

December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

With Christmas fast approaching and the festive season well under way we wanted to wish you all a lovely festive holiday and take this opportunity to share with you all of the great things that are happening in our academy.

**Site:** We are thrilled that that work has commenced on the new Sports hall and all weather pitch. There will inevitably be some additional noise and disruption to the outside space but we are sure you will all agree that the new facility will be invaluable to students and the community alike. It is very pleasing to see the initial structure start to take shape and to finally appreciate the scale of this project. Changes in the project have meant that, subject to planning, we have been able to make some additions to include spaces on the first floor. There will be an addition of a chairlift, a new gym facility and a large P.E. classroom.

Over the summer holidays works continued to improve the learning environments. Flooring has been renewed in corridors and classrooms as well the fantastic restoration of the flooring in the main hall. Redecoration has continued in some classrooms and new permanent displays have been installed brightening corridors. All student toilets have now been refurbished and these are making a huge difference for our students.

Further future works will include, a phased replacement of the windows throughout the building, the refurbishment of a new art room, a revamp of the Post 16 block, relocation of the reception area and parent meeting rooms. Following the demolition of the current gyms new hard standing areas will be instated. As the major building works are completed the new entrance gates and pedestrian fencing will be installed to allow for public use of the sports facilities etc. The site will be truly transformed and better serve the needs of its community.

**Charity:** Mr O'Neill has led the way on fundraising this year, working with our highly committed student voice. Our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December was not only greatly enjoyed, but raised a fantastic £236 for Save the Children. This is added to the £193 raised by a bake sale for Children in Need. We held a reverse advent calendar campaign in VMG and were pleased to hand over three trolleys full of food and toiletries to the Easingwold foodbank. There are lots more fundraising initiatives planned for 2020. Our students show respect and compassion for others and this is reflected in their charitable work. Well done to everyone who supports their work.

**Departmental News:** Miss Amess took two teams of Y7 and Y8 students to the Yorkshire final of the Kids Lit Quiz, our students were awarded an impressive 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A team of budding computer scientists took part in an inter-academy ARM event creating a computer, controlled boat and testing it in a paddling pool! Our languages department took a group of students to a trust wide excellence in languages event. In science our department gave local primary school children the opportunity to explore various aspects of careers in medicine and sports science, with an active hi tech circuit where students could measure every aspect of their physical performance. Students had a chance to learn and try out some basic medical techniques on realistic models, and some detailed career advice on the different types of jobs available in medicine and sports science.

On Monday 11th November, Mercury passed directly between the Earth and the Sun. This rare event is called a transit of Mercury, and is only visible through a telescope fitted with a special filter. It is important to only attempt to look at the sun like this with the help of an expert - we were lucky that experienced member of the York Astronomical society Martin Whillock came in with his telescope and solar filter to work with us that day. Mercury appeared as a tiny dot, and over the course of a few hours, made its way across the disc of the sun. A number of students who study Astronomy and

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Physics were able to look through the telescope and filter and observe it, when breaks in the clouds allowed.

**Sixth Form News:** We've had a very busy term in sixth form with seven different trips for students from year 11 to 13. We started with 15 students and 5 staff walking the three Yorkshire peaks for charity, raising nearly £1000 in the process, and have continued throughout the term with visits to different "top" universities and the National Apprenticeship show. Most recently, we were so proud of our debating team who went to St Peter's school in York and were successful in progressing to the next round of the English Speaking Union's Mace competition. This fantastic achievement demonstrates the excellent calibre of debate from our wonderful students.

We continue to welcome guest speakers into sixth form and enjoyed some extremely informative road safety awareness training delivered by North Yorkshire police and fire service as well as some great business advice from a recent Dragon's Den contestant. Some of our year 13 students have completed work experience this term and Year 12 have begun their process for securing their placements in July. Our Year 12 students ran a mock election in school ahead of the general election on 12th December and we enjoyed seeing who our students in year 7 and year 8 were persuaded to vote for.

Our fantastic sixth formers support younger students through a paired reading scheme and our sixth formers continue to act as our best ambassadors. Lastly, our transition process for Y11 started with an assembly for the whole year group followed by our well-attended sixth form open evening in October ahead of our taster day on 24th January 2020. We hope and expect that many of our year 11s are recognizing the outstanding provision at our sixth form. We are the highest performing state maintained sixth form in North Yorkshire for the last two years achieving excellent outcomes both academic and personal for our students. We encourage our current Year 11 students to continue their studies at Easingwold. Congratulations to Mr Garnham, whose excellent work leading the Sixth Form was recognised with his permanent appointment to this role. It is an exciting time for our sixth form we are determined to sustain a thriving high quality sixth form provision for our community.

**Sporting news:** It has been an exceptionally busy term of sporting fixtures – in some very inclement weather! Just a few of the highlights include the Area Cross Country competition at Northallerton on Wednesday 13th November 36 students represented our academy and worked exceptionally well as a team despite the cold and wintery conditions. One team took the overall 3rd position. Y7 have made an exceptional start being undefeated this year and have made the area cup semi-final scoring 29 goals and conceding only 2 goals on the way. Outstanding performances against Stokesley and Thirsk. Well done to all who have represented our academy.

**Promoting Health and Well-being:** In October we were fortunate to host the British Heart Foundation Restart a Heart day. All students in Y8 and 9 were trained in how to administer CPR and use a defibrillator receiving certificates to acknowledge their attendance and new knowledge. The staff from the BHF complement our students on their enthusiasm and impeccable conduct. In November, all students in year 9, 10 and 11 participated in a workshop run by Darlington Mind in order to promote positive mental wellbeing and support strategies. The students were very positive about this workshop.

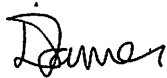
**Creative Arts:** The Creative and Performing Arts department staged their Winter Concert last week and what a success it was! We have received lots of fantastic feedback and we were extremely proud of the 99 students who played a part in the collection of music, dance and drama. The department have also been busy participating in the Crib Service in Easingwold market place and singing carols in the Galtres Centre. In the new year, the department's attentions will turn to the school production, We Will Rock You, in April.

**Student Successes:** Well done to Matilda Priest who passed her Grade 4 flute exam. Anya Holmes-Ellerker was crowned JKS National Individual Kata Champion for Karate in November and last week passed her black belt grading – an incredible achievement! Well done also to Harry Gilson-Fox who has been selected as part of the Yorkshire RFU Academy team to play against Wasps last weekend. Eloise Gunn collected a host of medals at the Yorkshire swimming finals last month.

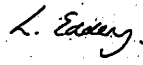
**Staff:** This term we have welcomed two new Cover Supervisors, Miss Nahk and Mr Linthwaite and a new Learning Manager Mrs Jackson. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Parks our Site Supervisor and would like to thank him for all his hard work keeping the site running smoothly. Congratulations to Mrs Zervakis, Mrs Duncan and Mrs Kennedy who all welcomed new babies over the last few months – we wish them and their families all the best for a very special Christmas! And again, congratulations to Mr Garnham who was recently successful in being appointed as Assistant Principal Head of Post 16.

**Date for the Diary:** We need to let you know of a change of date – the Open Evening for years 8,10 and 13 will now take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, a week later than previously advertised.

We hope this gives a taste of all the fantastic things the students and staff have been getting up to over the last term alongside their commitment to their studies. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support. It is greatly appreciated. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and healthy new year and look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.



Lynn James  
Executive Principal



Laura Eddery  
Principal