

## Headteacher's Fortnightly Update 10 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

As the half-term draws to a close please see below the latest updates from around the school.

### Dates for your diary

Friday 10th February                      Break up for half-term at 3.15pm.

Monday 20th February                      Students return to school.

Thursday 16th March                      Y12 Parents' Evening.

### Year 9 GCSE Options

It was great to see so many parents at the recent Y9 options evening.

In case you were not able to attend the evening, or if you would like access to the documents shared then please follow the links below:

1. The main presentation for the evening can be accessed here:  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ExwkeOw6KQRz3llsFjjZTLbAPygkGg6EWQO\\_trRQz2l/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ExwkeOw6KQRz3llsFjjZTLbAPygkGg6EWQO_trRQz2l/edit?usp=sharing)
2. The Key Stage 4 Curriculum guide containing detailed information on all of the courses we deliver in Y10 and 11 can be accessed here:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hcBcfnB4DImHbrH8cS9kWKOfB6QaeqB/view?usp=sharing>
3. The final link will take you to the full range of videos created by each of our subject leaders outlining each of the courses on offer (really useful if there were any of the subject presentations that you missed on the evening): <https://sites.google.com/arete.uk/keystage4courseoptions/home>

### Safeguarding

Please see the attached Online Safety Newsletter for February. .

### Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams

As our 2nd series of mock exams comes to an end we would like to congratulate both Y11 and 13 for their hard work and the excellent attitudes they have demonstrated throughout. This was the last set of mock exams before the external exams begin in May.

During the mock exams we did allow those students who had missed exams to do catch-up papers at a later date. Please note that in the external exams catch-up exams are not allowed and any exam that is missed will score no marks, unless the student is able to produce a doctors' note to explain the reason for their absence. We can't overstate the importance of good attendance both in the exam period and from now until the exams start. It really is crucial that all Y11 and 13 students are in school 5 days a week where we can provide the best support and preparation for their exams.

### **Cultural Capital**

This half term's cultural capital theme has been science and nature. This week was the cultural capital quiz, led by our quizmasters Mr Wilkinson and Mr Watkins. Tutor groups across the school took part in answering quiz questions based on this half term's sessions. Questions included, "What is the largest native predator in Britain?" Next half term our theme for cultural capital will be geography.

### **Year 7 curriculum**

Our Year 7 students are making good use of their green key knowledge booklets this term. These booklets offer fantastic opportunities to speak to students about their learning and to quiz them on things they have learned in school. Next half term, there will be regular updates about what students have been learning in some of their subjects.

### **Reading and Literacy**

The 'Word of the Week' programme reaches its half-termly conclusion this week with a link to the careers and vocational side of life; the word is 'apprenticeship'. The final fortnightly literacy focus before the February break is 'Who or Whom?'. Both of our running programmes to improve school-wide literacy will continue straight after half-term.

### **National Apprenticeship Week**

This week in school we have been running assemblies on National Apprenticeship Week which advises students on these valuable opportunities.

Mr Smart (Assistant Headteacher) has explained the value and opportunities of apprenticeships in assembly and explained the huge range of opportunities with employers.

For further information please visit the website below or contact the careers team in school.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day this year falls on Thursday 2nd March. There will be lots going on that day including a book-themed quiz, 'story in a day' and other activities designed to encourage students to enjoy reading for pleasure. All students are eligible to receive a free £1 book token to spend on a book of their choice; these will be distributed digitally on the day.

### **LIFE**

Our next LIFE session is on Wednesday 22nd February. The first session of our new topics took place via online learning on 1st February so the teachers' first task will be to establish where the students are with their learning. We are looking forward to using the new booklets and finding out what the students think of them...

### **Sixth Form Applications**

Students who have applied to Sixth Form will be shortly receiving letters with their interview date and time. These interviews will take place in the Sixth Form block with the first two interview evenings being Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March. If you cannot attend the interview please let us know in advance so that another one can be arranged.

