



## Newsletter February 2022

We would like to share with you all of the fantastic things that have been happening across the academy this half-term.

### **Reading**

**The Reading Challenge** continues this Term with students in Key Stage Three, Four and Five each encouraged to read 10 specially selected books before they finish that Key Stage. All students have been invited to take part in this on Google Classroom. Students can read the 10 books in any order but one book is featured as the book of the month. Our next books are 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' - Years 7 and 8, 'To Kill a Mockingbird' Years 9,10 and 11 and 'Rebecca' for the Sixth Form. Each time a student reads one of the books and submits a review of it on to Google Classroom, they are entered into a prize draw to win a £20 Amazon voucher at the end of the year. All the books are available in the school library and can be reserved through Accessit (link on the homepage of the website). Where possible links are provided to online texts or audio versions. The more books you read, the more chances you have of winning the prize. Some of the books have been included in the form readers.

**Sixth Form Reading Mentors.** We are very privileged at Easingwold to have fantastic Sixth Formers, twenty of whom are acting as Reading Mentors for students in Year 7,8 and 9. Meeting on a Thursday morning, the students read to each other to develop their reading fluency.

### **Reading Interventions**

A huge number of Reading Interventions have taken place across the academy this term with 74 students accessing Reading support in phonics, word study, grammar and comprehension.

**World Book Day - 3rd March.** The English Department has lots of exciting things planned to celebrate World Book Day, including Book Bingo, a Battle of the Books Quiz and a reading of Anthony Horowitz's short story, 'Scared'.

### **The Impact of Reading**

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are set homework to read at home with an adult for at least an hour a day. Students are expected to quiz on the book once they have finished using the Accelerated Reading Programme. This can be accessed via the Academy website by clicking

on the Library tab. Students who regularly read at home will develop their reading age and their reading fluency. A key way to support your child's learning is to promote a love of reading at home.

### **Praise**

It has been a privilege to reward our fantastic students with our Praise Points system this year. Students collect Star Student Stickers and these are logged as Praise Points with rewards being given out at the end of each Half Term for the students with the most Praise Points. The top thirty students with the most Praise Points each term are also invited for a celebration breakfast.

We have a brand new additional set of rewards due to start after the Easter holidays and we will give more information about this in the next newsletter.

### **Post-16**

It has been a busy half-term in the Sixth Form with a variety of important milestones and landmarks in this academic year taking place.

**Year 13** dealt with the pressure of mock exams early in the term extremely well, managing this alongside the university application deadline at the end of January. It is great to see these fantastic students rewarded with some very promising offers from some great universities and we are so proud of the students' continued hard work and resilience despite all the uncertainty that they have faced over the last two years. They are outstanding role-models for our younger students and super ambassadors for our school. Their focus is now turning towards their final exams in the summer with the recent guidance received from exam boards helping provide some clarity about the final challenge in front of them.

**Year 12** have had a productive half-term managing their studies alongside the mentoring that almost all of them provide for our younger students. They are also currently trying to find work placements for their work experience and we are always grateful of parents/carers in the school community making us aware if you are able to host a Year 12 student on work placement for a week in July. We were delighted to welcome a team from Hull University who talked to all of year 12 about how they might begin the process of choosing a University this year whilst we have also welcomed the National Citizenship Service into school to offer year 12 a place on a summer programme. We have been very grateful to F.O.E.S. for the money that they provided for the school to invest in an online careers platform called Unifrog, and this is helping to support students to investigate their next steps. In addition, we were pleased to host a virtual presentation from the Crown Prosecution Service who talked to students about a range of apprenticeship opportunities and careers in the civil service.

## **Holocaust Memorial Day**

We were very proud of Sixth Formers Joe and Jack who delivered an excellent lower school assembly to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Students in Year 9 and 10 watched a webcast with Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke who was born in Mauthausen concentration camp and survived the Holocaust. She was born on 29th April 1945, just a day after the Nazis had destroyed the camps gas chambers and less than a week before its liberation. Eva's mother, Anka, had voluntarily followed her husband Bernd to Auschwitz-Birkenau after he was transported there from Czechoslovakia where they had both been imprisoned. Anka was pregnant with Eva when she arrived there. However, she was never reunited with her husband who was killed on 18th January 1945 and never knew his wife was pregnant.

In RS lessons Year 9 and 10 students have been reflecting on the reasons why it is important to hear testimony from survivors and what they can learn from Eva's story.

## **Armed Forces Champion**

We are thrilled that Mrs Reed is our new Armed Forces Champion and will be contacting the families of service children over the coming weeks to discuss the support available in school.

