



22nd May 2018

Dear families,

It has been a busy opening to the summer term for the students and staff at Wetherby High School. The start of the term has been focused heavily on preparing the numerous examination cohorts for their summer external assessments. Revision and support sessions were held over the Easter Holidays and the GCSE and A Level students have been given support and guidance as they enter their intensive revision planning.

We were delighted that 4 of our Year 8 and Year 9 students were selected to take part in the region's Debate Mate competition. They had been preparing well under the guidance of Mr Sampson and although not the overall winners, a Year 9 student did scoop the two prestigious awards for "Best Floor Speech" and "Most Improved Performer". The team were a real credit to the school and enjoyed the opportunity to be stretched and challenged as part of this testing competition.

Similarly we had a significant number of Year 8 and Year 9 students undertake the National Mathematics Challenge. This is a competition run across the country where students complete a challenging maths test in examination conditions to see which students are our leading mathematicians. We eagerly await the results and are proud of the students who had the resilience and determination to give this demanding competition a go!

School council have been meeting regularly with Mr King. The council comprises of a representative from every coaching group in every house and this enables all children to feel they have a voice discussing some of the aspects of their school life. Successfully, the students have redesigned the dinner queuing system in a highly equitable way and so far, the feedback is extremely positive. Additional topics for discussion have been rewards and recognition as well as how we can develop leadership opportunities for students.

Our continual Careers Education, Information and Guidance programme continued this half term with several events for Year 8 and Year 9. We had Ahead Partnership in school in May to run a "Speed Networking Workshop" with Year 8 in the White Room; the event enabled the students to meet and speak to volunteers from different businesses. Year 9 were involved in another event run by Ahead Partnership that has enabled them to explore various aspects of Enterprise, again with input from real business people and investors. The children have responded to both opportunities superbly and we are now in the midst of our first full Enterprise competition with Year 9 baking biscuits to sell at break times as they branch out into their first commercial venture!

Trueman House held their charity week this term, in aid of CLIC Sargent Young Lives v Cancer appeal. The events organised included every Trueman Coaching group contributing a series of stalls alongside a bonanza raffle for the whole school. We were delighted not only with the highly impressive total of over £750 raised but also the level of engagement and effort from all students, including those in Trueman House, which really did exemplify our school's community spirit.

Currently we are in Tomlinson House's charity week which is, of course, running to raise money for the inspirational Jane Tomlinson Charity. The House members are completing a week-long "Iron Man" activity which involves a sponsored swim, cycle and run at various times throughout the week and again, the enthusiasm and effort of the children is both impressive and appreciated.

As we approach the May half term holiday, and following that the summer break, it is important to note that we do not authorise absence for term time holidays. Whilst we are highly empathetic to the costs and arrangements required to arrange family events when the school is not in session, it is imperative that we expect and support all children to attend school for the full number of days each term.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that students are required to be in school by 8.50 a.m. on Monday and 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students are also required to be in lessons on time after break, lunch and changeover of lessons. The vast majority of students adhere to these requirements but a small minority of students can arrive late and disrupt the work of the school and the progress of their peers and themselves. To improve punctuality, students arriving late to school will be issued with break, lunchtime or a 60 minute detention after school on that day. Please support the school in developing the important life skill and discipline of punctuality.

Many thanks to all those families who have supported with ensuring that the high standards of uniform are maintained, even in the summer months, and that your children are properly and fully equipped for school with a bag and pencil case, thus supporting their efficient and good progress in learning. Pencil cases and stationery are still available to purchase from student reception, as are spare ties for any child having misplaced their provided House tie.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to also thank so many of you who have contacted the school recently to express support, gratitude and backing for the work that we undertake with your children. It is a privilege to work with you and the young people and we have been humbled and appreciative of the very many comments that we have received over the recent weeks of media coverage regarding school provision in the outer north east of Leeds that have expressed passionate and committed support for our school and the way in which we work.

I hope you have a restful May half term and look forward to updating you of more successes and achievements later this school year.

Best wishes,



Lucie Lakin
Headteacher