



30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Last night was exciting for a number of our staff who had been nominated for the North Yorkshire Secondary School Teaching Awards. These have been established by the NY Secondary Improvement Board to recognise and celebrate outstanding and inspirational teaching practice made by teachers in North Yorkshire. We were delighted that 3 of our staff and the whole Maths department were shortlisted and invited to the ceremony in Harrogate. Special congratulations to the Maths team past and present who won 'Department of the Year' in recognition of their consistently outstanding GCSE results. The department is in the top 1% nationally for progress and students, on average, achieve a grade higher in Maths than their starting points would suggest. Additionally this was a great opportunity to showcase our school and give appreciation and recognition to the outstanding staff that work at Upper Wharfedale School.

We have also been involved in Grassington Festival. A group of year 10 GCSE Art students worked with local artist Carine Brosse on the theme 'Perfect Worlds'. After reflecting on their own ideas they made the elements of a hanging mobile during the course of several workshops. The result has been assembled and is on display in Grassington Town Hall. Earlier in the year students in year 9 studied the topic 'Samba' in Music. We were lucky enough to welcome percussionist Dave Mitchell who delivered two workshops focusing on rhythm, timing and working as one group. Year 8 students also attended a morning workshop split into two sections. For most of the time they worked with a member of the band Hope and Social. The other part of the time they took it in turns to work with Virpi Kettu, who spent 7 years working on Wallace and Gromit, to create stop/start animation videos. These two workshops will end in a final performance with Hope and Social at the Octagon in Grassington. We are, as always, thrilled to be able to work with the local community as part of the festival and the enrichment it offers our students is fantastic.

This week we also welcomed our new year 7 to spend the day in school. They had the opportunity to meet their form tutors and experience a 'typical' school day with taster sessions in English, Maths, Science and Art/Music/ICT. They enjoyed finding their way around school (which although tiny by most standards can still seem huge to those in our rural feeder primary schools) meeting the student leadership team and enjoying lunch.

New year 11 have now completed their exam season, which has taken place over the last two weeks. We will be reporting the results of these exams to parents during the last week of term. I suspect the exam season has been a steep learning curve for many of our students and there are many lessons for them to learn from the experience! It was also frustrating that a significant number of students did not have basic equipment for exams or calculators for Maths etc. Students need to have basic equipment with them every day.

In school Year 8 have been learning about the War of the Roses in History and Midsummer Night's Dream in English. A really high level of challenge. Year 9 have been preparing international dishes in food technology and designing their own 'moral compasses' in RE. Year 10 have learning about flooding in Geography and studying one of the core GCSE texts 'Animal Farm' in English. In addition to their exams year 11 have been looking at cloning and forces in Science and looking at the Wild West in History.

Excellence for all

Next week is very different. Work experience for our new year 11 students and activities week for years 8-10. We hope the students have an exciting and enjoyable time whatever activity they are doing. For those doing school-based activities please ensure the reply slip for Tuesday is returned to school.

After activities week we return for two normal school weeks. We work right up until the last day of term- we do not allow 'videos' or 'filler lessons' so please support us and ensure that your child attends school every day.

If you have a daughter with us in the new year 8 you need to know that the childhood immunisation team has now moved to a digital consent system for vaccinations. Please go to the following webpage to provide consent for your daughter to receive her HPV vaccinations in school:

<https://onlineforms.hdfn.nhs.uk/childhoodimmunisations>

For more information please visit

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.aspx>

or twitter @childhoodimmunisations

Finally a date for your diary. An information evening about assessment and class charts will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 6pm. We will cover how progress is assessed across all subjects and be there to support/help people with class charts accounts. Although parents of the new year 7 will probably find this event the most useful you are warmly invited to attend.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Miss Sumner  
Head of School