## **Careers**

This half term saw the 15th National Apprenticeship week and the academy marked the occasion with a number of events. We invited the Crown Prosecution Service to come to school to speak to a group of students about careers within the CPS and the degree apprenticeship program that they are running. Students also learned about the Civil Service recruitment process during this very informative and enjoyable presentation.

Year 10 and 11 also received a talk from North Yorkshire Business and Enterprise Partnership. Students found out about what an apprenticeship is and all of the different access levels of apprenticeships from intermediate to degree level. The talk included information about all of the different types of industries that offer apprenticeships and local labour market information. We also had a careers talk from Yorkshire Water. Students from across the age ranges took part in the Digital Skills festival. This was a virtual careers festival that showed students new technologies being used to support App design, emerging technologies and job roles in the digital world. Finally, we were delighted to host the Global Programme Manager for Gestamp, Steve Harris, talk to our students about his career path and the different opportunities available in the world of engineering. We have been very grateful to all of the outside agencies who have provided some wonderful opportunities for our students.

This week the Army came to speak with our Year 10 students. They had a presentation about the wide range of different job roles that are available within the armed forces, career paths and their associated entry points. After this, students were able to sample the Army's Elite Skills workshop which included fun and engaging activities designed to develop the students teamwork and problem solving skills.

To round off the half-term on Friday we are due to welcome three undergraduate students from three different universities, to speak to our Year 10 students about the benefits of University. The undergraduates will talk about their A-levels, the thought process taken when deciding on which University to attend and course to study. The undergraduates will be keen to explain all of the benefits that university life has to offer.

And lastly, we are hoping to arrange a careers fair in the summer term for our students. If you would like to support this event by giving up some time to man a careers stall in the main hall then please email [enquiries@easingwold.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@easingwold.outwood.com).

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

This term has seen students enrolling for the different stages of the Award and choosing their activities for the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections. Some students have been completing their activities from last year and submitting their reports to be assessed.

Bronze Award - 56 Year 9 students have signed up for the Bronze award. They recently attended their first meeting with MidYorks Expeditions, who run the expedition section for our school, where they chose their groups for the Expedition phase. They will soon be enjoying a day's navigation training and then a Saturday in school learning campcraft, first aid and other expedition skills that will help prepare them for their two-day expedition in the Nidderdale area.

Congratulations to Elliott, Saima and Scott who have recently successfully completed their Bronze award.

Silver Award - 24 Year 10 and 11 students have signed up for the Silver award this year. Adam, Gabriele, George, Jack, Joseph, Lily, Maddie and Robert have all recently successfully completed their Silver award.

Gold Award - An amazing 13 Year 12 and 13 students are working towards their Gold Award this year.

It is good to see so many students getting involved in the Award this year and we hope they enjoy their various activities.



## Maths

A number of students entered an Outwood Grange Academies Trust wide online mathematical quiz over the Christmas break called the "Maths Masters Christmas Quiz". Congratulations to all those who completed the quiz but especially to Year 11 Marylin who scored the highest score of any Year 11 in the entire Trust!

## Creative and performing Arts

Students involved in this year's school production of We Will Rock You went to see the professional touring production of the musical at the Grand Opera House this week. 40 students saw the adventures of Scaramouche and Galileo and heard the music of the rock band Queen. Students, staff, parents and friends will be able to buy tickets to our production of the show later in the year. The production runs from July 19-21.

## Life Lessons

Students in all year groups have participated in workshops run by Sexpression:UK, which is a charity that uses near-peer university students to deliver age-appropriate sessions about sex and healthy relationships.

## Sport

It has been an extremely busy half term of sport and it has been wonderful to see fixtures resuming across all sports. Our fabulous PE staff have also been running badminton and table tennis interform tournaments during enrichment.

Our Under 13 Netball team came 4th in their first ever tournament with Evie and Lexi being nominated as players of the tournament.

The Under 12 Netball team attended their first ever tournament on Thursday and did really well. The results are still to be confirmed but we know they came either 3rd or 4th depending on goal difference.

Our Year 10 basketball team came 1st in their competition at Thirsk - a fantastic result!

And the Year 9 basketball team also came first in their tournament and are now through to the North Yorkshire finals at York College.

And our Year 7s Abigail, Liam, Jack, Ben, Josh, Albert, Joseph and Tom did fantastically well representing Hambleton and Richmondshire at the North Yorkshire Cross Country championships in January. Tom and Josh have qualified to go on to the National Finals in Market Harborough later in the year. What an achievement!

We wish you all a happy and safe half term holiday and look forward to seeing all students back in the academy on Monday 28th February 2022.

Miss Eddery, Principal.

