

Head of School's Weekly Update 26 March 2021

HAPPY EASTER

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents/carers and students a very happy and restful Easter break.

A reminder that all students return to school on **Monday 12th April 2021** as the training day has been moved from 12th April 2021 to Thursday 22nd July 2021.

UNIFORM

Students will be expected in full school uniform after the Easter break. Outdoor coats will need to be removed inside the building, during lessons and in dining. Also, can we remind parents/carers that trainers are not permitted footwear.

EASTER SCHOOL

Our Easter School will run during the second week of the Easter holidays for Year 11 and 13 students to support them in their preparations for their final assessments. All students attending will need to book their places - we will not allow students to turn up if they have not booked. The programme is available [here](#) and the booking form is available [here](#). The booking form will close at 5pm on Sunday 28th March.

PRP2 REPORT

The PRP2 (Progress Report 2) is now available to view on the parent/student SIMs app. The report covers the whole of the spring term period. If you have any questions or concerns about the report you should contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Friday 19th March saw Northallerton School & Sixth Form College participate in Red Nose Day. Students from across the school were invited to attend school in non-uniform in exchange for the small donation of £1 in support of Comic Relief. Laura and Hasan (Year 12) posed the idea to the Sixth Form Student Council in the hope of raising money for just causes. Both students then got to work on creating promotional videos to share with the school which aimed to explain the purpose of the event to the school and

provide an explanation of how the donations were to be collected in a covid-friendly manner. In addition to this, Grace in Year 12 shot a short video promoting a 'How Many Sweets in the Jar?' challenge, in the hope of raising further donations. There were 131 sweets in the jar and Mrs Fearnside won with a guess of 134! Congratulations to Mrs Fearnside. The school community raised the phenomenal sum of £903.93 for Comic Relief and we are hugely grateful for all of the contributions made by staff and students to just causes. Well done!

SHORT STORY CLUB

Our Year 7 Short Story Club has returned to face-to-face interaction now that students have all returned to school life. The students have continued the latest sessions which included their own creative writing projects and our numbers continue to grow. Keep your eyes on the school's social media for upcoming stories penned by our members...

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Eighteen students in Year 11 have progressed onto the expedition phase of their DofE Bronze Award. To ensure these students are all fully prepared for a successful qualifying expedition, they are taking part in three Saturday morning training sessions, the first of which was last Saturday (20/03). It was a hugely successful morning, with all students improving their map and compass skills, as well as plotting their expedition route. This Saturday's session (27/03) will focus on basic first aid training and developing tent and cooking skills.

2021 ARETE CHALLENGES

The Arete Challenges are competitions in a number of different subjects, open to students attending the schools in the Arete 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 Year

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 Arete Challenges in biology, drama, English, food preparation and nutrition, maths and physics. Detailed information about how to enter each of the challenges is on the Year Group Google Classrooms.

Students may enter as many of the challenges as they like.

Entries to be submitted by email (addresses are on the rubrics in the Year Group Google Classroom).

Remember to include name, school and Year group.

The closing date for all entries is Friday 4th June 2021.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in the week beginning Monday 28th June 2021.

Prizes will be awarded for the winners in each category.

LIFE LESSONS

Coming up next half term is the topic of relationships, where students explore questions from 'what makes a healthy relationship?' and 'what makes a good friend?' in Year 7, through to some bigger questions such as 'what is the law relating to sex?' and 'what is exploitation' in Year 10. LIFE lessons in Year 11-13 continue - at this time in the year - to be focused on study skills, which we know from student feedback is what they both want and need at this time.

YEAR 7 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

We are very excited to announce that this term Year 7 have been working towards their Bronze Personal Development Award.

These awards are designed to help the students develop their skills and confidence outside of lesson time.

The awards recognise achievements, reward resilience and showcase the students' talents and interests.

The students have been given a set of challenges to achieve this half term to achieve their bronze award.

The Personal Development Awards develop the student and improve their experience here at Northallerton School and fit perfectly with the school's motto of 'being the best we can be'.

ANNIE

Just over a year ago, on the 16th March 2020, the cast of our school production of 'Annie' were all ready to put on the show to an excited and expectant audience when the hard decision to cancel the performances

was made due to COVID-19. By the end of that week, school had closed and we were entering into the first lockdown.

At the time I had hoped that this would just be a short postponement and we would be able to return to the show when we returned to school, picking up where we left off. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected length of the lockdown and the different obstacles that the new school year has brought, not least with members of the cast having left the school, it is with a heavy heart that I have to officially announce the cancellation of our school production of 'Annie'.

Although this announcement may not come as a surprise, it will still be a massive disappointment to many, none more than myself, and I want to extend my pride and gratitude to the entire Annie cast and crew for their commitment, professionalism and positivity throughout the production process and beyond.

If you would like a refund for any tickets that have been purchased, please contact me at school to get a refund form, which will allow you to claim for the reimbursement through the finance office.

Though Annie's sun may not come out tomorrow, I promise the annual school production will return!

Mr N Stimson

Head of Expressive Arts

COVID - UPDATE

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

Please could we remind all students to continue to carry out a Lateral Flow Test at home during the Easter holidays on a Sunday night and a Wednesday night and report the 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. Please email the school on response@northallertonschool.org.uk during the Easter holidays as this inbox will be monitored. 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.