

Headteacher's Newsletter

January 2019

Welcome back

Welcome back to the second term of the 2018/2019 academic year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I'd like to wish you all a very happy New Year. Despite the building work going on around the school site and the disruption this has caused, the students started this academic year very positively and I'm sure that their positive attitude and behaviour will continue throughout this term. I have been particularly pleased in the way our Year 7's have integrated into the school; this has been particularly impressive as there are 249 students in that year group compared to 189 students in all other years. It has been great to see that the increase in numbers has only added to the ethos of the school and I'm very pleased to see that initial indications are very positive for applications to Year 7 next year. The school continues to go from strength to strength because of the wonderful students we have and the support and work of our fabulous staff.



I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents that should they wish to thank a member of staff they can do so via the link below. These messages come directly to me and staff very much appreciate being given these votes of thanks for all the hard work and support they provide.

<http://www.westhatch.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Contact+Us&pid=2>

As always this newsletter is made up of important information for you and stories about our students achievements. I hope you find it informative.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Leonard
Headteacher

Snow Days

We have been very lucky so far this year with the weather, however with temperatures predicted to drop this month I wanted to confirm the arrangements for school closures for snow days. We now have a Snow Day timetable in place so that should a part day closure be required, for example to ensure the site is safe to access, the school will open and close at the times listed below. There may be

occasions when we have to close the school for the whole day but please be assured that this is a decision that is never taken lightly and I will always do all I can to keep the School open. I consult with the Headteachers of the other schools in the area as well as our Site Team before making any decisions about school closures, but the most important thing is the safety of our students and staff and this is always paramount in any decision on part or full day closures.

Thank you in advance for your understanding should the need arise. We will confirm on the school website, twitter page and via parentmail if we need to adjust the school day. I highly recommend parents download the MyEd App as messages get through immediately rather than having to go searching for the information. Please contact the school if you need help downloading this App.

Alternate Day

We will defer to the following school day if we have to during adverse weather:

School starts – 10.00am and Students go straight to their P2 lesson.

Lesson: P2 – 10.00am – 11.00am

Lesson: P3 – 11.00am -12.00pm

Lunch: 12.00pm – 12.30pm (This will be a grab and go lunch)

Lesson: P4 – 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Lesson: P5 1.30pm – 2.30pm

School ends – 2.30pm

I hope this information allows you to plan your day more effectively should the situation ever arise in the future.

Christmas Jumper Day



I'd like to thank all the students and staff for their support on Christmas Jumper Day. We managed to raise £1,144.74 which will be donated to Save the Children Fund.

Vandalism and litter

Although I try to keep my newsletters as positive as possible I feel the need to express my disappointment at a minority of pupils lack of respect for the school and its grounds. Litter around the school and in the dining room has increased recently and we have unfortunately had a few instances where students have damaged school equipment. This causes a cost to the school and means time and money cannot be spent on more valuable things like teaching and learning. I will be discussing this issue at length with the students in assemblies this week but would like to ask for your support and request you also speak to your children about this issue.

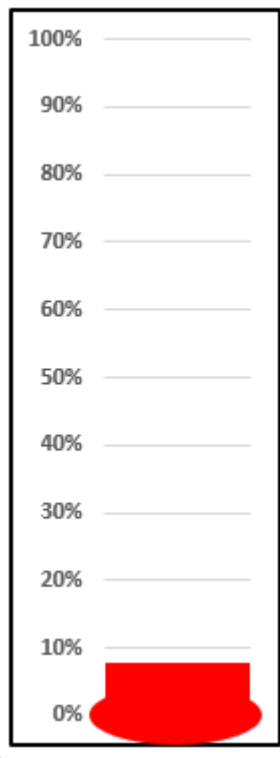
Any student who damages anything in school is charged for the cost of the repair, including labour time. Students are not permitted to attend any school trip or event until the balance is paid. Students from now on will also not only receive some form of Exclusion, depending on the level and nature of any damage, but will also complete two weeks of community service either in the dining room or picking litter at lunchtime.

