



## Newsletter – Friday 26 May 2023

Another half-term has flown as summer has arrived at last. We began in January to fully open the 3G at lunchtimes for all students to use and staffing that in the winter months required several layers and a bobble hat! It has been a more pleasant experience in recent weeks and the numbers out on the 3G and on the field have swelled. It has been great to see so many students out in the fresh air.

Of course, in schools the summer months also usher in the exam season. Our Year 11s are in the midst of that now with a GCSE German paper in progress as I write these words. Each morning our pastoral team have hosted an exam breakfast for all our Year 11s in the hall. It is Eskdale at its best. The students have had a space to be with each other in a welcoming atmosphere with staff greeting them with a smile. The Year 11 tutors and the Heads of Year, Mrs Scales and Mr Raw have helped support the students in those last few minutes before the exams begin. The vast majority of students themselves have responded well. I would commend them for their overall approach and encourage them to continue to take each exam seriously. The last exam requires the same attention to detail as the first. Arrive on time, bring the right equipment and follow the exam regulations to the letter has to be the mantra. This forthcoming holiday offers one more chance to use the time wisely to revise and relax. There is still time to make a difference at this late stage!

This afternoon there is a Year 11 Leavers' Service in the hall with an opportunity for the year group to come together in school and reflect on their time here. The success of the boys' football team has meant this service was postponed two weeks ago. Already cup winners, the boys travelled to Queen Ethelberga's, near York and won 3-1 in a county cup semi-final. The final is still to be played in this elongated season. There are also more fundraising activities for the Year 11 Prom happening today too, including the popular 'Pie the Teacher'! The Prom is at Sneaton Castle on Thursday 6 July and offers a chance for a post-exam celebration. Further details of this event will follow for Year 11 student and parents soon. The Year 11s are enjoying each other's company today as their time here draws to a close.

The wheel will turn quickly for Year 10 and in a blink of an eye it will be them sitting their final exams. In preparation for that Year 10 will undertake mock exams beginning Monday 26 June. These are important and students in Year 10 should use the holidays to put some time into their preparation. The exams will be a mock in the sense of the experience too with the Year 10s following the same procedures as our Year 11s currently are. Students who really put the effort in will benefit from authentic feedback in where they are in each subject.

Whilst an academic focus is essential in school, it is not the be all and end all. Last weekend a group of students undertook their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition under the careful guidance of Mr Bloor and Mr Matthewson. This is such a wonderful programme to be involved in and I hope that the students will continue on to complete their Gold Award in time. It was fantastic to chat with the students about their experience in school this week.

The last week of any half-term is always busy and for me this week has been especially so. On Tuesday and Wednesday my days were taken up interviewing candidates for our advertised teaching vacancies. It is one of the aspects of my role that I particularly enjoy and meeting teachers from different schools with different careers is always interesting. I am delighted to let you all know we have filled all the vacancies that we advertised, including replenishing the science faculty ready for the new term in September. The process was rigorous and I am sure the new staff will be made to feel welcome here. I will give you all a full staffing update in my end of term newsletter in July. Regarding the end of the summer term on Friday 21 July; that day will be an earlier finish at 12.35 after Period 3. There will be an expanded food service at breaktime (11.15-11.35), as there will be no lunch served. Any changes to travel for students using buses and/or trains will be communicated to you in good time before the 21 July.

As the academic year moves to its last half-term, traditionally that is when uniform becomes more of a challenge in schools. I would ask for parents continuing support with helping keep our improving expectations high. Our uniform helps to bind the school together and reduce any feeling of inequality amongst our students. A reminder that hoodies or sweatshirts should not be worn in school at all. These should be in bags. School sweaters or blazers can be worn over school shirts, that should be worn with a school tie. As per the message sent to parents yesterday, if students choose to wear shorts these should be black and tailored style. Sports shorts of any kind should not be worn. On the theme of uniform, we have had notice that Laughing Whale will no longer be supplying uniform. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the work they have done with us and wish them luck with any future ventures. They still have some uniform in stock at their normal website. In the meantime, we have found a new supplier. Their website is [here](#). They will be popping up to Whitby shortly and we will send you that information as soon as we know it. There are plans to hold a table-top pay what you can uniform sale in school next half-term. We have some clean second-hand stock which we would like to get to students. Details of this will follow after half-term and if anyone would like to donate any uniform that is no longer needed we would gratefully accept that. Any funds raised will be repurposed back into the school to help provide more opportunities for Eskdale students.

Winter sports have now just about given way to summer ones. Mr Raw reports:

'The PE staff have been busy with athletics preparing our girls and boys for the different Scarborough and district competitions and trials. Success at Malton School this week has seen 12 students from a variety of year groups come in the top 3 places against other Whitby/Ryedale Schools. These students will now compete in June at York College Athletics stadium against Scarborough and Filey students in the annual 'Town v's Country' Athletics event. Previously at the start of May a number of students attended trials for the area athletics squad. These students will now represent the Scarborough District at the County Event in York in June. Luca, Esme H, Jack Mc, Ellie W and Jackson all achieving success into the county event.'

Cricket is also under way with recent success against Fylinghall for the U15s. They also defeated Malton this last night in the District Cup with captain Nat Parker providing the guiding innings to ensure we knocked off the 95-run target. Mr Raw's boys are chopping at the bit and attending nets every lunch to try progress towards the finals at Scarborough County Cricket Club in July. As a cricketer myself it was a real pleasure to nip out in between meetings yesterday to watch the boys play for twenty minutes. There is plenty of talent and commitment in the team, which is great to see. The U13 boys' cricketers played a 'Federation' game last week with CCW where players from both schools mixed up to create two new teams. A big thanks to Mr Hopper for organising this.

There is still much to look forward to in the last seven weeks of the year and I look forward to seeing how the students do next! We rely on your support to help us make their experience here as positive as possible and please continue to contact us if there are things you would like to raise. Often the niggles can be sorted quickly! We don't always get things right, but we always try and always focus on what is best for the students. I will close now by wishing you a nice long weekend and hope the sun continues to shine!

Yours Sincerely,



Mr PJ Nicholson  
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