

9th February 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Just a reminder that the school is closed next week for the February half-term holiday, and is also closed to all students tomorrow, Friday 10th February, as this is one of our compulsory staff training (PD) days.

School will re-open on Monday, 20th February 2017 at the normal time (this is a timetable Week 2).

Over the course of the half-term holiday a number of extra booster classes have been arranged for Year 11 students. If your child has been invited to one or more of these booster classes, please strongly encourage them to attend as research has shown that such sessions can have a significant impact on exam results.

I am pleased to report that everything is going ahead smoothly with our conversion to academy status, when we will join the Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust. Consultations with parents, staff and a range of other stakeholders have taken place, and staff in both schools are working hard towards the anticipated conversion date of 1st March. I will, of course, keep you informed of progress towards academisation.

We have taken the decision that after the half term holiday scooters will not be allowed within the school building, or in the playground, as they are becoming an increasing health and safety concern. Mr Carney has spoken to the students to explain this and I would appreciate it if those who still wish to come to school on a scooter bring a suitable lock to ensure it is safe and secure throughout the school day. Many thanks in advance for your support.

On the reverse of this letter you will find a brief Newsletter with information about what has been happening in school since the start of the Spring Term. We wish the students an enjoyable break and look forward to seeing them on Monday 20th February.

Best wishes

C. J. Waugh

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FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Duke of Edinburgh - 27 students were awarded their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze certificates and badges at a presentation evening at Freebrough Academy at the beginning of February. Many congratulations to all those involved.

Change 4 Life Sporting Event - On 1st February, 20 students from Y8 helped support the Change 4 Life Event at Eston Leisure Centre, run by the Sports Partnership Team. This event aimed to enthuse primary school pupils identified as being disengaged from PE, sport and physical activity.

After the event, our students were highly praised for their attitude, behaviour, leadership skills and qualities. Neil Young, Competition Manager and School Sport Co-ordinator, reported that he had been approached by nearly all the primary teachers who attended, heaping praise on each and every one of our students and remarking what good role models they were for the youngsters to follow. Very well done to everyone involved.

Attendance – Congratulations to our students on improving the school's attendance when compared to the last academic year. Particularly pleasing are the KS4 students, Y11 in particular, whose improvement has been significant. As attendance is directly linked to progress, we are sure our students will reap the rewards for their efforts. Keep up the good work!

Jessica's Smile – At break-time on Wednesday, 8th February a sweet stall, run by Jessica and her friends, sold sweets in aid of Jessica's Smile, a charity which gives individual grants to children who are newly diagnosed with cancer. Their efforts raised just under £200. Well done girls.

Y11 Catering Exam - We have seen some absolutely fantastic results from the year 11 catering students this week in their final exam. The students have had to cook a two course meal for two people based on food from another country. Some particular highlights were:

- Roast duck in a cherry sauce served with fondant potatoes and seasonal vegetables, followed by a delicious tart tatin.
- A beautiful lasagne with freshly made pasta served with salad, followed by brandy snap baskets filled with a delicious coffee mousse.
- A very impressive seabass with ginger and spring onion, with a dessert of sesame banana in a caramel sauce served with homemade vanilla ice cream.
- Armenian lamb shish kebabs served with yalanchi, with a beautiful Gata for dessert

Getting into the Top Universities Conference – A group of Year 10 Gifted & Talented students attended a 'Getting into the Top Universities' Conference at Sage, Gateshead last week, in which they received encouragement and information to apply to the top universities in the country. They were also given lots of advice about the application process and about their post 16 choices.