### **Student Leadership**

The weekly house meetings continue to be well attended by all year groups. The current house challenge is the mega marathon which is being coordinated by Mr Bunn. Events that are coming up include World Book Day, a non uniform day in aid of The Teenage Cancer Trust and a colour run in the summer term. The anti bullying

ambassadors are working hard to share information with students and parents and are in the process of arranging some training from the Diana Award. The eco group has identified 3 areas that they are going to work on within the school community and are currently drawing up plans to get started on their work.

### **Military Families**

Bounce Forward are providing a 6 week live online training course for military parents. It has been fully funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and is completely free for all military parents/carers of children (including spouses of servicemen/women).

Through Raise Resilience, you can support yourself and your children to communicate effectively, develop empathy, nurture a growth mindset and understand emotions. The sessions will provide reflective and practical approaches in mental resilience to support positive changes in cognition and behaviour.' For more information follow the link below.

<https://bounceforward.com/raise-resilience-military/>

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR & SPORTING NEWS**

### **Co-Create Festival**

Last Friday the Year 10 GCSE Drama group took part in the Co-Create Festival at York St John University. This is the first year that this event has been run and saw several schools from around Yorkshire taking part in the performance event.

The students had been working on a performance based on the theme of 'Transitions' since December, especially for this event and had worked alongside the staff at York St John to develop it in advance of the day. Choosing to explore ideas of the treatment of women across time, their piece saw a group of children talk of their dreams and then present the stark realities that have faced people in the past., culminating in a powerful final message to the audience.

As part of the event, our students watched work from final year university students, took part in a practical drama workshop, toured the university campus and rehearsed on stage. The festival culminated in the performances of all the work from the participating schools. Throughout the day, our students presented themselves impeccably and were excellent ambassadors for the school and when it came to their own performance, the group showed professionalism and commitment as they presented their work with confidence and control to the visiting audience.

Although it was a long day, it was a pleasure to be a part of and our students are already talking about next year...

### **Legally Blonde**

Rehearsals for the School Production of Legally Blonde continue to move at a pace now, with the show going on next half term. The cast have been busy learning lines, numbers and routines ready for the real hard work next half term as the performance dates of 21-23 March rapidly approach. In advance of this, we have an all day rehearsal for the cast next Thursday, 9-4 where we will be starting to put the whole show together. Tickets for the show will go on sale after the half-term holiday!

Mr N Stimson  
Head of Expressive Arts

### Sports Update

The Y10 football team made the long journey to Settle College last week, in the North Yorkshire County Cup. A dominant and disciplined team performance proved too much for Settle, with the team winning 6-0. Goals from Lyle (2), Reece (2), Alfie and Alex.

Well done to Edward, Lucas, Robert, Will, Joe, Ben, Alfie, Lyle, Alex, Jake, Josh, Will (captain), Ole and Reece.

On Tuesday 7th February, our Year 11 boys football team travelled to Queen Ethelburga's School in the last 16 of the County Cup. This was certainly an eye opener for us all, as the facilities were as good as most Premier League football clubs training facilities. Despite these amazing surroundings, there was not too much to choose between the 2 sides when it came to the players on the field. However, Northallerton were slow out of the blocks and allowed QE to dictate the early tempo of the game and they deserved to take a 1-0 lead, even if the goal was slightly fortuitous. Northallerton then started to raise their game and created a couple of chances, however missed opportunities and some close decisions going against us, proved costly, as right on the stroke of halftime QE doubled their lead. The second half saw Northallerton dominate the opening 10 minutes, but still could not find the crucial goal. It was totally against the run of play, when Jack's goal kick hit the back of the head of QE's centre forward, with the ball landing perfectly for him to have more or less an open goal. At this point, heads began to drop and a lack of composure meant it was no surprise when we conceded 2 more goals in quick succession. However, at this point, we actually started to work more as a team and pulled 2 goals back quickly through Lennon and Harry. However, with only 5 minutes remaining, there was no time to mount a serious comeback and unfortunately after last year's brilliant run to the final, it's the end of the road for our Year 11 boys football team. Not the way we were hoping to end as a football team, but having secured back to back 7's titles in 2021/22 and 2022/23 and a County Cup runners up medal, the last 2 years have certainly had more ups than downs. Well done all involved and let's look on the bright side.....more time to focus on your GCSE exams now!!!!!!! Mr Myers

The squad were Riley, Oscar, Harry, Finn, Aidan, Lennon, Seth, Angus James Jack Noah Jack Joe and Alfie.

