December	End of term – school closes 12 noon
2 nd January	New term

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,



Lucie Lakin
Headteacher