



Friday, 9 March 2018

Dear All,

It has been good to get back to normal this week, and to see students and staff working together to produce some remarkable results. A great example of this has been our school production of Grease, where we have had so many students wanting to participate that we have had two casts on different evenings. There were some superb individual performances and a great team spirit resulting in a polished and fun filled production, and it was apparent that there was some high level skill development happening. The ability to multi-task, to communicate, to memorise, to listen, to empathise and to be resilient are all attributes which the children were developing and which will stand them in good stead for the future. We had a number of staff without whom this show could not have happened, but particular mention must go to Ms Berriman and Ms Gibbings who, once again, have worked tirelessly to ensure the children were well rehearsed and enjoyed the experience.

Last Tuesday evening we had our dancers taking part in the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks. The theme was 'Living World' and the girls performed an excellent dance full of energy and expression. Congratulations to all those involved. Other sports events included an excellent result in the U14 netball league with our girls winning 28-9 against Longbenton.

Currently middle and senior leaders are making visits to lessons across all subjects and all lessons as part of our quality assurance process, and it has been great to see such a high level of skill from our teachers in identifying the needs of our children and creating engaging activities to promote their understanding and progress. It is one of our strengths as a school that all our teachers work within their qualified subject specialism, and it is clear to see the passion for their subjects being passed on to our students.

The Year 10 exams have gone well, with students showing a mature attitude and good focus. With GCSEs now having terminal assessment it is increasingly important that our students get used to a formal exam environment and to preparing for them effectively. To this end we continue to provide before school, lunchtime and after school revision classes for Year 11 students and there will be an Easter revision school, details of which will be on the website next week.

Our Work Related Learning programme continued this week with Year 11 students enjoying an interesting presentation from some of the higher level apprentices from Accenture. There is a further Apprenticeships Information Day at the Cobalt Business Park this Saturday (10th March).

We also had a group of Year 9 students visiting Tyne Met College to investigate different post-16 pathways. We have close links with a number of post-16 institutions including school sixth forms, and colleges, and a key part of our liaison with them is to ensure that our students are getting the right information, and a variety of information, so that they and parents can make the correct decisions about their next steps. Following their visit, our Year 9 students will be putting together presentations to feed back to their peers in form reflection time.

Our World Book Day events have been a great success this week, with many of the students and staff dressed in fantastic costumes on Friday. Pictures of the day can be seen on the school website.

As the number of students continues to increase each year, we are starting to see parents of primary age children taking a keen interest at an early stage, and for this reason we have an Open Morning on Friday 16th March for parents of Year 5 or under. There will be two sessions of an hour each consisting of a tour and a question and answer session, which you may wish to highlight to interested friends and family.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our uniform standards. The vast majority of our students look very smart and abide by uniform rules. We do not wish to see denim trousers, leggings or jeggings, skirts which are too short, or trainers, and we appreciate everybody's support in ensuring the students are in correct uniform.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher