



EASINGWOLD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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Dear Parent/Carers

I have held off sending out a letter to you in the expectation that we would have some news regarding the academisation of the school, and as such how we would be proceeding in supporting a smooth transition. As we are still at the same point I felt it only right to now send a letter and give you an update as to the progress and activities that have been taking place over the past few weeks.

The school has continued to be calm and focussed with our focus firmly on the GCSE and As/A level exams that are approaching. I am pleased to say that the mock exams that our students have been taking over the past couple of weeks have shown significant progress since our last set and the students are reporting that the additional interventions and support that they have been receiving has prepared them well for the exam season approaching. Your children should be getting their results now and we will be using these to focus on the areas in which the students are uncertain and concentrating on preparing for them well. As you are aware we have extended the time that the students are in school and this will give them additional time in front of their teachers to support their revision.

Our governors continue to visit the school regularly and are active participants in our weekly book scrutiny, learning walks and student council. We are grateful for the time that they volunteer to support the school and know that their input in challenging us can only strengthen our position as we move the school forward.

These last few weeks have been extremely busy. Here are some brief reports of the activities that have been taking place:

We have had a group of students from Spain visit us as part of the exchange programme that we have. They spent nearly a week with us and explored the school and the region, staying with host families and experiencing life in Yorkshire. We have also had the return of our own students from France in a return visit to their own partners who visited here earlier in the year. As would be expected, our students behaved impeccably and developed both their language skills and their appreciation of French culture.

The Y13 Geologists have recently returned from a successful field trip to the Isle of Arran as part of the important preparation for their A Level Coursework. Mr Mummery and Mrs Dalton couldn't speak highly enough of the commitment shown by the students to their studies and the support they showed towards one another during the week. The visit was a fantastic experience for all involved and was made even more enjoyable by the stunning weather!

Jess Dodd and Becky Hawkins' song 'I never want to grow up' - written for the House Music and Drama competition and then subsequently performed at the Christmas Concert was played on BBC Radio York on Saturday 11 March as part of the BBC Introducing scheme. The girls do have a YouTube channel with a lyric video of their song, the link is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJTU8rhhDBY>.

Y7 students thoroughly enjoyed the visit of Tom Palmer, the well-known writer of sporting and historical fiction, on 4 April. Year 7 and some in Year 8 had workshops with Tom and he was available at lunchtime to speak to and sign copies of his books. Students read chapters from some of his work in English lessons to wet their appetite. Many of our students will have Tom's books on their shelves at home, but there are also copies in the Library if they wish to borrow them.

In PE our Year 8 boys football team are through to the Area final and are becoming quite a formidable team. So far they've beaten strong teams from Stokesley, Thirsk and Risedale. Year 8 have reached the area cup final and year 10 have reached the plate cup final both for boys football. Year 11 are playing in the area cup semi-final next week so potentially we could have 3 boys teams in finals!

Year 10 GCSE students have been out on a climbing residential for two days at High Adventure-Skipton and the Ski trip ran very successfully again, students were fantastic and were a joy to take.

Some of our Y10 & 11 students took part in a 'Mathematics Challenge' recently - a national competition that sets pupils some very pleasant problems to solve. I am pleased to note that many of our pupils gained certificates (4 gold, 19 silver and 23 bronze awards) and four of our students have been invited to take part in an additional round (putting them in the company of just 5,500 students nationwide!). I wish James, Sophie, Juliet and Tom the best of luck as they compete against 30 other countries in this next round.

In addition to this, we received news last week that one of our students, Juliet Telfer, has been invited to attend a 'Problem Solving' course at Oxford University following an exceptional performance in the first round of the Maths Challenge. The scale of this achievement is best seen in numbers: over 250,000 pupils took the challenge, and only 48 students are invited to attend the course!

Four of our Year 10 students also competed in another Mathematical event last month - this time, it was a team challenge against other local schools, held on a Monday afternoon at Bootham School in York. Mark, Hannah, Juliet and Tom worked really well together and ended up justifiably happy with their 4th place from a field of around 20 teams.

Year 7 and 8 pupils will have their chance soon in the Junior Maths Challenge, which will take place at the end of April. Here's a very pleasant little question from last year's paper:

What is the value of

$$\frac{2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10 + 12 + 14 + 16 + 18 + 20}{1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10}$$

Rory Vince in Year 9 has just told me he is in a play in London at Her Majesty's Theatre in the west end, it's called The Lazy Ace, he is playing the lead, it is for one night only 26th May, he was excited to tell me and has shared the news with some people so I asked if I could tell all the staff of his achievement and he agreed. What a Star! Maybe we have a future Oscar winner.

In Science, there are now three support sessions available to any students who need more help with any aspect of science, Wednesday lunchtime, Thursday lunchtime and Thursday after school. These sessions are all staffed by science specialists, and many students are already benefiting from attending.

We have also run fun science week activities at lunchtimes this week; the eye dissection on Wednesday was very popular (see twitter for photos).

As you can see we have had quite an active term and my thanks to the staff who have given of their time to provide these experiences for the students to enjoy.

We have recently interviewed and appointed, our new student leads, Callum McAfee, Head Boy, Eve Parker, Head Girl and Tom Wrathall and Lorna Cameron, Deputies and I was highly impressed with the passion that they all discussed in their interviews for the school and the people within it. As a result of these interviews we have created a new Aspirations Ambassador role in Josh Ainley who, along with a team of other excellent students, will lead on the student development of a school newsletter, media coverage and inspirational school opportunities for students. I wish the team well and look forward to our first newsletter in the next term.

At the moment we are arranging work experience placements for all of our Y12 students. Some students are struggling to find a placement and I wondered if any of you might be able to help us out? We have students interested in all kinds of areas (education, journalism, politics, town planning, health professions, statistics and much more!). The placement is an opportunity to experience a work environment and, whilst it may not be in a chosen future area, it will give them an insight into the world of work. If you think you could help out or know anyone else who could, please get in touch with our 6th form administrator at m.ibbetson@easingwold.n-yorks.sch.uk who is coordinating work experience.

Can parents note that we are open for students on Monday 24 April. This had been a training day initially but is now school day and students should attend as normal.

We are currently streamlining school systems Please note that as from 24 April we have changed the way you should report school absences. In cases of student absence for any reason, we ask that you inform school before 9.15am by text (07624 811697) or voicemail (08442 393097). Please do not telephone on the school number or use the email address previously given.

Can I please ask that parents send their children to school prepared for the day in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment. This is documented in the school planner and helps us to focus on the learning in the classroom rather than addressing standards. We will continue to challenge students not in full school uniform and ask for your support with this.

On a personal note thank you to all parents who have visited the school over this past term to discuss their children's progress or to raise concerns or questions about what we are doing as a team to improve the quality of the provision we give our students. If you would like to visit and tour the school I am happy to organise this for you. I, the staff and the students are rightly proud of our school and are happy to share our day to day experience with you.

Kind regards



Mr P Brockwell
Interim Headteacher