Thank you for your support in this matter

Uniform

- 1) Please make sure your children have a plain **black, dark navy or dark grey** coat. A very small number of students are still coming to school in green or other colour coats or hoodies which if worn will be confiscated no matter what the weather. With cold weather looming I would ask that you ensure students have appropriate coats.
- 2) I have written to parents whose children are wearing **skirts** that are not long enough. Once they have purchased an appropriate length skirt students will be placed in seclusion if they continue to wear the shorter length one.
- 3) Students are **not permitted to wear trainers** and if they do they will be required to wear the schools' shoes. Any pupil who refuses to do so will be isolated until they are in appropriate footwear. The only exception is where a medical note is provided.
- 4) Students are **not permitted to wear nail varnish or excessive makeup**. They will be requested to remove it if they do so and will be isolated from lessons if they refuse. Please do not allow your children to get their nails done on the weekend before coming to school as the expense to reverse the procedure will not be taken as an excuse for them to continue to wear the nails.

Parental Contributions towards a Snack Shack Cover



As I have mentioned in previous Newsletters we continue to raise money for the canopy over the snack shack area. We have managed to secure funding for one cover over our picnic area from Essex Council, but we will need an additional area once the building work is completed. The thermometer above shows the amount we have raised to date this year from parental contributions. Since October we have received an additional £1,305.83 making the total in donations of £5,487.16, but this is still significantly below our target of £70,000. Once again I would like to thank those who have been able to contribute and ask that parents consider whether they are able to support the school in any way, every little helps.



Congratulations to Miss Lowry, Harvir Cheema (Yr.12), Joshua Martin (Yr.11) and Ridley Fair(Yr.11) who all completed the Olympic Park 10k to raise money for their Zambia trip at the end of this year.

Parking

Can I please remind all parents to park sensibly and in line with the law outside the school. Poor parking practices lead to dangerous situations for other road users and our students. Our students are quite capable of walking down the road, so please park away from the school if there are no spaces instead of on the grass, zigzag lines, bus stops or in front of the school gates.

Buses

We have been working hard on your behalf to try and get additional buses to the school. TFL have recently responded to us with the following information:

'We've looked into this for you with our performance planning team. They have confirmed that the surveys on the route 667 are taking place. Once the usage data is collected, they'll upload and analyse the information to identify where the problem is. This is to find out whether additional capacity may be required. We may then take appropriate action based on the information received and data collected.

However, I must advise that this can take some time due to the number of services in operation. I appreciate your patience while this is being looked into.'

We will continue to keep you informed of any progress in this matter.

PPE Results

Our Year 13's and 11's recently took their PPE (mock) examinations and many of our students did exceptionally well. Well done to all our students for their hard work in preparing for these exams, they certainly took them very seriously and this provides a good starting point for preparations for their final exams which start in four months time. Below I have listed some of our top achievers in terms of either progress from their starting points or overall attainment.

Year 13 Top Achievers

Gold Luntadila - A*, A, A, B

Yasmin Sachdev - A*,A, B

James Earl - A*, A, B, C

George Bull - A,A,B

Hannah Purton - A*, B, C

Pawandeep Sunger - A, B, C

Jake Groce - A, B, C

Hannah Townsend - B, B, B

Davin Bacheta - B, B, B

Alexia Nicolaou - B, B, C

Year 11 Top Achievers

Students making the most progress:

April Darley +2.01 grades on average above her expected levels

Joe Greenway +1.71 grades on average above his expected levels

Ajay Bhopal +1.41 grades on average above his expected levels

Abigail Holmes-Bright +1.32 grades on average above her expected levels

Violeta Nakova +1.22 grades on average above her expected levels

Students with the highest grades:

Nandini Patel - 3 grade 8's, 5 grade 7's, 1 grade 6, 1 grade 5

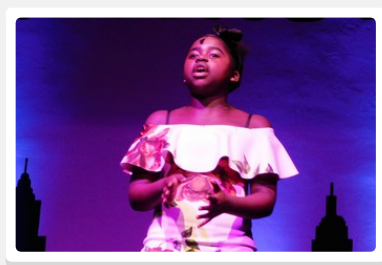
Denys Nunez - 2 grade 9's, 2 grade 8's, 1 grade 7, 3 grade 6's, 1 grade 5, 1 grade 4

Lauren Rutherford - 2 grade 8's, 5 grade 7's, 2 grade 6's, 1 grade 5

Maddie Fitch - 1 grade 9, 1 grade 8, 4 grade 7's, 2 grade 5's 1 grade 4

Elf the Musical

It was a wonderful way to end the Christmas Term and I know that anyone who managed to see the school's production in the penultimate week of term was extremely impressed. The students and staff put so much effort and dedication into the show and it certainly paid off. I'd like to thank everyone involved and I cannot wait to see the next school production. I know that the Dance Show and other musical performances we have this year will be just as outstanding, and I look forward to seeing all of our students perform again.



