



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN
Friday 31st January 2025**

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have recently sat their trial exams which will give them a good indication of their strengths and the areas that they need to focus on if they are to get the best out of their exams. We have around three months until their exams begin and this is the key time when students can make significant improvements in their progress. This involves using their exam papers to identify topics to work on and then planning out their revision between now and Easter to address those weaker areas.

We have some support planned in the February half term and over Easter but students must not rely on this as being enough. It always surprises students the impact that planned and focused revision can have on their confidence over these next few crucial weeks.

Parents can support by providing a quiet space at home for their child to work in and supporting them through the next few weeks. We are looking forward to working with them to achieve their very best in the summer exams.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

The Leeds Book Awards 2025

The Leeds Book Awards is back for 2025 celebrating the best books that were published in 2024. Our school is yet again a part of this amazing opportunity, and we had our first meeting this Monday. Students will have the chance to read the nominated books, discuss what they thought of them, go on trips to Leeds Central Library and meet the winning authors. Students who want to take part in the award will be meeting every Monday Week A in the library 3:00pm-3:30pm until the awards ceremony in May. Any students who would like to be involved should see Ms Martin to get signed up.

Ms Martin
School Librarian

Secondary Singing Day

We have been given an exciting opportunity to perform in a Secondary Singing Day with students from a wide range of schools across Leeds.



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The event will take place at Pudsey Civic Hall on Friday 14th March and is open to students across all year groups.

The structure of the day will include learning at least two pop song arrangements in multiple parts and then to perform them all together at the end of the day. Regular breaks will be planned throughout the day to protect voices.

All participating schools will be provided with sheet music so that students involved can perform them back in school if they wish to do so.

Students involved will leave together from school and return to school before the end of the day. Further details will be provided to students who sign up closer to the time.

If you are interested in being involved in this exciting opportunity, please see Miss O'Gorman before Friday 7th February. Due to so many schools being involved, we are only allowed to take a certain number of students and therefore places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

I look forward to working with all of the students who sign up to this event.

Guitar and Music Technology Club – Years 7 & 8

We have another exciting new extra-curricular opportunity launching in music from Tuesday 4th February.

The Guitar and Music Technology club is open to any Year 7 and 8 student. It is open to anyone who wants to learn new or develop existing guitar skills OR who may be interested in using music technology to create/record music.

The club takes place Tuesdays 3.00pm-4.00pm in the music department.

If you want to find out more, come and see Miss O'Gorman in the music department, or come along on Tuesday to give it a go.

I look forward to seeing some of our very talented younger students making and creating lots of different types of music.

Miss O'Gorman
Subject Leader of Music



Year 7

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Parents Evening

Thursday 6th February is the Year 7 virtual Parents Evening. If you are struggling to log on and book appointments, please call reception and they will support you to make them.

You can only make a maximum of 9 appointments and we would encourage prioritising Maths English and Science.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

A reminder to parents that I am running this NHS competition. If your child is interested ask them to speak to me on the doors or email me. Please see the link for more details
<https://www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/secondary-schools>

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Student Voice

Year 9 have been set a student voice questionnaire for homework. The student voice is to get their opinion on the Learning modes in lessons.

If they are unable to complete this homework they will not receive any sanctions. However, we will be using your feedback to help us improve how learning modes are used in lessons.

Miss Wray
Subject Leader of Performing Arts

Duke of Edinburgh- Bronze Training Weekend

Either: February 1 & 2 or February 8 & 9 (an email with student groups has been sent out).

9am – 3pm each day

Venue: Wike Scout Camp, Backstone Gill Ln, Wike, Leeds LS17 9JS

On one day, students will do a circular approx. 14km training walk with the Turnballs. On the other day they will do indoor and outdoor training at the Scout Camp Site. This will



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cover: First Aid & Emergency procedures kit, safe use of camping stoves (provided) and expedition food planning and route Planning. They will bring a training book home from this with their planning notes.

For both days they need to:

Wear clothes suitable for potentially muddy and cold conditions - check the weather forecast beforehand.

Bring packed lunch/drinks – enough for the whole day/snacks (not pot noodles - there will not be a kettle!).

On their walking day they also need:

Good walking shoes or walking boots - they are walking a long way! Trainers are fine as long as they have thick, sturdy, supportive soles. They will get wet and muddy. Waterproof coat and trousers, warm layers, hats and gloves.

On their on-site training day they also need:

A pen

Clothes suitable for lying on a floor (for first aid).

Participants please do the following:

Arrange to share lifts

Arrive on time

Come prepared to work hard.

And finally, the car park is in a loop. Can we ask that you drop off and leave reasonably promptly as it is not a big loop and there will be a lot of people on the site.

Holocaust Memorial Week

We had a brilliant assembly with Mr Bassett around the Holocaust Memorial week and it was great to see so many of Year 9 engaged in such an important subject. This year theme is encouraging participation by 'Take action for a better future'. This is something we want to encourage within the year and also see what they can do within school and Sixth Form.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Assessment Week 2

As we head into assessment week 2, I would like to encourage all students to check through Arbor for details of their assessment. It's been fantastic to see and hear of all the work students have been doing in preparation for these assessments. This will be a key point in the Key Stage



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4 journey and will provide a point for teachers, students and parents/carers to reflect on strengths and areas to improve.

Reminder of Lines of Communication

If there are any general enquiries, please direct them to the Form tutor.

If there are any issues with a particular subject, please contact the Subject Leader (emails can be found on the contacts page of our website).

If there are any issues with a number of subjects please let me know.

If there are any issues regarding pastoral matters, please contact the Year Leader, Miss Exley.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

A huge well done to all our Year 11 students who have now completed their trial exams! Many students put in an incredible amount of effort, and these assessments have provided valuable insights to help them improve as they prepare for their final exams.

This week, MFL speaking exams will be taking place. Students have received details in class, but if they need any clarification, please encourage them to speak with me, Mrs Maloney, or Mrs Dove.

A quick reminder about the upcoming Walking Talking Mocks (WTMs) for Paper 2: students will be registered by their Form tutor as they enter school and go straight to the main hall.

X-side students: Monday, 12th February

Y-side students: Monday, 26th February

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader


SIXTH FORM


We hope you are all keeping well. Here are some key updates for this week:

✅ Well done to our Criminology students who have been working hard on their controlled assessments this week! Their dedication and focus have been fantastic.



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 Year 13 Tutorials – Please encourage your young adults to attend their tutorials. These sessions provide essential support in the lead-up to their final exams.

 DTTR Tasks – If your child has been sent home DTTR tasks, please encourage them to engage with these. They are designed to help reinforce learning and ensure progress.

Key Dates:

⌚ 5 weeks until Year 13 Trial Exams 10th March

⌚ 1 week until 10th February Assessment week

⌚ 14 weeks until the start of Year 12 and 13 External Exams (Monday 12th May)

⌚ 14 weeks until Leaver's Assembly and Inflatables

⌚ 2 weeks until half term

⌚ 21 weeks until the start of Year 12 Trial Exams

⌚ 24 weeks until the end of the academic year

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Lea
Acting Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny
Careers and Enrichment Lead
