



28th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It is a pleasure to write this newsletter to update you on what has been a productive and positive half term. School is returning to some of the usual rhythms and routines we were used to before COVID. Our school value of 'Enjoy and Aspire' has been a priority for us this half term, with our focus being the provision of a wide range of enrichment activities for the children.

House competitions have gathered pace, beginning with House Dodgeball where we needed to run a series of competitions due to the number of students keen to take part. It was a highly competitive week with disagreements over who won...and that was just between the staff involved! This was followed by the Year 8 House Science competition which involved experiments with spaghetti, unfortunately not eating it. Then we had House Boules, a new experience for the students that took part. Again, their competitive spirit came through and the students enjoyed themselves working with the Wetherby Petanque Club.

Flexible Learning is up and running, with staff providing a range of clubs for students to attend. This includes the start of rehearsals for *Bugsy Malone*, this year's musical production. We have a high number of students taking part from across all year groups, with our Year 11 students leading the rehearsals. It has been very impressive to watch how they are working with the younger students to produce high quality performances. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has also started in Flexible Learning, with 48 Year 10 students taking part. They have started working towards their volunteering and skill development and we are hoping they will be able to complete their first expedition next half term.

The week commencing 10th May was Wetherby High School Careers Week. Every year group had a day of careers activities including enterprise challenges, interview techniques, careers pathway research, speed networking and guest speakers. Subject staff also taught lessons highlighting the link between their subjects and future careers pathways. The students responded well to these events, and it has highlighted areas for further careers support moving forward.

In addition to the fantastic engagement in the above activities, students have also settled well into their learning in the classroom. Next half term Year 7, 8 and 9 have finals assessments and Year 10 have mock exams. The pace and purpose with which they are working in lessons, along with their online learning, will prepare them to be successful in these assessments.

As you will be aware, Wetherby High School is a proud partner of the Leeds Learning Alliance. As a group of successful colleges, universities, schools, charities and public services representing over 40,000 learners, our work is committed to providing a collaborative, inclusive and ambitious learning experience. The latest report on the impact the Alliance's work can be found on our [website](#). We are excited by the opportunities that being part of this charity can bring our students, from guest speakers to sports programmes and higher education experiences. We will keep you updated about future projects and opportunities.

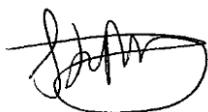
As COVID restrictions continue to ease, thank you for maintaining the twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing of students at home over the break and next half term. This forms an important part in managing COVID cases across the city. We continue to work effectively with the COVID guidelines set out by the government. As the guidance changes, we will continue to update our systems and processes to ensure that we maximise the opportunities for our pupils to continue to have a full and enriched educational experience.

Thank you for support over the past weeks. The positive messages we receive from parents/carers mean a lot to the staff team. Please follow us on our twitter (@WetherbyHigh) and facebook (facebook.com/WetherbyHighSchool) pages for updates on activities students are involved in.

Key Dates

w/c 7 th June	Year 9 Finals
14 th June	INSET Day – school closed
w/c 21 st June	Year 10 Mocks
w/c 28 th June	Year 7 Finals
w/c 2 nd July	Year 8 Finals
21 st July	Meet Your Coach Day
23 rd July	End of Term – school closes 12pm
7 th September	New term – Year 8 to Year 11

Yours faithfully



Samantha Jefferson
Headteacher