Careers Support

Our Year 7's have been using a programme called Fast Tomato this year to help them understand the different careers they may want to pursue in the future. Some parents have asked if they are able to access the programme for older students so please find below the information on how to do so:

1. Go to [Fasttomato.com](https://www.fasttomato.com)
2. Sign up
3. Enter code

...the code depends on the year group and when they started, therefore:-

Year 7 - WHAC18
Year 8 - WHAC17
Year 9 - WHAC16
Year 10 - WHAC15
Year 11 - WHAC14
Year 12 - WHAC13
Year 13 - WHAC12

Girls Rugby

The Year 8 girls have recently asked to participate in contact rugby lessons which the PE Department has gladly organised. The students really embraced the three week unit and made fantastic progress. Thank you to PE for their efforts as always.



International Recognition

Brandon Bryan-Waugh (Yr.9) was awarded his second Cap for England U15's last term being selected to play at right back for the Three Lions against Greece, a game the team won 3:2. Brandon had previously represented his Country against Turkey in a 7:3 win with Brandon getting an assist in the game. It is important to note that he is only U14 currently so is playing a year above himself. This is such an amazing achievement and I very much look forward to seeing him progress in the future.



Star of the Stage

I'd also like to offer a huge congratulations to Lily Jackson in Year 7 who has auditioned and been successful in gaining a lead role in The School of Rock Musical in the West End. This follows on from Lily performing alongside Danny Dyer over the festive period in Nativity. Well done Lily and I hope to be able to watch you in the show in the near future.



School Sporting Achievements - Term 1

Well done to all our students who have represented the school this Academic Year. Below are some of the successes to date:

- Year 10 Football Team are through to the 4th Round of the Essex Cup & will play South Chingford Foundation School in the next round.
- Year 7 Rugby Team won the inaugural Intro to School Rugby RFU Regional Festival that took place at Chingford Rugby Club in October.
- u16 Girls Football Team came runners up in the West Essex Football Festival.
- u16 Rugby Team is through to the Quarter Final of the Essex Cup.
- u16 Netball Team remain unbeaten and top of their West Essex and Harlow District League.
- Year 7 Netball Team remain unbeaten and top of their West Essex & Harlow District league.
- Year 9 Netball Team remain unbeaten and top of their West Essex & Harlow District League.
- Year 8 placed runners up in Rugby West Essex & Harlow District Cup.

The Department also asked me to mention the following:

As part of their fitness block of work, the Year 7 girls engaged in their first experience of yoga recently. Teaching Assistant, Ms Crossley, led the session as the pupils were tested in a variety of challenging sequences and yoga poses that tested ability to balance, breathe and control their bodies. PE teacher, Mr D'Silva, said, "Yoga is so popular nowadays and offers the pupils an opportunity to learn lifelong fitness lessons that they may continue in their own time. It tests both flexibility and strength which are so important".

Important Dates for your diary

January

Thursday 17th January - Yr.11 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

Tuesday 22nd January - Parent Voice meeting at 7pm

Thursday 31st January - Yr.13 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

February

Tuesday 12th February - Love Lounge Event at 6.30pm

Half Term - Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February

Thursday 28th February - Yr.8 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

March

Thursday 14th March - Yr.8/9 Options Evening

Tuesday 19th March - Thursday 21st March - Dance Show

Friday 22nd March - Yr.11 Transition Day

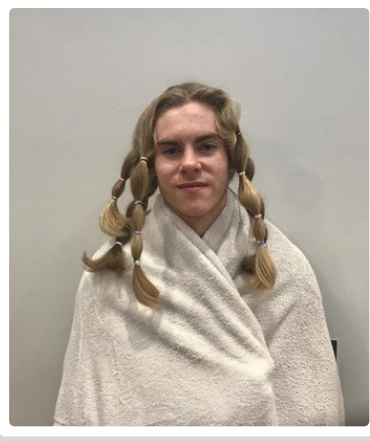
April

Thursday 4th April - Yr.7 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

Friday 5th April break up for Easter at 1.25pm.

