



YORK CAMPUS



Jan 2016

Term 1

As we start the new term and reflect on last year I would like to thank all staff, students, parents, trustees and community for their hard work and support. I am very privileged to be the Headteacher at York Campus and to work with such committed people who value education and all that it brings.

Last term was a busy term but it was with great delight that we hosted a Talent show, Winter Fair and Presentation Day over the last few months. To have such a range of events held in a short space of time is an indication of the depth of talent in the school and the commitment of our students to go the extra mile and engage in all aspects of school life.

As you will appreciate there are many challenges awaiting your children on our return to York Campus. Moving into the New Year, years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be completing mock examinations which will help further identify areas for focus in student studies. I hope the students have been concentrating on their revision over the break in readiness for the mocks ahead, these will commence on the 11th Jan 2015 and all students have been issued with a mock timetable which I have attached a copy for your consideration.

There will be further opportunity to meet with teachers over the course of this term to discuss student progress. The new format for the appointment booking is working well, this involves students completing an appointment card so we are able to meet at convenient times to suit parents in an organised manner.

I have included information on the many different activities over the course of last term for you to consider. I look forward to working with you all over the new term and welcome your continued support with the school and its developments.

Once again thank you for your support over the first term.

Regards

Mr Paul Easton

Talent Show



York Campus Talent Show

Over the last term Year 13 set to the task of organising a show to demonstrate the numerous talents of the students within York Campus. This was the first time anything like this had been attempted at the school and the skills and organisation required for such an event have provided a valuable learning experience for all involved. The day was well organised, the acts were well rehearsed and displayed a wide range of skills encompassing singing, comedic and musical talents. The support received by the students from family and friends needs to be recognised also, as there were many hours of rehearsal involved in preparation for this event. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Word of the Week

Word of the Week.

To try to improve the students' writing skills, we have a 'Word of the Week' displayed every Monday. The students are challenged to discover the meaning (and pronunciation?) of the word, and to try to use it in their writing. It would be very

helpful if parents could ask about these words, as by explaining their meaning to someone else, the understanding of the word will be more deeply embedded in the students' minds. Here are the words which have been displayed so far: cantankerous, indefatigable, magnanimous, verbose, nefarious, penultimate, salient, voracious.

Citizenship



This term has seen Y10 begin to advocate a chosen charity for their GCSE in Citizenship. The students have shown a huge amount of enthusiasm and innovation in promoting their charity across the school and indeed across the community. Warren Smaldon and Lynton Ellis have already secured some generous donations for MAP, we are promised a visit by Guide Dogs for the Blind by Sophie Evershed and Zoe Goodenough, and Duane Luke and Jayden Culmer, Warwick Oliver and Leif Soulsby, Ornan Bailey and Magnus Evershed have all opted to help war veterans with Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion and Blesma respectively. Meanwhile Zara Ledgeway and Candace Shorto have set up an information point adorned with coloured balloons to promote their charity Starlight and Romy Frizelle and Twyla Frizelle have brought our attention to Water Aid by placing posters next to all the water fountains in the school.

History



Year 9 have spent much of this term studying the causes, events and consequences of the Great War of 1914-18; part of this process involved an SDL assignment on one aspect of the War itself. To prepare for this Mr Cross organised for the Year 9's to visit the Castle Museum in the City of York where there is a whole floor devoted to the War and how it impacted on the people of the North East. Each student was tasked with obtaining not only an overview of how the war was fought on land, sea and air, but with gaining an insight into their own specific area of interest. Many of them got to handle a Lee Enfield rifle or wore the helmets of the respective troops. It certainly inspired most of them to produce outstanding pieces of enquiry work and ensured that they will never look at the First World war the same way again.

Geography



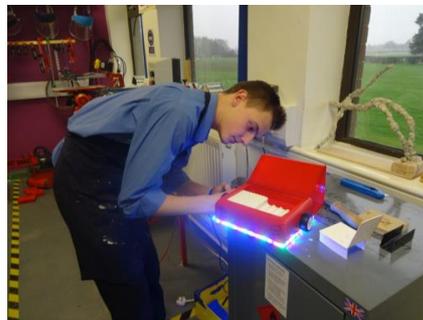
The Year 7's all travelled to Otley Chevin to practice their map skills. The morning consisted of worksheets using distance, direction, symbols, height and scale. It was a little chilly on Surprise View. The afternoon involved groups of students navigating from one 6 figure grid reference to another to find wooden carved figures. They really enjoyed this, although I don't think they always took the most direct route! They also liked popping the seed pods of the Himalayan Balsam, spreading that invasive plant even further. There will be further updates from Geography in our next newsletter as the year 12 geographers have been on a field trip related to their A-level studies.

Subject Showcase

Design Technology

Year 10 Design Technology

The Year 10's are working extremely hard on their Desk Tidy project; they have been using a large variety of manufacturing techniques and machinery to test their skills with plastics, and a mixture of natural timbers and manufactured boards. We hope to be finished by the end of term to take home – with all this stationery storage there can be no excuse of losing pens for holiday homework.



Year 11 Product Design

GCSE Product Design coursework. Students are currently coming to the end of Criteria 2 – Design and Development. They have used a variety of hand drawn sketches and CAD to create a final proposal.



Design Technology

Year 5 Bird Houses

The Year 5s have made some beautiful bird houses; with the finishing touches of paint and varnish being applied. They have all created unique and colourful creations to attract the wildlife into their gardens.



Year 4 Wooden Puppets

Students have designed some lovely unique designs made with solid pine figures and movable limbs. They all have their own personalities – and even names !



Presentation Day



Presentation Day

1st December we all celebrated the academic success of our students. This was a very successful day which was supported well by the community and its families. I hope to position this earlier in the next academic year so we are able to acknowledge student achievements sooner. In addition to the academic achievements we were also able to showcase many of the talented students, including the shadow play, primary choir and the Grasshoppers.

Cake sale

The cake sale at the Presentation Day was a fantastic success and I would like to thank all involved.



Business Connections

Careers Advantage Programme

Y12 and Y13 students at York Campus have started a new national initiative, the Career Advantage Program (CAP). The program provides all students with the opportunity to gain the skills and aptitude to achieve rapid success in their post-school careers and hit the ground running when they start out in business.

The Career Advantage Program does this by:

1. Providing a selection of professional training courses that can be completed alongside senior school studies ranging from Accounting courses such as CIMA to Sales and Marketing such as ISMM Level 2.
2. Analysing the capability of each student professionally to ensure the student can effectively complete the courses. This is supported with an Academic Care Team comprising of professional teaching staff, community members and business representatives.
3. Offering real-life business experience through regular work placement within businesses.



Dragon's Den

Before the summer holiday year 12 were told to prepare a Dragon's Den presentation. They were given the task to invent a product and then come up with a viable business plan to persuade the dragons to invest in it. We invented an interactive and educational outdoor game floor called Vimboard.

On the 24th of September we presented our products in front of 5 Dragons – Glenn Harding, Neil Trevvett, Ian Cowie, Craig Anderson and Hannah Burrowes. As you can imagine it was pretty daunting!

Before we went into the den we were both extremely nervous, but we got more confident as the dragons started to show interest in our product. We learnt a lot from this day, and hopefully it will be repeated next year!

Rose and Cleo (Winners of the Dragons Den Event)