



15th December 2017

Dear Parents,

The second half term of autumn has continued to be as busy as ever. We were delighted to welcome prospective Key Stage 5 students at our Post 16 Open evening, where as ever the students were superb ambassadors for our school. Staff and current sixth formers spent time discussing various curriculum options as well as the many broader benefits to attending Wetherby High School Sixth Form, including the leadership development opportunities and the emphasis on supporting work experience placements – something that many schools no longer facilitate.

We have also been further developing our school value of Character for Achievement this half term and have been working as coaching groups to reflect on some of the characteristics that make us effective learners. This has included a focus on resilience and determination, mixing high quality discussions with a series of thought-provoking activities undertaken in their vertical coaching groups.

We are delighted that we have been able to sign up to the F1 in Schools programme, led by Steven Wilkinson and the Art, Design and Technology department. This is a superb opportunity for youngsters to be involved in an international competition. Our thanks go to the many local groups and organisations that have already pledged to sponsor our teams and we look forward to tracking their future success in the competition.

Y11 and Y10 students were treated to a poetry recital in November, allowing them some visual and performance support as they prepare to learn over 30 poems of by heart – a compulsory part of their English GCSE studies. There are three additional performances due later in the year that will give further opportunities for the other set texts on the syllabus to be brought to life for our students.

Key Stage Three pupils have been involved in a debating competition called Debate Mate this month. It was highly encouraging to see over 40 students volunteer from Year 7 and Year 8 offer to take part in this competition and we look forward to hearing of their progress over the coming weeks.

We were very proud of our head boy and head girl attending the Remembrance Day parade in Wetherby on 12th November and paying our respects at this important community event. It is so encouraging to see such effective role models leading the way and promoting the values of community and service that we hold in high regard at WHS.

Trips have also been held to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and a theatre performance of Hairspray, the musical, as well as a successful visit to the German Market in Leeds looking for native German speakers to be willing recipients of practising linguists. Two of our Post 16 students travelled to London to take part in the British Mock Council. They did a fantastic job in very intimidating circumstances and managed to debate effectively as representatives from Cyprus, outlining their views on Brexit.

Finally, the highlight of the half term, and possibly the academic year, was our fantastic presentation evening that occurred towards the end of November. We welcomed back Alec Shelbrooke MP who spoke to our students and prize winners, and we were also thrilled that so many of the governors, local community and families represented at the event. It was a special evening and a real privilege to listen to the citations from staff about the achievements of such a wide range of students. We are already looking forward to next year's event.

This term will close with our annual present wrap when students bring in and wrap together gifts for the local hospice. We have managed to donate in excess of three hundred presents in previous years; a testament to the charitable spirit and generosity of our students and their families. Children will be given their progress reports on the final day of term and we ask that you discuss this report with your child, encouraging them to set targets for the forthcoming spring term.

School will re-open on January 2nd when children must return in full school uniform, with correct equipment to start the new year off as we would expect. Your ongoing support with attendance and punctuality is appreciated and we continue to see the strong correlation between academic success and 100% attendance for our children.

Key dates:

2 nd January	Start of Spring Term 1
2 nd – 4 th January	Y9 Midterms
10 th January	Y7 Parent Consultation Evening
17 th January	Y11 Parent Consultation Evening
22 nd – 26 th January	Y12 and Y13 Mocks
22 nd January – 2 nd February	Y7 Midterms
26 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
5 th – 9 th February	Y11 Coursework Intervention
7 th February	Meet Your Coach Day
9 th February	Half term break
19 th February	Start of Spring Term 2

May we also take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.



Lucie Lakin
Headteacher



Simon Flowers
Executive Headteacher