



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter

January 2018

### Dear Parents and Carers

The modern phenomenon of the 'perfect selfie', an essential lifestyle necessity with reality TV stars such as Kim Kardashian, who takes 1,500 snaps daily, continues to reach worrying proportions. Worldwide, the number of people dying due to dangerous selfies now exceeds the number of shark related deaths! A number of countries such as Russia, India and France have now set up 'no selfie' zones to preserve monuments that are being trampled on and to avoid needless fatalities. 'Selfies' should be fun and represent the photo you like the best but we are in worrying territory whereby the number of 'likes' and 'comments' defines someone's picture or even income. After all, newspapers such as the Worcester News use this obsession with 'clicking' and immediate commentary via online journalism to survive and make their revenue through 'clickbait'. They use a sensationalist headline, tempt the reader to click on the link to the story, which is linked to adverts. The more clicks they get, the more people on their site, the more they can then charge for advertising.

My hope for 2018 is that we can become less self-obsessed and be more about community. Schools by their very nature should be positive places, a privilege to work with and I remain incredibly optimistic due to our young people and some of the experiences they are getting, for example:

- Our continued generous, much needed support of the Food Bank, donating nearly 2,000 items prior to Christmas, heading for 15,000 in total.
- The sixth form raising £379.17 for their charity Footsteps, in support of bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire.
- A variety of sporting experiences on offer. Since September, 44 fixtures have been undertaken with the most successful teams to date being the year 10 and sixth form netballers who are top of their respective leagues.
- 200 bronze/silver DofE Award adventurers.
- The fifth year of our year 10 peer mentoring of year 7 students.

- The KS3 panto 'A Budget Cinderella' saw a number of students perform admirably – made all the more credible as it was their first performance.
- Fabulous visiting speakers such as American author Michael Grant, 'Monster' being his latest published book, advertising media expert Lawrence Gaffney and Dr Lewis discussing the career opportunities in medicine. Experts generously giving their time for a young community.

- Max Hodgetts winning the local photography competition, where we had seven entrants highly commended, and £250 donated to Cystic Fibrosis due to Max's winning entry.
- Yasmin Jones and Charlotte Bannister winning a £50 voucher for the art department by having their artwork printed in a catalogue.



Max Hodgetts – Y11



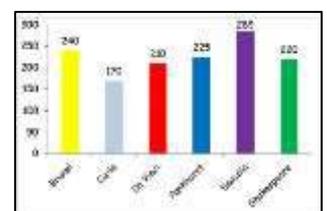
Artwork by Yasmin Jones – Y13



Artwork by Charlotte Bannister – Y11

- Mr Yeates' collaborative Christmas card, raising £84.17 for St Richard's Hospice.
- Results for the 'Bake Off' House Competition, which raised just under £140 for Maggs Day Centre, were: 1<sup>st</sup> Curie – Faith Sykes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Seacole – Amelie Adcook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brunel – Tyne Dawson, 4<sup>th</sup> Da Vinci – Sam Miles, 5<sup>th</sup> Shakespeare – Evan Bryan, 6<sup>th</sup> Pankhurst – Chloe Sheppard.

This means at the halfway stage the House results table is:



These positive stories will not get many 'clicks' but are worth reporting and sharing widely. Young people are generally very caring and want to shape their future, their school with:

- The Learning Resource Centre open 8.00am – 5.00pm, widely used for homework such as HegartyMaths and the enjoyment of 700 new books purchased since September.
- Aspens, the new catering company, meeting monthly with students to discuss all issues regarding the new menu, the new queuing system and some possible themed menus.
- The Student Council requesting more benches, which have been put around the new sixth form centre. Following further requests, extra secure bike shelters are being sourced for September.
- The Eco Council moving cutlery from plastic to metal cutlery.

This is their school and their voice is important.

### New Building Official Opening

On Monday 18th December, Ian Whiting of Titania (Security Software Solutions) formally opened our new £4m facilities. Ian took time to talk to our first alumni who returned from their jobs and university places across the UK to share their experiences over a glass of mulled wine. Ian spoke about his own views on the importance of education, his journey since leaving school, and the qualities that he looks for in potential employees. We look forward to welcoming Ian back to talk in more detail about cyber-security to our computer science students.

### Sixth Form Information

Please note that the second Sixth Form Information Evening is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 5.30 – 8.00pm, where 1:1 discussions can occur and if possible future courses can be decided. Please note that the sixth form is not simply for the traditional academic courses, although we are doing superbly in this area, with very successful students studying Hairdressing Level 3 BTEC, PE BTEC and Dance, Art, Sociology and Politics A-levels. These so called non-traditional courses can become a fabulous pathway to the future, backed by personalised work experience. Parents and students are welcomed.

To apply for a sixth form place please go to:

<https://christopherwhitehead.co.uk/apply-for-sixth-form/>

**Current Whole School Attendance is 95.6%**

### Energy Drinks

Well done to Waitrose retailers who have rightly banned the sale of high caffeine energy drinks to under 16s. Please note, there is compelling evidence that drinks such as 'Red Bull', 'Monster' and 'Morning Dew' are addictive and not suitable for under 16s.

### Dates for your Diary

Thu	11 Jan	Sixth Form Information Evening 5.30 – 8.00pm
Thu	18 Jan	Y8 Parents' Evening – Sixth Form Centre
Mon	22 Jan	Y13 Mock Exams – all week
Sat	27 Jan	Y7-Y12 Gymnastics Competition in Stoke
Thu	1 Feb	Y10 Parents' Evening – Sixth Form Centre
Thu	8 Feb	Y8 Options Evening
Thu	15 Feb	<i>Friends Pamper &amp; Prom Evening</i>
Mon - Fri	19 Feb - 23 Feb	Half Term
Sun	25 Feb	Celebration of Chinese New Year in conjunction with Worcestershire Chinese Association. Chinese New Year celebrations 12 noon until 2.30pm at the Guildhall.

### Stay Safe Online Events

Many children will have had electronic devices or smartphones this Christmas and we want to help you to help them, stay safe online. There are two identical **FREE** drop-in events to help raise awareness of online safety and help you to protect your children from online bullying and harassment.

**The Hive, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PD**

**Saturday 20th January, 10am-1pm**

**Wednesday 7th February, 1pm-5pm**

It is a joint initiative and people from West Mercia Police, Worcestershire County Council, Parents' Voice and Youth Workers will be on hand to give support and advice.

For children, there is no difference between online and offline life. To them, it's just life. There's no doubt that the internet and social media give children amazing opportunities to learn, to develop new skills, to make connections and friendships and to interact with others. We should not be afraid to embrace it. At the same time, it's the job of parents, teachers, and policy-makers to make sure that children are making informed choices, are protected and are not left to wander around the digital world on their own. You wouldn't drop a 12-year-old in the middle of a big city and expect them to fend for themselves. The same should be true online.