



The dark days of winter

This term is often a difficult time. The days are dark and short, the weather is cold, and there is often just the routine of school to follow. There are some key events for some students, though, so please watch for these as they arise.

At the same time, the clock is ticking, especially for those who have exams in the summer. And Year 11 and Year 13 students need to have sorted where they are going next year. We will be checking with each of them that they have done so.

There is a lot of uncertainty about the future of the country regarding Brexit at the moment, and this is dominating the news and also seems to be affecting much else happening in government. Despite this, there was a fair bit of coverage last week of the financial position that schools are in and I noted that one third of local authority schools (ones that are not academies) are now in deficit. Fortunately we are not one of those. I also saw mentioned that schools will be teaching first aid from next September: an excellent suggestion but nothing has yet been said to schools and doubtless it will be an unfunded proposal that we are left to make work.

Meanwhile, let's look on the bright side: the days are getting longer and brighter and we have an excellent school.

Sean Hayes

Years 7 and 8 Humanities Field Visits

All students in Years 7 and 8 have recently been issued with letters inviting them to attend fieldwork visits over the coming months. We would appreciate if permission and monies are returned as soon as possible, both to secure places on the visits and allow us to finalise transportation arrangements.

Year 7 Humanities Visit: Twycross Zoo 15 March 2019

This visit is part of the schools upcoming focus day activities programme. A contribution of £13.00 is required which covers the cost of travel and entrance to the zoo.



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Year 8 Geography Field Visit to Hunstanton - 24 June 2019

This visit is part of the Geography curriculum and supports work being done in class. A contribution of £11 is required which covers the cost of travel.

Year 7 Geography Field Visit to Ferry Meadows - 25 / 26 June 2019

This visit is part of the Geography curriculum and supports work being done in class. All students are expected to attend this visit. A contribution of £3.00 is required which covers the cost of coach travel.

We have tried to issue letters for all these visits as early as practically possible, in order to maximise student attendance. We look forward to receiving confirmations of attendance as soon as possible. Further details on all visits can be obtained from the student letters that have been issued.

Year 8 Spelling Bee Competition

On Tuesday 15 January, Year 8 students participated in the annual Spelling Bee Competition, and what a fantastic event it was!



Contestants from Ms Meagher, Ms Northover, Ms Stewart, Mr Chesham and Mrs Winlock's classes participated and, despite a large crowd, performed well under pressure. There was strong competition in both the individual and group categories to such an extent that both finals needed additional rounds because of ties between the top teams. Ultimately, Amanda Kasparkewica, Komal Ahmed, Christopher D'Souza and Rasika Monteiro from 8EN2 were identified as the group winners and they were very worthy winners. In

the individual competition, Breannah Holton was placed third, Elizabeth Desborough came in second and the Spelling Bee Champion for 2019 was none other than Piary Chimbeva!

Congratulations to our winners and all who participated in order to make this a memorable event.

Mrs Winlock



Christmas Short Story Competition

Congratulations to the winners of Christmas Short Story Competition, they are:
Jessie-May Cheetham for the best concept of a story
Kazim Rafiq-Fazal for the best piece of writing.

Congratulations!

Once again, well done to Austeja Klimovaitė who has recently written a winning poem called 'In a world where...'. She had been entered in the Young Writer's Poetry Competition and her poem has now been published in an anthology of poems called 'The Poetry Games'. She was one of thousands of students who entered the competition and to have a poem selected for publication, is no mean feat indeed. Congratulations Austeja. We are very proud of you!

Mrs Winlock



Languages Visit to Cambridge

On Monday, 8 students from Year 9 visited Magdalene College, University of Cambridge. There we got to experience tasters of different languages studied in University, such as French; Russian and Arabic. During these sessions we learnt different alphabets and how to write our names as well as basic conversation. We got to meet three university students who told us why we should take a language and gave us an insight on how university really works. We really enjoyed our day and we are all considering taking a language in the future!

Charlie Mastin & Ema Cibityte – Year 9

Year 9 Options

Please don't forget to book appointments for the options evening and also return the slip to Student Services booking a presentation slot.

The options process will be launched with Year 9 students during PSHE lessons next week.

Holocaust Memorial Day

The school is once again heavily involved in Peterborough's annual commemorations for Holocaust memorial day. Our three year 9 drama groups and the cadets will be going to the city centre during the morning and other year 9 students in school will be involved in a learning activity with the History department.

Any parents who are free at this time may want to go to the town centre to watch our students perform in drama pieces and take part in the ceremonies. More on this next week.

Year 9 Options and Parents Evening

Tuesday 29 January 2019
2.30pm – 6.30pm

Key Stage 4 Options presentations at
2.10pm
3.45pm
5.30pm

Use the online parents evening booking system to book appointments with teachers around your chosen presentation slot.

Myriad Project

The trial phase of the Myriad project has now begun. Parents will remember that we are working with a team of Oxford University researchers to investigate the impact of Mindfulness teaching on student resilience. The teaching groups 8C, 8D, 9A, 9D, and 9E will be undertaking a ten week Mindfulness course, called .b. Please ask your children about this if they are involved and also encourage them to try out the Home practices from next week on www.dotbe.org. Each week there is an animation to watch which summarises the key learning for the week and there is then a guided practice.



Group

Students who have already completed the .b course, or who are currently doing the course are invited to .b club on Monday lunchtimes in room 210. There will be the opportunity to have a go at the guided practices from lessons and try out the home practices together. See Miss Wilson for more details.

Academic Tutoring

Year 9
21 January – 1 February



'A year of reading ... a lifetime of memories.'