



# Hebburn Comprehensive School

Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear NE31 2QU

Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

DRT/KM

19 December 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

As another hugely successful term draws to a close, I would like to share with you what has gone on in school during the Autumn Term, as well providing you with some key information for the forthcoming Spring Term.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAST DAY OF TERM**

Pupils will finish at lunchtime on Friday 20 December after the final performance of the staff pantomime. Pupils in receipt of free schools meals, requiring a packed lunch should inform their Form Tutor by Wednesday. This can be collected from reception at the end of the morning.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR THE START OF THE NEW TERM**

School re-opens on Monday 6 January at the normal time of 8.50am, with our free Breakfast Club available from 8.00am. A reminder that all pupils should be in full correct uniform, as outlined in the school's uniform policy, which can be found on our website.

Our pupils have been involved in a number of events and activities throughout the term:

- At the start of term, pupils from our local primary schools attended a 'Professor Brainstorm' activity in the hall.
- Our Year 6 Open Evening took place on Thursday 19 September. Prospective parents and carers were hugely complimentary about our pupils and the warm welcome they received. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.
- Pupils in Year 11 attended the Skills North East event at Utilita Arena in Newcastle on Tuesday 17 September, which focused on future pathways.
- Another hugely successful Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on Friday 27 September in the dining hall and was attended by parents, relations and other members of the public. The sum of £625.92 was raised from raffles, donations and cake sales.
- A new 'Warhammer' club has been set up and has been successfully running on Wednesdays after school. This club has given several students, across year groups, the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills, be creative and make new friends. Students have been able to build and paint models which they then use to play the tabletop strategy game. Several of the students also took the opportunity to head down to the Warhammer store in South Shields over the October half term where they received a free, bespoke session on painting techniques and narrative gameplay.



- All Year 11 pupils attended the Newcastle Apprenticeship Event at Newcastle Race Course during the morning on Thursday 7 November, giving them an insight into apprenticeship opportunities when they leave school.
- A group of 15 Year 11 pupils attended 'Show Racism the Red Card' sessions during the morning on Tuesday 12, 19 & 26 November.
- A group of Year 8 pupils attended the Friends Against Bullies (FAB) Awards at Jarrow Focus on Wednesday 13 November.
- On Wednesday 23 October, 57 pupils from Year 11 and four members of staff attended a theatre production of J.B. Priestley's, *An Inspector Calls*, at Newcastle's Theatre Royal. As well as being a fun afternoon out of school, the pupils also gained a much deeper understanding of the text, which they are studying as part of their GCSE English Literature course.
- A group of Year 8 pupils attended a creative careers event at Souter Lighthouse. They had the opportunity to try different skills, discuss job opportunities in creative careers and met the rangers.
- Grace Garner in Year 8 won the Anti-Bullying Creative Competition and received a £20 Intu Voucher. Well done, Grace!
- The Year 8 boys' athletics team won the South Tyneside Schools' competition at Temple Park on Friday 6 December. They all gave it their best effort and represented the school superbly. The team have qualified for the County Schools' competition, which takes place in January. The girls' team also put in an outstanding performance, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and have also qualified for the County competition.
- Newcastle University delivered a science event, *Zombie Apocalypse*, to Year 10 pupils. They had the opportunity to look at STEM related problems and worked in groups.
- Staff v Pupils challenges have been hotly contested again this year! The staff took the lead in September by beating Year 11 in a game of rounders. The pupils levelled the score during the Children in Need Cycle-a-thon making the score 1-1 in November. A set of Christmas challenges are due to take place during the final week of term including: Santa Swap, Xmas SurPies and Christmas Beat the Lyrics.
- The choir were invited by South Tyneside Music Hub to perform at an education conference at The Ramside Hall in October. This has been followed by a busy festive period, with the choir performing at the school Christmas Fair, Willowdene Care Home, The Viking Centre, in Jarrow, and at The Word in South Shields. As part of the festive programme, the choir were invited to perform at The Mayor's Christmas Reception at South Shields Town Hall. The choir complete their final Christmas performance at Year 7 Christmas Carol Service at St John's Church on the final day of term. The choir is growing from strength to strength and we now have approximately 60 members.
- Congratulations to Kayleigh McIntosh and Abbey Willis for passing their ABRSM instrumental exams. Also to Jake Copeland, Madison Hillock and Grace Robson for passing their Rock School instrumental / vocal exams.

- The choir will be performing at The Sage Gateshead on Sunday 9 February as part of Music for Youth. Tickets are priced at £4.00 and are available on the day. Please come along and support us at this event if possible.
- On Monday 16 December, pupils across all year groups took part in a cinema visit to the Vue Cinema in Gateshead to watch Jumanji: The Next Level.
- To raise money for Children in Need, we held a non-uniform day, a staff v pupils 'Cyclethon' and a lunchtime cake sale, raising the sum of £241.95 for the charity.
- For anti-bullying week in November, pupils took part in various activities:
  - Monday: 'Pay somebody else a compliment'
  - Tuesday: Go and talk to somebody sitting on their own'
  - Wednesday: 'Tell somebody how much their friendship means to you'
  - Thursday: Have a conversation in school with somebody you have not spoken to before
  - Friday: Smile at least 5 people and see how many people smile back at you
  - Non-uniform Day
- Pupils also completed a speech bubble activity, which is currently displayed in the packed lunch area. Pupils were asked to think about a small change they could make today that would have a positive impact on others.

#### **STAFF NEWS**

At the end of the first half term, Mrs Wilson, one of our Learning Mentor Team, retired after 14 years at Hebburn Comprehensive. We wish Mrs Wilson well in her retirement and thank her for the contribution she made to our school and our pupils

#### **SCHOOL APP**

We launched a new school app this term called MCAS. We are encouraging as many parents / carers as possible to start using it, as this will be one of the main forms of communication between home and school over the coming years. If you are having any trouble setting up an account, please get in touch with the school to let us know.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all parents and carers for your support over this past term, and of wishing all families a pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday 6 January.

Yours sincerely



Mr D R Thompson  
Head Teacher