



Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the Headteacher's fortnightly update - the last one of this half term. Thank you for all of your responses to our recent parent survey: we will update you with the findings after half term and what we are going to do about the helpful suggestions you have made.

Quick Read

- The LIFE Hub continues to develop and provides the ideal spot for students to complete independent work if they struggle to do this outside of school.
- Tuesday was Safer Internet Day and we used LIFE lessons to provide information to students on this important topic. There is information for parents in the main body of this letter too.
- We are hosting the School Age Immunisation Team again soon to offer covid vaccinations to our students.
- We have been considering how technology can be used to support independence in our students - there are some suggestions below about things you might want to try at home too.
- POSCH is an organisation who support parents, carers and grandparents of children who have additional needs and they have a meeting coming up soon in Northallerton if you would like to get involved.
- One of our Y10 students has qualified for the English Schools and the Northern Counties XC competitions and our Y8 girls are through to the semi-finals of the County Cup!
- Our catering department served up some delights for Chinese New Year last week.
- We have received advanced information from exam boards this week and will be updating Y11/Y13 parents and students soon with more information about how this affects exams.
- In sixth form news, we have provided driving awareness assemblies to Y13 and are planning the same for Y12; UCAS applications are in and offers are coming back regularly; and Y13 assessments are taking place next week with the normal timetable collapsed.
- Following the announcement of a much-loved colleague's retirement, we are seeking a Senior Lab Technician to join our successful science department.

Longer Read

The LIFE Hub - a space for completing independent work

In the last headteacher's update we wrote to you about the continued development of our LIFE Hub as a space in school where students can access information about their lives both in and out of school. Just this week we've added a notice board about careers for students to





look at, which also points them in the direction of additional information and guidance that they can access in school.

Over the past week or so, it's been great to see some of our students choosing to use the LIFE Hub at breaktime and after school as somewhere to complete their independent work. If your son or daughter struggles to complete independent work at home for whatever reason, please encourage them to use the LIFE Hub in school so that we can work together in supporting them to manage their time.

Safer Internet Day 2022

This Tuesday (8th February) was Safer Internet Day. The theme for this year is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online' which fits in with many of the things that we have been pushing through our LIFE curriculum recently and, of course, one of our three core school values: respect.

In a world where young people live a vibrant and busy life online as well as one offline, it's increasingly important that we're all aware of how they can keep themselves safe and look after one another in the same way that we encourage them to do in the real world. Whilst our LIFE curriculum already teaches students about keeping safe and respecting one another online, we produced a session specifically for this awareness day which, should you like, you can view [here](#).

We are also aware that it can sometimes be difficult to know where to start, as a parent or carer, with ensuring that you're doing your bit to protect your child online. [This document](#), produced by the UK Safer Internet Centre, is a great starting point. Please do let us know if you would like any additional support with online safety. You can contact either Mrs Myers, (our Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Fox (LIFE subject lead) who will be more than happy to help.

Covid Vaccinations

We will be hosting a further session for the School Age Immunisation Team to deliver Covid vaccinations on Wednesday 16th February. All consents and queries will need to go directly to the Immunisation Team, through their contact information attached to the parent letter emailed out this week.

Technology for Independence

Over this term, staff have been attending training sessions exploring how technology can be used to support the independence of our students. We have explored some exciting web apps which can be used at home as well as in school. We would like to encourage parents to support our students to use these apps at home as well as in school.





Highlights from the training include:

Immersive Reader - a free Chrome extension which will read texts to you. Immersive Reader will also allow you to explore a section of text, for example it will highlight nouns or adjectives for you.

Mercury Reader - another free Chrome extension which will 'clear' a website of ads and distractions, allowing you to concentrate on the information on the page or website.

Parental Support

POSCH are an organisation who support parents, carers and grandparents of children who have additional needs, whether or not the child has a diagnosis. The next meeting in the North Yorkshire area is Thursday 17th February at the Mencap Centre in Northallerton. For anyone interested in attending, more information can be found by contacting the group on poschinfo@gmail.com.

Running champ!

Last month Christy in Y10 came 6th in the North Yorkshire Schools Cross Country which gives him automatic qualification to English Schools and the Northern Counties XC competitions. He was the first student in his age group across the line and will be travelling to Kent with the North Yorkshire Schools team for English Schools in March. We wish him the very best of luck!

Girls' Football County Cup

Our Y8 Girls are into the semi-finals of the County Cup! 13 students travelled to York to take part in Fulford School v Stokesley School and gained a fantastic victory in the quarter-final. The score was 3-1 and the player of the match was Lola in Y8.

Chinese New Year

For Chinese New Year, our catering team did a brilliant job of making a special lunch for our canteen and café areas!





Advanced Exam Information

On Monday 7th February we received the advanced exam information from our exam boards and we are already working closely with our Heads of Faculty and Department, who have plans in place to amend teaching, learning and assessment accordingly. As you will have seen in the press, there has been variation in the quantity and detail of the advanced information we have received.

Sixth Form News

Driving awareness

Our Y13 recently had an assembly delivered by a colleague from Richmond School on driving awareness: a crucial topic given the statistics around the disproportionate number of accidents that involve new drivers. This hard-hitting talk is designed to encourage students to think about the consequences of their actions behind the wheel, and was well received by the students. The Y12 students will be receiving the same talk after half term.

UCAS

All of our UCAS applications were submitted on time, thanks to the hard work of the students and the Y13 tutor team. The offers are flooding in, but the students do not need to panic if they are yet to receive an offer from their preferred placement; this can take up until the end of May so patience is key! In the coming weeks, students will be given further guidance about next steps with regards to UCAS. They do, however, have until 9th June to decide their options so there's no need to make decisions too quickly! Anyone not planning on attending university post-18 continues to be offered bespoke careers advice and guidance in college.

Y13 Assessments

Y13 assessments take place throughout next week. To confirm, students are only expected in school if they have an exam and the normal timetable is suspended for the week. Students are welcome to come in and use the facilities in school to study if they wish to, however, and teachers will be available at the usual lesson times to provide subject specific support.

Job Opportunity - Senior Laboratory Technician

A rare and exciting opportunity has arisen for a Senior Laboratory Technician at Stokesley School following the retirement of a much-loved colleague.

The responsibility of the Senior Lab Technician is to manage and lead the science support team in their core purpose of providing technical support to teachers of science.





You will assist with the delivery of practical work in the school science classrooms and be responsible for the science laboratories and prep room, working closely with all members of the science department. The role is essential in helping teachers to deliver lessons as effectively as possible and to support our students to get the most they possibly can out of science lessons and - as our motto states - '*be the best they can be*'

This could provide an opportunity for an experienced technician, but also someone with a science background/education looking for an opportunity to gain experience of working in schools.

For more information please visit: <https://aretelearningtrust.org/vacancies/>

Dates for your diary

Half term ends at 3:20pm	Friday 18th February
National Careers Week	Week commencing 7th March
D of E Bronze award Training day	Saturday 12th March
Y10, 11, 12, 13 PRP2 reports home	Week commencing 14th March
Y10 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 15th March
D of E Navigation Training day (Silver)	Saturday 19th March
Y11 Parents' Evening for Targeted Parents	Tuesday 22nd March
School trip to 'School of Rock'	Thursday 31st March
D of E Silver practice expedition	Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd April
D of E Gold practice expedition	Saturday 2nd - Monday 4th April
D of E Bronze award Training Day	Saturday 2nd April
Training Day (no students in school)	Friday 8th April
Easter Holiday	Monday 11th - Friday 22nd April

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett,
Headteacher

