

Head of School's Weekly Update

22 January 2021

FROM THE HEAD

Welcome to our first edition of the Head of School's Weekly bulletin for parents. We hope this will provide a useful regular means of communicating relevant information and updates to keep you informed. Thank you for continuing to support your children with remote learning. As always your support in these challenging times is greatly appreciated.

YEAR 7 SHORT STORY CLUB

Wednesday saw the first session of our brand new Year 7 Short Story Club take place remotely. Students gathered online to share their ideas and interpretations of a classic Grimms' fairy tale.

"It was a very fun session to take part in," said Billy, one of the attendees. *"I will definitely be tuning in for future sessions!"*

All Year 7 students are welcome to take part in the weekly sessions which take place at 4pm every Wednesday via Webex. Details, stories and links are all shared via Google Classroom.

SAFEGUARDING

Could we draw your attention to the 'Parents Online Safety' newsletter which was emailed at the start of this week. This can also be found on our school website. It provides advice and guidance on how to keep your children safe. For further advice and guidance please visit: <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/online-safety/>

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Our Year 9 virtual Options Evening is now available to view [here](#). Year 9 parents and students will find a wealth of information including the main presentation from Mrs Rahn and Mr Wilkinson, the Key Stage 4 course guide

and the individual subject videos created by subject leaders. Students have until Friday 5th March to decide on their options so there is plenty of time to view and read the information provided.

YEAR 11/YEAR 13 EXAM CONSULTATION INFORMATION

On Wednesday, Mr Wilkinson ran an online presentation for parents on the exam consultation by the DFE and Ofqual that is currently underway. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The consultation closes on Friday 29th January and parents are invited to share their views on the proposals to grade students in the absence of external summer exams.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Everyone who has applied to Sixth Form for September 2021 will have received notification this week of their interview time/date. If you haven't please contact Mrs Redpath on redpath.k@northallertonschool.org.uk.

We are still accepting applications for Sixth Form - please apply via the online form on the website.

Year 12 students had an introduction this week to the online work experience opportunities that are available. We are looking forward to some exciting virtual work experience taking place.

The deadline for university applications is January 29th. Please email Mrs Redpath if you have any queries regarding this.

ONLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

We have created a digital code of conduct to ensure that all students know our expectations

of them whilst taking part in live lessons. The digital code of conduct, which can be accessed [here](#), is a set of simple do's and don'ts that we expect all students to adhere to.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

In Year 11, students have been progressing with the Bronze Award for the past 10 months. Students have until Friday 26th February to complete their skill, volunteering and physical sections if they want to be considered for the expeditional phase of the Award. We aim to run this in the summer. A huge congratulations to all those students in Year 11 who have already achieved their 'Certificate of Achievement'.

In Year 10, the DofE Bronze Award was launched at the end of November, with an incredible 60 students signing up. Students in Year 10 must have stated what activity they are going to undertake for each of their three sections (skill, volunteering & physical) on their eDofE portal, by Friday 5th February.

Finally, we are very excited by the launch of the DofE Silver Award with our Year 12 students. This will be launched on Wednesday 27th January and students must complete a Google Application Form (on the Year 12 Google Classroom) by Friday 12th February, to confirm their interest in undertaking and pursuing the DofE Silver Award. We have not run the Silver Award for many, many years, so an amazing opportunity for our Year 12s.

COMMUNICATION HOME

We would like to draw your attention to the following information which has been circulated/updated recently.

- [COVID Risk Assessment Updated](#)

All correspondence home and policy updates are posted on our website. If you require a paper copy of any documents, please contact school.

READ WRITE

Improve reading and writing confidence.

Read Write literacy software makes the web, documents and files more accessible - any time, any place and on any platform or device. It is available for anyone to use and access. It is particularly useful for people with dyslexia and other learning difficulties, or anyone whose first language isn't English. From reading on-screen text aloud to researching and checking written work, Read Write makes lots of everyday tasks easier. It's a big confidence booster for anyone who needs a little extra help with their reading and writing or wants to proof-read work and can be used at school or in the workplace.

Features

- Hear web pages and documents read aloud to improve reading comprehension, with choice of natural voices.
- Understand unfamiliar words with text and picture dictionaries.
- Develop writing skills with word prediction.
- Support independent student research with valuable study skills tools.

Extra Benefits

JCQ allows the use of a computer reader in the English reading section of GCSE exams. Prior to this, a student who had a reader couldn't have this section read out to them which meant even if they could answer the questions they couldn't access this text. You can use the Teacher's Toolkit in Read Write to control what features the students can access during exams, in accordance with the exam conditions. Students also use headphones during the exams so the information remains completely confidential and other students are not disturbed.

Please contact school for further information and details to assist with installation and features.

