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ML/DJS

9 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last few weeks I feel like I have been inundated with positive stories of what is going on across the academy.

It was lovely to see so many of you at Year 9 Parents' Evening last week. It is so important that parents and carers work together with teachers to support our young people to achieve their very best. Thank you to all those parents I spoke to, with positive messages about how their sons and daughters were doing in the academy. If you were unable to attend, don't hesitate to get in touch to speak to any of your son or daughter's teachers.

Period 6:

We have now reached the time of the year where the pressure starts to build for Year 11 as they approach their exams in the summer. Year 11 are collectively an amazing group of young people. I am constantly bowled over by their maturity and positive attitude. Last week saw the introduction of Period 6, an extra lesson for Year 11 on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The attendance at Period 6 has been exemplary, with all students attending without question. Staff across the academy are giving their time to ensure a bespoke package is in place for every student, coordinated by Mr Gold and Mr Yeates.

Mr Gold will be taking a celebration trip for Year 11 students to Thorpe Park later in the year. Details have gone out in a separate letter.

Charity Events:

Tomorrow (Friday 10 February), the last day of this half term, is a non-school uniform day. This is to support our chosen charity, The South West Children's Hospice. Mr Smith will also be running the London Marathon in support of this charity, which he has very close personal links to.

Future Chef Competition:

Last week, two of our students took part in a 'Future Chef' competition at Westfield Academy. Well done to **James Hodge (Year 9) and Phoebe Richards (Year 7)** who were absolutely amazing! Phoebe was the youngest competitor and nobody could believe she was only in Year 7 as she was competing against Y10 students and James was just one mark off first place! Thank you to Ms Vickery for organising.

Sports:

As ever, there is a lot going on with Sport across the academy. It was great to see **Corey Calway, Ashton Brown, Liam Nardiello and Adyn White** representing the District Team against Taunton schools at football this week, with the Yeovil District securing a comfortable 4-0 win. The match was officiated by three of our Sport's Leaders, **Malakhi McDaid, Harvey-Lee Flatt and Dan Tailby.** Well done to all those involved.



Somerset Cricket visited and delivered table cricket and modified cricket to a group of students. This gave students a new experience in a sport they rarely do outside of school. Later this month there is a Table Cricket County Tournament in which 10 students will be involved, competing against other schools in Somerset.

Maths:

The Maths Department chooses a Mathematician of the month based on the work that is done in class and homework. Congratulations to **Caius Ionele** and **Izzy King** in Year 11 who are last month's and this month's winners. Keep up the hard work!!

Drama and Music:

On Tuesday 31 January, Somerstage visited the academy. Somerstage are a Musical Theatre group who worked with our students on a 'Mamma Mia' inspired musical workshop. Our students sounded great and had a really fun day, creating a real buzz of energy!

Industrial Action:

Thank you for your support last Wednesday, the day of industrial action. Unfortunately our partial closure meant that Year 9 and 10 students were at home. Those students in the academy coped with the minor disruption well. Further strikes are planned for the weeks after half term, I will keep you updated with our plans. Rest assured we will do our best to keep disruption to learning to a minimum.

We had a Local Governing Body Meeting this week. The Local Governing Body is made up of people who support the academy and hold me to account for the Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Leadership and Management of the academy. If you are interested in joining this board, please contact the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Sarah Dennett at sdennett@bucklersmeadacademy.com.

Many thanks for all your continued support. I hope you have a lovely half term holiday.

Yours sincerely

MR M LAWRENCE Headteacher