The U14 girls hosted Archbishop Holgate of York in the second round of the county cup on Wednesday after soundly beating Thirsk in the previous round. It proved to be a tougher test as their team was made up purely of year 9 girls who all played regular club football whereas our team was a mix with more year 8 girls in the team playing up an age group. We also missed an experienced goalkeeper which was the biggest difference in this encounter as the guests had two very experienced keepers. We actually held a 2-1 lead after well taken goals from Lucy and Megan and promised to score more with plenty of long range efforts from captain Mia which were well saved. The girls tried to play progressive football and the opposition coaches were very impressed by the confidence to play risky football, building from the back as they employed more direct tactics of getting the ball forward quickly. Unfortunately the girls succumbed to defeat in the end but can be very proud of who they played and the experience will stand them in good stead for the area cup games to come.

The squad were Imogen, Layla, Megan, Mia (Captain), Lucy, Ellie, Poppy, Jasmine, Amelia, Bethany and Amy.

### Drumming for All Opportunity

In conjunction with the Big Lottery Fund and Joolz Form, YES@ Arété Learning Trust are hosting a six session drumming programme for all abilities. These fun and relaxed session will focus on Djembe Drumming, a drumming style from West Afrika.

Participants will be exploring West African dances and gather together in a drumming circle. There is no experience required and this drumming style is very accessible.

If you are interested, please see the leaflet attached for further information.

### Theatre Trip

On Wednesday evening, a group of more than 70 students from years 10 and 11 enjoyed a trip to the theatre in York to see 'An Inspector Calls'. The play is a core text for GCSE English Literature so it was an opportunity to enhance understanding to help with exams as well as enjoying a valuable cultural experience.

This multi-award winning production from the National Theatre is extremely innovative and dramatic and enabled the students to get a whole new perspective on how a script can be transformed into a piece of drama. Students were impressed by the inventive staging, use of lighting and dramatic sound effects.

Experiencing live theatre is a hugely rewarding experience for young people so we are always on the lookout for suitable productions to take groups of students to see.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable half-term holiday and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 20th February.

Mrs V Rahn  
Headteacher





# Drumming for All

**Dates:** Tuesdays

21.02.23	14.03.23
28.02.23	21.03.23
07.03.23	28.03.23

**Time:** 4.00pm – 5.00pm

**Venue:** Northallerton School  
Brompton Road, Northallerton  
North Yorkshire DL6 1ED  
Tel: 01748 850111 ext 8165

**Audience:** 12—18 year olds  
No experience necessary

**Standard price:**  
£29 / pupil for 6 sessions

**To book please visit**  
[www.yesatarelearningtrust.net/  
Training-Events](http://www.yesatarelearningtrust.net/Training-Events) or email  
[yes@aretelearningtrust.net](mailto:yes@aretelearningtrust.net).

**Places won't be secured until  
payment and completed  
consent forms have been  
received.**

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## Top 10 Benefits of Drumming:

- Reduces Stress
- Boosts Brain Power & Increases Academic Performance
- Develops Confidence
- Motor Skill Development
- Therapeutic
- Self Expression
- Get Fit
- Make New Friends
- Lifelong Learning
- Be in the Present Moment

Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

**Closing date: 3rd February 2023**

## Training led by: Joolz Form

Joolz Form is a classically trained percussionist, music being part of his live for the past 40 years and played in orchestras live. He left his employment as an scientist in research in 2004 to become a sculptor. Joolz then became involved in the 'Wider Opportunity', a whole class project which gives children the chance to play an instrument as an integral part of the National Curriculum music lesson. He has been teaching music ever since.

## Cancellations/Refunds

Cancellations of training events are subject to a 25% administration fee where the cancellation is made 3 weeks or more before the date of the event. No refund is payable for a cancellation made within 2 weeks prior to the training course – in this event the full sum shown on the invoice remains payable.