Charitable Donations

I'd like to say a huge well done to Sam McCarthy(Yr.12) and Tom Grogan (Yr.12) who both grew their hair and donated it to the Little Princess Trust who support many young people who are affected by hair loss. They also raised significant sums of money for charity. These actions really do make a difference and we are all very proud of both young men. Sam has kindly sent in a before and after photo which can be seen below. Well done to both of you.



Our Students Other Achievements

Soccer Star



A huge congratulations to Eleisia Peart (Yr.11) who has been accepted by FirstPointUSA for a Football scholarship. This process started in September with a football trial at Barnet FC which she successfully got through. Eleisia was then invited to a formal interview at Wembley Stadium and offered a scholarship place within a few days after.

Around 30,000 applicants apply for the 600 places offered by FirstpointUSA every year.

FirstpointUSA will now help Eleisia to secure a football scholarship at a university in the US that will be right for her to attend when she is 18 years old. An amazing achievement Eleisia well done.

Christmas card competition winner

Congratulations to Charlotte White in Year 8 who recently won a Christmas card competition in aid of the WMUK Charity (Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia). A very tough decision for the charity with a number of excellent entries from our students. Charlotte's design was chosen for the simple message on the importance of the things we take for granted in life 'Love, Laughter and Luck'.



Cambridge Taster Day

Year 12 students Melisa Ozelci and Luke Drummond-Poynter took part in a taster day at Cambridge University which was aimed at students with an interest in literature, performance, theology, religion and philosophy of religion. A formal application of interest had to be submitted by both of them and only the best were chosen to attend. Well done Melisa and Luke.



Netball Stars

Well done to the following Year 7 students who were recently selected for the Essex Open Netball squad. This is a fantastic achievement and I know Mrs Reid is exceptionally proud of the students. This is the most students from one year group to be selected from our school. I look forward to seeing them all progress in the future. The pupils selected are;

Zoufia Qureshi-Constable

Tori Brotherton-Manahan

Sarah Zikrya Anllo

Kathryn Gibson

Melisa Yusuf

Scarlett Rood-Morris

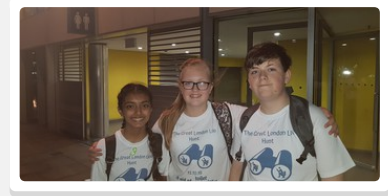


It's a Family Affair...

Well done to Ethan and Leah Cartwright. Ethan (Yr. 10) recently received a Jack Petchey Award for his voluntary work with his Scout Group, 1st Hainault. He is a young leader at the Cubs pack where he helps organise and run the program for 8 to 10 year olds.

Leah (Yr. 9) recently raised over £1,000 for the charity Toilet Twinning by organising, planning and doing a 14 mile sponsored "Loo Hunt" around London where she visited over 30 public toilets. Toilet Twinning provide clean and safe toilets for the 2.3 billion people in the world who do not have one. Leah's fundraising was enough to build two school toilet blocks as well a few single toilets for villages.

Well done to both of you on your efforts and achievements.



Well done to Maryam Khan (Yr. 10), who recently ran 5km to raise money for Mrs Minister's chosen charity. Maryam was also part of a pilot project last year, where Year 9 pupils were able to take part in the Bronze DofE. Maryam completed the award and was lucky enough to have met with Prince Edward as well. Great work Maryam.



Well done to Alex Fraser (Yr. 11) who recently qualified as an FA referee. He will be working with Buckhurst Hill Football Club.



Fostering Excellence Awards

I want to offer my congratulations to Roma Bright (Yr.11) who spoke at the Fostering Excellence Awards in December. The Fostering Excellence Awards are the UK's most prestigious foster care awards. They celebrate outstanding achievement in fostering and recognise those who make exceptional contributions to foster care every day. The Awards Ceremony took place at Drapers Hall in the City of London and around 150 people attended with the audience made up of care experienced young people, foster carers and their families, social workers, Government officials, Ofsted, and Company Chief Executives.

I know that Roma and her family do tremendous work in this field and that Roma recently spoke in English about the highs and lows of being a foster sister.

And finally

Thank you for taking the time to read my Newsletter and for your continued support. Our students really are the strength of our school and I very much enjoy being able to celebrate their successes in school and outside of school. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Parents Evenings. Once again I wish you a very happy New Year.

Daniel Leonard
Headteacher

