

Year 10 Spring Half-Term Newsletter

Message from Mr Johnson

As you are aware, this term we have been highlighting the importance of punctuality with our students. This has had a significant impact and we are very pleased with how our students have responded to the challenge. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children maintain excellent attendance and punctuality records: these are important habits for them to develop for life after school.

This term has also seen more fantastic fundraising efforts with the NSPCC Number Day taking place on February 4th. Thank you to everyone who donated to such a worthy cause. The total raised for this event stands at nearly £550.

After the break, we return to school on 21st February. We will continue wearing masks for the first week as we all settle back into being in school but we will review this before the end of that week and communicate with you again.

I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the break with your children.

Best wishes

Mr Johnson

Year 10 students have just completed their first GCSE assessment window where they have sat past paper questions in multiple subjects over a fortnight. I have been delighted by the way that they have responded to this and by the feedback that I have had from their subject teachers. They are on track to be the best achieving year group at Springwood for some time, with several notable individual achievements! We are now in the process of analysing these results and celebrating their efforts. Well done to all our students for all their hard work during this period!

We will be publishing the first set of reports for your child in time for our parents' evening, which will be online again, on the first Thursday after the February half term, 24th February 2022. This is a really important opportunity for you to speak to your child's subject teachers and discuss how they are progressing in their chosen GCSE subjects. I would encourage students to also participate as this is, after all, about them and what they need to do to achieve.



Our Year 10 Historians have now completed their GCSE Medicine through Time topic which included medical care on the Western Front during World War One. As part of this, I organised for the renowned Historian Andy Robertshaw to come in and talk to us! He brought with him his props that he had used on Hollywood films like 1917 and War Horse. He educated and entertained the students with tales of bravery and sacrifice in the trenches and his work with famous film directors like Steven Spielberg and Sam Mendes. Afterwards, Andy Robertshaw kindly met with our sixth form students and discussed his career path and the opportunities available for History graduates in the workplace.



I was delighted to be able to award 100% attendance certificates for last term to so many of our Year 10 students, particularly in the middle of the current Covid crisis. The importance of wearing masks and sanitising hands as students enter and leave a room enabled both students and staff to stay healthy and in school more and ensured that students did not miss key information in the lead up to their first GCSE assessments.



These amazing Year 10 student's all got through to the final selection for Springwood's Rotary Club Young Chef of the Year Competition.

Cody Todd was the eventual winner and has progressed through to the next round representing Springwood. A big well done to you all, and best of luck Cody, at the next stage!

The High Flyers group met again online after school this month with a past student who, when in Year 13, faced the difficult choice between studying at Oxford University or taking up a place with Rolls Royce on their management apprenticeship scheme. The aim was to provide students with an insight into what opportunities are available to them at the end of sixth form. Our careers advisor, Christine Walton was also present to explain to students how they can apply for these schemes. I was so impressed with the opportunities that these schemes provide, to gain degree standard qualifications while being paid and avoid student debt, that I have invited in another guest speaker to explain apprenticeships to the whole year group during our next Super Learning Day. I also plan to launch during that SLD, the online 'Unifrog' system that makes applying for these opportunities so much easier. More about this will follow in our next newsletter.

All students in Year 10 now have a dedicated PSHE book (Personal, Social, Health and Economic). This new curriculum is being delivered during tutor periods each morning and also within every student's normal lessons. So far, we have covered topics as diverse as Relationships, Homelessness, Exam Stress, Employability, Social Media and Self Esteem. Subject links with RE, Science and IT (to name but a few obvious ones) are also highlighted in lessons and students given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with staff.

We have also launched a school wide initiative to reward students for excellent books. Gold and silver stickers are being awarded for students who have completed all their work to a high standard and prizes will be awarded for continued improvement. It is really important that the classwork that students are producing in Year 10 is good enough for them to be able to revise from in a year's time. Half completed diagrams or poorly spelt key terms and names will not help with a student's confidence and revision when it matters.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued help and support during the Covid pandemic, particularly with encouraging students to wear masks in school and encouraging them to login to the relevant google classroom if they are isolating. Since Christmas we have had a spike in the local area of Covid cases that has resulted in a small but significant number of students and staff working from home and some classes being taught in the hall, but this spike appears to be receding and the government are signalling that restrictions may be coming to an end soon!

Mr Scoles, Head of Year and Miss Wright, Year Office Manager.