

HEBBURN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER** **CHRISTMAS, 2018**

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another hugely successful Autumn Term, I would like to share with you what has gone on in school over the past 15 weeks, as well providing you with some key information for the forthcoming Spring Term.

SPRING TERM CALENDAR



Monday 17 December	Whole-school cinema trip to The View cinema in Gateshead to see 'Aquaman' (am) School choir performing at Hebburn Central (pm)
Tuesday 18 December	School closed to pupils from 12.30. Please see our website for further information. The carol service due to take place at The Viking Centre is now cancelled.
Wednesday 19 December	Christmas Lunch, served in the Dining Hall. School Choir performing at Hawthorne Court (am).
Thursday 20 December	School Choir performing at Willowdene (pm).
Friday 21 December	School closes at 12 noon; pupils in receipt of free school meals requiring a packed lunch should inform their form tutor by 9.10am on Wednesday 20 th December. Lunches to be collected on exit at 12.00pm. All pupils will have the opportunity to watch the staff Christmas pantomime. There will be merit draws throughout the morning. A Carol Service for Year 7 will take place at St John's Church at 11.00am. Please come and join us, if you are able to. Pupils will be dismissed as per the letter to parents.
Monday 7 January	School re-opens at the normal time of 8.50am, with Breakfast Club available from 8.00am.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATIONS



In November, as part of our first assessment cycle, students in Year 11 sat their GCSE mock examinations. The buy-in to additional revision sessions and study support in the run up to the exams was generally good, but a more consistent buy-in from some pupils would increase their chances of success in the summer.

Students had the opportunity to pick up their results on Mock Results Day on Thursday 7 December replicating, as closely as we could, the experience that pupils will have in August.

After Christmas, there are only approximately 14 teaching weeks left to the first examinations in May. It is absolutely

crucial that all students focus their full attention on their GCSE studies throughout the Spring Term. Details of the range of support available will be communicated after Christmas.

OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

OPEN
EVENING

Our thanks again to all pupils and parents who attended our Open Evening on Wednesday 20 September. There were lots of happy children engrossed in all of the exciting activities on offer around the school. We were delighted with the feedback:

"Staff and children speak very highly of the school. They share information about their subjects in a friendly manner. We have been impressed!"

"Excellent opportunities to ask questions. Pupils were very interactive and acted appropriately."

"It was the best I hope I will come again. This will definitely be the school for me. THE BEST SCHOOL EVER!!!!!!!"

"I have enjoyed being able to bring my child to look around and this certainly has helped him and me get a feel for the school. Staff and children alike very helpful and welcoming!"

"I am definitely wanting to come to this school."

"From coming to this opening evening I have made my decision fully and I will be definitely be coming to this school this is an amazing school !!!!!!!!"

"This school was amazing and my daughter really enjoyed looking around, She liked it very much and she hopes she gets in. She loves this school and really wants to learn more."

"The children have been a credit to the school, very approachable, helpful and proud to show off their school" "brilliant!"

"It was great and the pupils were very helpful if you needed help."

"The children were all very helpful and very polite you should be very proud of them all thank you."

"It's fab."

"Wonderful atmosphere. Very welcoming staff and pupils alike. Thank you all for your support with making a very important decision."

"this was the best night at school EVER!!!!!"

"Excellent learning environment and helpful staff and the children reflect what a great school this is."

"this was excellent. Lots of fun things to do and looks like a brilliant learning environment with amazing lessons."
"Fun and very interesting. Great environment and pupils."

Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you all again in July.

VOTING FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL



As part of our democracy theme, pupils voted for representatives for the school council at the start of term. Pupils in Year 7 took part in a mock election in the Main Hall with a voting booth and voting cards.



AWARDS EVENING



On Thursday 18 October, staff, pupils, parents, school governors and special guests gathered to celebrate the many wonderful achievements of both current and former pupils at our annual Prize Giving ceremony. Prize winners collected trophies, plaques, certificates and vouchers for: 100% attendance; academic achievement; outstanding progress; and recognition of exceptional performance in the UK Maths Challenge. A number of special prizes were awarded at the end of the evening. Congratulations to all prize winners, and special thanks to Mrs Burdis for co-ordinating the evening.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



Throughout anti-bullying week, pupils took part in a range of activities on this year's theme, 'Respect', to raise awareness of the extremely serious issue of bullying.

