

Head of School's Weekly Update 12 March 2021

FROM THE HEAD

We were delighted to welcome our students back to the classroom earlier this week. It was wonderful to see them re-engage with face-to-face learning and reunite with their peers. We have been really pleased with the way in which students have quickly adapted to our safety measures in school to keep themselves and others safe.

Today you will be receiving information about our arrangements to distribute Lateral Flow testing kits for students to carry out at home. The test is straightforward and is very similar to the Lateral Flow tests students have been offered in school. The kits contain step-by-step instructions and information about how to report results to NHS Test and Trace as well as to the school.

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our priority. Lateral Flow tests are also available to our staff twice a week. The tests aim to identify asymptomatic cases of the virus and to break the rate of transmission. It is hoped that by regularly testing students and staff we can contain the virus to ensure that our school environment remains as safe as possible.

If you have any further questions about Lateral Flow testing then please contact Anna Wilson or Louise Bramley.

LATERAL FLOW TESTING

Our staff have been working extremely hard to meet the DfE guidelines for the safe return to school of our students. We have expanded our Lateral Flow testing centre and have built 16 testing stations. We have also trained a large team of staff to operate and supervise the tests. It has been a huge team effort! Our whole school community has risen to the challenge and staff have taken on different roles to ensure that the testing of our students operates smoothly, efficiently and safely. Similarly, we were overwhelmed and impressed with the excellent conduct of our students throughout the testing day on Monday 8th March

and Friday 12th March.

I cannot thank our staff and students enough for their positive attitudes, resilience and teamwork this week. Well done!

SAFEGUARDING



Please see the latest online safety newsletter for parents which can be found [here](#).

SIXTH FORM UPDATE - INTERVIEW WITH JAMIE BLOGG- PORTAKABIN and Mr Wilkinson



Last week I had the pleasure of speaking to Jamie Blogg who is the contract manager of Portakabin Limited and has overall responsibility for the construction of our new sixth form centre.

Jamie explained that the construction of our sixth form centre is a modular construction made of over 40 separate sections, currently being manufactured in York. Starting from 14th March, the modules will be delivered to site, lifted into place, and by 22nd March the new block will be constructed! If you are driving past during the next few weeks please have

a look at this exciting addition to our new school.



Jamie has managed a number of similar projects throughout the UK. I asked Jamie to confirm our plans for the layout inside and in particular the new common room. He explained that the sixth form common room, which is located downstairs, will be a blend of formal seating areas and an informal area containing a small kitchenette, vending machine and relaxed seating.

Jamie went on to explain that there will be 2 large teaching rooms downstairs and 4 teaching rooms situated upstairs. The centre will have its own toilets for use by sixth form students and lift access for wheelchair users. The classrooms will be installed with state of the art projection facilities, video conferencing and wireless internet connectivity, as you would expect in a modern learning environment.



I was interested to know about the environment inside the classrooms. Jamie explained that the centre will come with its own dedicated heating, extraction and air conditioning system which maintains a steady temperature of between 18-21°C. Each classroom will have a climate sensor which will pump in fresh air if the levels of CO₂

reach a certain level. LED lighting, which has been computer modelled to ensure full coverage, will be provided in all rooms. Brand new furniture, provided by Portakabin, will then fill the teaching spaces.

At the end of the interview, Jamie offered to do a videoed walk-through of the centre with some of our current Year 11 and sixth form students following completion in June. I will speak to our students in May to ask for volunteers.

Mr lent and I are now working hard on timetabling lessons for the new school to start in September. The sixth form centre will be for the sole use of sixth form students who will also study in other areas of the school for their practical subjects, including brand new science laboratories, brand new design technology and food science rooms, a huge independent study area with state of the art IT facilities and even regular use of the leisure centre facilities.

We will provide further updates in the future weeks and months but please take the time during the week beginning Monday 15th March to watch our new sixth form centre under construction!

