

## Key Messages from Mr Johnson

This half term has certainly flown by and we have been so impressed with the way our students have been working in their lessons and how they have adapted to the changes we have had to make.

There has been an excellent effort made on wearing masks and following one-way systems. We have praised students ourselves, but please reiterate this message at home; their efforts are very much appreciated.

One way our students show pride in their school is the way in which they wear their uniform. This has been a little more difficult than normal while students are wearing their PE kits to school. We value your support in maintaining our standards by ensuring your child only wears permitted items of clothing. If you are not sure what is allowed, please check your child's planner or the Springwood website. Please note that hoodies are not allowed at any time including on PE days.

Mr Johnson



The Springwood Parent, Teacher, Friend Association, PTFA, is an excellent way to bring people together to raise money and help support the school and the pupils of Springwood.

It provides an opportunity for everyone to work together to:

- Raise funds to help the school provide extra resources for the pupils.
- Provide support for school trips and outings and other special events.

We have a new chair of the PTFA, **Paul Blandford**, and we would like to encourage all parents, teachers and school staff to get involved even if you only have a small amount of time available. You may wish to join the committee and be involved in the organisation, or just be available to serve teas and coffees at PTFA events - you may even just like to provide the odd cake here and there! Whatever your preferred commitment, large or small, the Springwood PTFA would be very grateful for your help.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 6-30 pm on-line**. If you are interested in joining us, please email [ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk) and we will ensure that the zoom link is shared with you ahead of the next meeting.

The class of 2023 becomes Year 9!

Even with the national lockdown this seems to have come around very quickly! Your child is now almost half way through their time with us at Springwood and I've packed this year full of activities to keep them focussed and equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to successfully transition from children into young adults. Below is this year's Learning Journey that our Tutors will deliver each morning during Year 9 tutor time.

## Take responsibility! The Yr 9 Learning Journey.



We have adapted our method of delivering assemblies so that I now deliver these once a week from my office and connect into each tutor room; it is not as much fun as interacting in the hall with 280 of my year group but it's the next best thing under the current circumstances. I'd like to thank you for all your help in keeping our students safe, your support at home reinforcing our rules in school, like our one way systems, hand sanitisers in each room and wearing face masks whenever we move around the school has enabled Springwood to return this term and stay safe and open.



This term we have launched the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with my year group and set each tutor group the target of outperforming the national average for completed Bronze awards. Thank you for your support with this and for returning your signed consent forms. The D of E programme is split into four areas to be completed, Skill, Volunteering, Physical and an Expedition. The cost of participation is usually £130, but this has been reduced to £30 during the Covid outbreak and the Expedition requirement removed. The Head has kindly agreed to pay this fee for every child in Year 9 and I have introduced a first aid course into tutor time that once completed will meet the Skills part of the

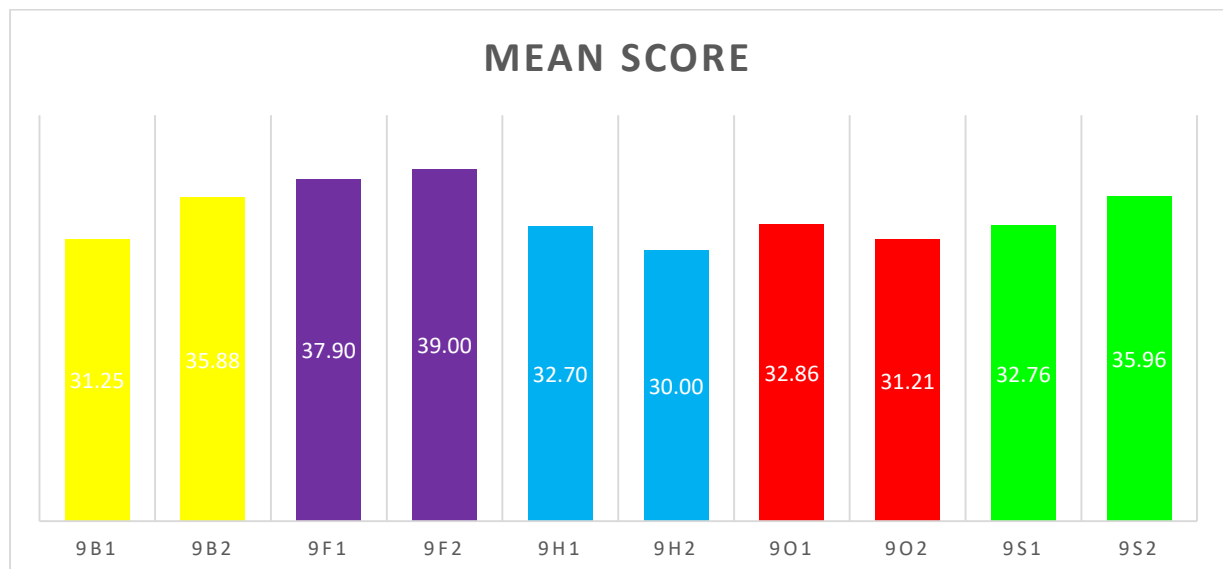
award. Students can complete the Volunteering and Physical sections in school or at home to gain a nationally recognised award. We will provide further guidance on this in later newsletters.

As part of our programme of encouraging students to participate in more extra-curricular activities, we are awarding Key Stage Three Champions Certificates and Role Model badges to students who are involved in positive activities outside of school. To be nominated please speak to your form tutor and tell him or her what you do! September's winners in Year 9 are;

Sammi Barlow – A talented showjumper who has participated in many competitions and represented Norfolk and England. Recently Sammi has been to Bolesworth Castle to jump in the National Championships and represented Norfolk at the Stoneleigh Estate in Coventry.

Ben Cross - Ben has been making PPE equipment with his family for the NHS since lockdown began. This included making masks and scrubs – a fantastic demonstration of community spirit. Both of you will be presented your certificate and badge by Mr Johnson.

Just before lockdown we were able to praise 8F1 and Mr Childs for being in the lead in our Form Competition. Well done everyone and 8F1, your form name has been added to our Form Competition trophy! This is something that I established right back at the beginning of Year 7 to encourage inter form rivalry and promote the very best characteristics in our students. They are awarded points for 100% attendance, 95%+ attendance, not being late to lessons, achievement points etc. However they also have points deducted for any behaviour points, missed homework or lack of equipment and PE kit. Each student is given a score and this is then averaged by the number of students in each form. Good forms support and challenge each other to consistently do well over each term. The latest results for the first half-term of Year 9 are below!



This year at Springwood we have introduced a new knowledge rich curriculum and produced termly knowledge organisers for each Key Stage Three year groups. This will replace the usual homework that your child is set and contains the essential information that a student needs to know to succeed each term. Monthly quizzes will be set by me and the scores kept by form tutors to monitor progress. Can you please encourage your child to learn the contents of these books at home? Spare copies can be obtained from form tutors, the year office or online via the school website.



## Google Classrooms



Please can you check with your child that they can access their school email account and have accepted their subject requests so we can continue lessons online should we need too? Many subjects are now using Google Classrooms to share resources, PowerPoints from lessons and additional support in an effort to encourage pupils to become familiar with this system before it is needed in earnest. Cambridge University already use this as their sole way of communicating with students and I'd like to take this opportunity to praise The Brilliant Club students who have joined me and Cambridge University every Thursday afternoon after school online to complete their first research project on medicine. Much of the content we have already covered so far this year is at a GCSE level; well-done guys!