Daily challenges, to spread a little happiness, included the following:

Monday: 'Pay somebody 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 at least 5 people'

We also had a post-it note challenge, which made up part of our 'Respect Collage'

FRIENDS AGAINST BULLIES "FAB" AWARD



On Monday 12 November, Hebburn Comprehensive School was awarded a Friends Against Bullying (FAB) Award this year for their contribution to raising awareness of bullying issues. Our Peer Mentoring team encouraged pupils in Years 7-9 to design an anti-bullying logo around the theme of 'Respect'. The designs were so good that we had 1 winner and 4 runners-up. The winner received an INTU voucher and a T-Shirt with their logo on and the runners up received a T-Shirt with their design. Well done to our overall winner Grace Garner and to our runners-up Ethan Dunphy, Jessica Allen, Nadia Reimus and Patryk Brzeski.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The Remembrance Service we held on Friday 9th November was the culmination of a wealth of enrichment activities that took place across the school, to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Crafted and installed by an army of pupils, parents and staff, a field of handmade poppies, that was in excess of 2000 individual flowers, became the setting for our service, following the traditional Royal British Legion order of service, starting with The Exhortation. Wreaths



were laid and additional poppies planted by school council representatives and governors at the foot of the field of poppies at the back of the school. Volunteers from the Army and Sea Cadets saluted as Head Of Music, Mr Wilkinson, performed the Last Post before the whole school observed a two-minute silence. Year 9 pupil, Ross Smith, concluded the service with his reading of The Dedication.



Pupils, with the guidance and expertise of Head of Art, Miss Shameem Siddiqui, designed the stunning mural, which was the backdrop for the field of poppies. Painting started during October half term and features portraits of pupils' relatives who fought in The Great War, silhouettes of soldiers in battle, the home front, and the brave contributions of the Commonwealth nations, women and medical support workers.



Special projects included a collaboration between Ben Hudson from Community Arts Partnership North East (CAPNE) and media studies pupils in Year 9 to complete a special research project about local people's contributions to the war effort and made a five-minute film about their findings. The finished piece is a beautiful, poignant tribute to the local lives lost to the war. Canny Craic Theatre Company also visited the school to perform

a play for Year 8 during a history lesson, which gave them an insight into life on the front line.



Other activities that pupils were involved in throughout the week included the following:

- Pupils studying textiles created a beautiful poppy adorned tapestry for display in the main pupil entrance of the building.
- Expression of thanks written for the sacrifices made by those on the front line, at home and from all across the Commonwealth, which will be displayed within school.
- In science, pupils learnt about the impact of chemical warfare and made periscopes.
- Pupils studied the works of Ivor Novello in music.
- The PE Department organised a sponsored one-mile run for both pupils and staff, which started at Hebburn Park's WW1 memorial, to raise money for 'Help for Heroes' charity.
- The History Department supplied newspapers to read and discuss during form period. Each newspaper represented one year of the war, detailing key events from each year.
- Wartime news announcements and music played in the corridors during lesson change over.
- A sponsored 1-mile run to raise money for 'Help for Heroes', raising £566.00 for the charity.



A huge thank you to Mrs Fenwick for co-ordination of the activities in school and the service.



CHRISTMAS FAIR



On 29 November, we held another hugely successful Christmas Fair in the school's Main Hall. Pupils worked incredibly hard with Mrs Sharp and representatives from the KeyFund to plan and organise different stalls for the event. The grand sum of £1665.61 was raised, with donations going to 'Hebburn Helps', the local Food Bank charity and to the Key Fund, which has invested a huge amount into the school over the past few years.

Pupils took part in the following Key Fund projects:

- 'Unicorn Squad' were granted £500 to set up a Unicorn and 'Rag Wreath' stall at the Christmas Fair. The group handmade their own rag wreaths, each one taking up to 3 hours to produce.
- 'M.C.L' were granted £250 to set up a catering stall at the fair, selling hot dogs, drinks and snacks.
- 'Light the Way' were granted £250 to set up their candle stall, making and decorating candle gifts to sell.
- 'Disney Dreams' were granted £300 to set make Christmas Eve baking kits and set up an adopt a bear gift stall.
- 'The 4 Xmas Elves' were granted £250 to set up a sweet stall, making up retro sweet hampers and sweet gifts.
- 'Santa's Elves' were granted £500 to run a tombola and a fantastic raffle, with the main prize a PS4 which was won by Mrs Harte.
- 'The Red Nosed Reindeers' were granted £250 to set up a carnival area at the fair, designing and building their own games and activities.

Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to Mrs Sharp for organising the event.



YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Pupils in Year 7 have designed a superb 2018 calendar which Year 7 parents will receive a copy of at the end of term. The calendar will also be posted on the school website.