HOUSE CHALLENGE - MEGA MARATHON

The Mega Marathon House Challenge concluded at the end of February. The month-long challenge encouraged students to increase the amount of physical activity they did during February, with a key focus on using this to improve students' physical and mental wellbeing. Tutors played their role by supporting students and collecting their scores each week. The final score and the grand totals are in:

- **Boakes: 4578 miles (174 marathons)**
- **Chapman: 2103 miles (80 marathons)**
- **Cowell: 3298 miles (125 marathons)**
- **Radcliffe: 4491 miles (171 marathons)**

It was a close run contest, but congratulations to Boakes House for covering the greatest combined distance and managing to overcome Radcliffe's initial lead. Collectively, students covered a hugely impressive 14,470 miles (550 marathons - approx.); we are all so proud of everyone who took part and hope you found it enjoyable. Although everyone certainly played their part, there were a few students who went the extra mile(s) and deserve to

be recognised:

- Noah W (9EMY - Radcliffe House) 677 miles
- Joe G (11MTU - Radcliffe House) 260 miles
- Josh W (9EMY - Radcliffe House) 205 miles

A special mention also to Mr Myers' tutor group, who covered a collective distance of 1773 miles (167 marathons).

While students were busy recording their distances, Northallerton School staff were doing the same. The staff managed to cover 4271 miles (163 marathons), with 43 staff taking part. A special mention must go to Mr Taylor, who somehow managed to find the time and the energy to cover an astonishing 616 miles during the month of February. Well done Mr Taylor!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Year 12 students undertaking the DofE Silver Award will be receiving an email from Mr Bunn next week, with their eDofE login details. Additionally, advance notice that there will be a meeting week commencing 15 March to support students with starting their silver award. A gentle reminder payment to participate was due on Friday 5th March, via Parent Pay.

Plans are nearly finalised for the Year 11 Bronze Award Expedition. Students who are progressing onto the expedition section of the award will be notified of these arrangements next week.

INTERESTED IN STUDYING AT OXBRIDGE?

Are you a student in Year 10 or Year 11 who is interested in studying at Oxford or Cambridge Universities? There is a webinar at 6pm on March 18th, introducing some key ideas about Higher Education and offering some tips on how to research university and course options. It will outline life and learning at Oxbridge. The event is open to students, parents and carers. Please email Miss Cox if you are interested cox.a@northallertonschool.org.uk

FUNDRAISER FOR MIND

Last Thursday night we held our very first staff and student quiz led by deputy house captain of Chapman House, Laura M (Year 12). Laura set about organising the quiz as a way to bring our school community together in a time when it is easy to feel separate.

The current circumstances also influenced her choice of charity, Laura said *'the donations will be going to the charity Mind as I feel that the resources they give are vitally important in these times, and I would like to support them as much as possible'*. We are pleased to report that Laura has raised an astonishing £508, that is the equivalent of 63 potentially lifesaving calls answered.

Just as important was the amazing feedback from the staff and students who took part. Kirsty D (Year 13) said *'I really enjoyed the quiz, it was good fun with a great host. The overall community feeling was really nice. We should do some more!'*. Scarlet W (Year 9) said *'I enjoyed the quiz, it was nice to take part in something fun with school, even though we were not in school. I did the quiz with my family, it also raised money for a worthwhile cause!'*. Billy D (Year 7) said *"The charity quiz was a nice family gathering moment, where we could all get together and have fun! It was especially a good time because we would all work together to try and share our thoughts on the questions, it was fun to find out the answers and feel proud that you managed to outsmart your parents on some questions."*

All the staff at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College are impressed with the determination shown by Laura. Assistant Head Miss Cox sums it up well, *"This is amazing, we are very proud of Laura."*

RED NOSE DAY

Is back! It is next Friday - 19th March. We will celebrate and fundraise by having a non-uniform day. The Sixth Form Council are organising the event and we are asking for a minimum donation of £1 for students to come in their own clothes. Money will be collected on Friday morning in a COVID-safe way. Students will still be expected to wear masks. Don't forget your kit if you have PE!