

12th December 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

With Christmas just around the corner, I am writing to inform you about arrangements for the last day of term.

The school breaks up for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, 21st December at 12:20 pm. School meals will not be available. However, if your child is in receipt of free school meals, and would like a packed lunch on the final day, they should inform the kitchen by Thursday, 15th December at the latest.

Normal lessons will continue right up until 12:20 pm on the 21st December and it is therefore very important that your child attends as normal. The school day will have normal timings until the early finish at lunchtime.

The 21st will be a non-uniform day and students can come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers (no pyjamas, fancy dress or onesies please); we are asking for a 50p donation to charity.

School re-opens on Thursday, 5th January 2017 at the normal time (this is a timetable week 2). Year 11 students will receive their mock examination results in the morning on the 5th January and the Year 11 Parents' Evening is from 4 – 7pm on the same day. If you are in any doubt about term dates etc., please refer to our website.

On the reverse of this letter you will find a Christmas Newsletter with information about what has been happening in school over the past few months. I hope you find it interesting.

I would like to thank you for your support throughout 2016 and trust that you and your family will have a very happy Christmas and a healthy, safe and prosperous 2017.

Best wishes

C. J. Waugh

Mrs C. Waugh
Head of School

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CHRISTMAS 2016 NEWSLETTER

Awards and Rewards - This year the College Half Termly Award Assemblies have been very well received and the school has been very pleased to award almost three hundred students their 100% attendance certificates. Additionally, more than 150 students have been congratulated for having the most positive achievement points with NO negatives.

All of our tutors regularly have pleasingly difficult decisions to make. Every half term they select a member of the form who has made the biggest contribution and every week a form member is chosen to go into first lunch because of their excellent attitude all week. Tutors often report that it is hard to choose just one! The students who had performed well so far this year were also given the opportunity to go the Metro Centre at Christmas.

The Mastery League - See It, Make It! - The Mastery League, a weekly club for more able students run by Mrs Rose, is currently involved in an exciting filmmaking course delivered by 'Into Film'. 'See It, Make It', is a filmmaking programme where a professional film practitioner visits school each week to support students and deliver training on film making skills. The Mastery League have been very busy this term, learning about creating story boards, editing and getting to grips with camera angles and they are just about to start filming their short film on location at Redcar seafront and in and around school. The Mastery League are looking for student extras (and some teachers?!) to appear in scenes, see Mrs Rose or Mr Coomber for details of how you can get involved. The final film will be shown on the big screen at local cinema.

Remember remember the fifth of November... In October, the touring theatre company, 'Blah Blah Blah', came into school to deliver a piece of participatory theatre called 'Hide and Seek' to a range of students from KS3. This dynamic participatory performance explored the story of the gunpowder plot and highlighted issues of extremism. The performance explored events leading up to the 5th November 1605 and the foiled attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament to topple the King. Following in the footsteps of a group of conspirators, the audience witnessed and were directly implicated in this resonant historical event – students experienced the religious persecution, watched as the plotters unfurled their devastating plan, witnessed the King enforcing oppressive policies and imagined the potential consequences of an historical act of terror.

Students had an opportunity to explore the sensitive issue of extremism with the actors and learnt how to use drama to make meaningful connections to the world beyond the classroom.

Duke of Edinburgh - 30 of our current Y11s have successfully passed their Bronze DofE Award and some are going on to complete their Silver Award. Well done to all.

This year 35 Y9/10 pupils have signed up to do their Bronze DofE Award with Miss Lumb in partnership with Hellen Higgs at the 25K youth centre in Redcar. Their first task will be a sponsored walk to raise money for Jessica Sherrington in Y8 at Rye Hills, who has recently been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

Head Girl and Head Boy / School Council – Congratulations to Queenie Griffiths and Ryan Wold on their appointments as Head girl and Head boy, and also to Lewis Sanderson who has been appointed as their Deputy.

The School Council have already held their first meeting of the new year and will continue to meet on a regular basis, working on a number of projects, some of which are already underway. Fund raising activities are also being planned to raise money for Jessica's Smile. The Council are hoping to get an Interact Club up and running, and have been in touch with some external contacts.

Well done to Jacob Unwin and Shelby Cockburn who completed their year as Head boy and Head girl at the school's Remembrance Service.