DRAMA CLUB

Throughout the term, members of the school's Drama Club have continued to meet each Thursday after school. Thanks to Mrs Moore for all of her hard work.



CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTION

At the start of December, each form class in school was given a list of items that could be brought into school, to make up a Christmas lunch hamper for 'Hebburn Helps'. In total, we donated over 40 Christmas hampers and Christmas Eve gift boxes, as well as some stocking fillers and 3 trolleys of additional food for the Food Bank.



SPEADING SOME FESTIVE CHEER

On Thursday 20th December, we delivered £300 worth of toys to the Children's Cancer Unit at the RVI in Newcastle. Well done to Poppy, Katie, Chloe, Cameron, Ethan and Kazia-Leigh, from Mrs Sharp's Tutor Group, for all of the hard work that went into the Key Fund project to secure the funding for the presents.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

71 shoeboxes were collected for despatch by Samaritans' Purse in November for 'Operation Christmas Child'. Well done to all pupils, staff and parents who donated, wrapped and packed shoeboxes and thanks to Mrs Sharp for co-ordinating and Miss Summerland for all of her help.



"WHY QUEUE?" ROADSHOW

On 12 October, pupils in Year 7 took part in a 'Why Queue?' roadshow to raise awareness of road safety and environmentally friendly ways of travelling to and from school.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Year 7 boys' football team are still unbeaten and are currently top of the South Tyneside Schools' League and are also in the semi-final of the League Cup.

The Year 8 boys' football team are currently in second position in the South Tyneside Schools' League table.

The Year 7 boys' cross-country team finished in 3rd position in the South Tyneside Schools' competition, with Chrissy Rigg finishing in 2nd place in the individual competition.

The Year 8 and 9 boys' team also finished in 3rd position.

Thanks to the PE staff for all of their hard work with extra-curricular sport throughout the term.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



On 28 September, we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising the phenomenal sum of £831.08 for the charity. Well done to everyone involved in baking and huge thanks to Miss Hood for organising the event for such a worthwhile cause.

I received the following email from Julie Baird-Paul from the Macmillan cancer charity:

I've just returned from the coffee morning, and just wanted to say how impressed I was by the impeccable behaviour of the children. They were helpful, polite and engaging.

The choir and singers were delightful, as were the wonderful cakes! A great effort by all involved.



YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS QUIZ AND CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



On Wednesday 19 December, pupils in Year 7 took part in a Christmas quiz and celebration assembly in the main hall.

CINEMA VISIT

On Monday 17 December, pupils went to see 'Aquaman' at the Vue cinema in Gateshead. Thanks to Mrs Moore for organising the trip.



CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 16 November, we had a 'non-uniform day' and a cake sale for Children in Need, raising the fantastic sum of £573.62 for the charity.



HALLOWEEN DISCO



On 31 October, pupils in Year 7 had a great time at the Halloween disco in the school's Main Hall. Pupils took part in different games, including traditional Halloween games and enjoyed a Halloween party tea. Thanks to the Year 7 team for all of their hard work.



MUSIC



The school choir have had a busy festive season, performing at the school's Christmas Fair, Hebburn Central, Willowdene Care Home, Hawthorne Court, The Word, South Shields Town Hall, as part of the Mayor's Christmas Reception and at the year 7 carol service at St John's Church.

The choir have been invited to represent South Tyneside at The Key Stage 3 Choir of the Year. In early February, members of the choir, from Years 7, 8 & 9, will sing at Durham Cathedral. We wish the choir the very best of luck as they represent Hebburn Comprehensive and South Tyneside at this competition.

Thanks to Mr Wilkinson for all of his hard work with extra-curricular music throughout the term.

YEAR 7 PANTOMIME VISIT



On 14 December, pupils in Years 7 went to see 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Customs House in South Shields. Thanks to Miss Hood for organising.

ART TRIP

The Art Department took 30 Year 10 pupils to the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art to see exhibitions including an exhibition of Rasheed Araeen's work spanning 60 years. The contemporary work provoked discussion and curiosity. Pupils were an asset to the school and should be commended for their mature participation and impeccable behaviour.

WEAR A CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 14 December, pupils took part in 'Wear a Christmas Jumper Day' to raise money for Save the Children. Thanks to Miss Hood for organising.



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.

Yours sincerely,

D R Thompson
Head Teacher

CAREERS CONVENTION

In October, pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to a career convention in the school hall. The purpose of the event was to give pupils an insight into the many different opportunities and routes available to them when they leave school. The event was a huge success, with providers and industry representatives giving huge praise to our pupils for their mature and positive attitude to the event. Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to Mrs Spark for organising the careers event

