

Head of School's Weekly Update 23 April 2021

UNIFORM STANDARDS

We would like to thank parents and students for the noticeable improvement seen this week in uniform standards. This will continue to be our focus this term, along with reinforcing our high expectations in all lessons. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

PROGRESS EVENINGS

This term we will be conducting progress evenings for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The progress evenings will be conducted as online meetings using a dedicated piece of software which has been used successfully in the other trust schools. In these online meetings, parents will have the opportunity to meet with the subject teachers to discuss their child's academic progress. The progress evenings will take place on Thursdays and parents will be able to make appointments at times that are convenient to them.

- Years 10 and 12 - Thursday 13th May and Thursday 20th May
- Years 7, 8 and 9 - Thursday 17th June and Thursday 24th June

If you have a child in one of these year groups you will receive further information about the progress evenings in due course, including instructions on how to book your appointments.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Student Council

Lots of interesting ideas and developments are in the process and in the pipeline within the student council. Rebecca in Year 12, an aspiring historian, is working to produce a digital (and potentially a physical) publication of interesting personal news stories or vignettes from individuals in Northallerton from across the generations. What we are looking for is, for example, somebody raising money for charity; winning an award or a funny anecdote. Rebecca is hugely passionate about piecing together a publication full of stories from individuals living or who have lived in Northallerton. If you have an interesting local story to tell, or know somebody in your family that might be interested in contributing to this amazing project, we would be grateful if you would email northallertonstories@northallertonschool.org.uk There is no limit on how long this piece of writing can be, and we would encourage, where possible, for photos to be included in your message. We are setting an initial deadline of June 4th to determine the level of interest in

this project. To make this project viable we are looking for at least 20 submissions, so any contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please include your full name with your message.



READING UPDATES

We have a new format for our workshop lessons in Years 7 and 8 to ensure that all students have a substantial time spent on both the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme and on silent, private reading.

Year 7 now have a full hour dedicated to AR where their teacher will ensure everyone has a book and is reading at the correct level. In addition, there will be another 30 minutes of private reading time in the second workshop lesson.

Year 8 also now have a full hour dedicated to AR and reading. Students should always complete an AR quiz after finishing a book as this helps us to track progress and will enable students to move on to more challenging texts.

Year 9 still have a fortnightly tutor session for silent reading and all students in Years 7-9 engage in private reading for 20 minutes every day between 12:50pm and 1:10pm.

Students can bring books from home or read online books on their chromebooks. Our librarian is also on hand to help students find suitable reading material and can suggest, select and deliver books to students where needed.

As well as being enjoyable, reading for pleasure has huge, proven benefits for academic achievement, social development and positive mental health:

'Evidence from OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-

operation and Development - 2002) found that reading enjoyment is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status.'

SHORT STORY CLUB

Year 7s have welcomed a new member to the Short Story Club this week: our very own Ms Causley, Northallerton School & Sixth Form College's new Attendance Officer. She, along with our other members, have been stretching their creative muscles and preparing to enter some new writing competitions for summer 2021! Watch this space...

DRAMA CLUB

Starting next Tuesday, Mr Stimson will be running a new Drama Club for Year 7 students. This will give Year 7 students the opportunity to develop their drama and performance skills beyond their lessons, working towards a performance at the end of the year. The club will be on from 3:05pm - 4:00pm each week in the Drama Studio. Everyone is welcome.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Eighteen students in Year 11 are progressing extremely well towards their DofE Qualifying Expedition, to achieve their Bronze Award. Students completed their third and final training session last Saturday (17/04), where they consolidated map and compass skills on a practice walk around the local area. The two day qualifying expedition will be going out next Saturday and Sunday - we wish all the students well.

More information will be coming out next week regarding the plans for the Year 10 qualifying expedition preparation and training.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the first students in Year 7 to receive their Bronze PD Awards! They are:

Luke B
Billy D
Kate H
Thomas K
Liliana L
Sophia N
Bea R
Seren W
Ashton W

How many more students will attain the award by next week?

2021 ARETÉ CHALLENGES

Don't forget to enter one or more of the Areté Challenges. These are competitions in a number of different subjects, open to students attending the schools in the Areté Learning Trust - Richmond School, Stokesley School and Northallerton School.

They are inspired by the many and varied competitions that universities have for A level students and came about when staff were thinking about how to provide opportunities to challenge and inspire students during lockdown 1. Originally, the challenges were open to students in Years 10 to 13 with prizes for KS4 and KS5 but we had so many younger students asking to enter that we have added a KS3 category.

This year we have Areté Challenges in biology, drama, English, food preparation and nutrition, maths and physics. Information about how to enter is here – [Areté Challenges 2021 - Information for students](#)

ROYAL MAIL STAMP COMPETITION

We are very proud to announce that we are taking part in the Royal Mail's Hero Stamp Design Competition to honour the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic. You can enter if you are aged between 4-14 years old but you must have consent from a parent/carer first.

Simply design a stamp of your hero or heroes from the pandemic on an entry form found either on google classroom or from Miss Allsop. You must design your stamp in colour but you must not add the Queen's silhouette or the first class mark as these will already be on the design.

The closing date for entries to be given to your form teacher or Miss Allsop is Friday 21st May. The winning stamp designs will be selected and the winners will see their stamp being sold! What a way to showcase your talents as well as thanking all the key workers, volunteers or frontline workers who kept everything going last year. Good luck! Stamp templates can be found on your year group google classroom.

COVID - UPDATE

We have had **no** positive COVID cases reported in our school community this week.

Students should continue to carry out a Lateral Flow Test at home on a Sunday night and a Wednesday night and report these home test results to the NHS on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also to the school by using the following link

<https://forms.gle/csVPoVWY8wYoUbvL9>. **We would ask that if your child receives a positive test result that you contact the school as soon as possible so that we can track and trace and quickly identify any close contacts. This can be done by either emailing the school on response@northallertonschool.org.uk or telephone the school on 01609 773340. The household will also need to isolate and a PCR test should be arranged for your child at a local testing centre as soon as possible.** Thank you for your continued support with this.

Updated DfE guidance for parents can be viewed [here](#)