



End of Term Newsletter – 31 March 2023

I have spent each morning this week leading achievement assemblies for each year group. It has allowed the students to pause and reflect on their successes this year and staff to enjoy that with them. It has been a nice way to start my working day, topped off with a performance from our key stage 3 dancers this morning. Watching their hard work pay-off to the backing music of S-Club 7 was an uplifting experience for all present!

Students have been rewarded in the assemblies by staff for achievement, effort and displaying our school core values of Respect, Kindness and Honesty. Well over 100 different students received certificates and I hope parents will be able to celebrate their child's success when they arrive home with them. Everyone benefits from positive praise and we as a school are working to do more on this. Our termly achievement assemblies are a step towards this. Of course, there are students who did not receive a certificate or see their name on the screen and that is always the case. I spoke to all the students about finding their own personal achievements, whether they were rewarded tangibly or not. Reward can be both extrinsic and intrinsic and I hope my words on this might allow all our students to feel a sense of achievement in the smallest triumph or a big achievement which is shared with others. More of this to come as the year develops and the thread running through this newsletter is one of student achievement.

On Wednesday I managed to get off-site for an hour or so to go and watch our U16 Boys' win the U16 District Cup for the first time in the school's history. It was a hard-fought affair at Whitby Town FC with local rivals, Caedmon giving no quarter. We emerged as cup winners thanks to an unusual hat-trick with Alfie J bagging three penalties. In interview, Alfie revealed he was confident of beating the Caedmon keeper with power and went the same way each time! A fantastic achievement from all involved as we overcame Pindar (5-1), Ryedale (4-3) and Scalby (2-1) on route to the final. The boys are still in the County Cup, so the double is alive! They play Pindar at home in the Quarter-Final on Wednesday 19 April. Sporting success like this does not come without the dedication of staff and here at Eskdale the PE team go above and beyond. So, whilst manager of the month may well be Mr McGovern, Mrs Scales and Mr Raw have put countless hours in to help the students here too. A thanks to them all and below you can see some of the boys at the start of their journey and them celebrating the win with the biggest shield I've ever seen for a sporting competition! It is not only the boys that play football here, of course and the U14 girls took part in a high-scoring match with Norton in the SDSSA KO Cup. Even though the girls lost on the day, they played with real commitment to make progress in the competition and on the night, I watched them give it real go, driven on by Gracie! Thanks to Mr Raw for supporting the team through the matches this season. It has been great to see so many students, both girls and boys use the 3G every lunchtime for football.

Alongside the team success there have been individual success stories too with two of the U16 Boys' football team linked with professional clubs. Congratulations to Alfie S, who has recently signed an academy deal with Morecambe FC and to Felix who continues to be linked with Middlesbrough. Huge congratulations to Ellie in Y9, who first qualified for North Yorkshire trials after successfully achieving 1st place in the Scarborough and District events held before Christmas. Then at Skipton Ellie went on to gain 6th place giving her a slot at the ESAA National Cross-Country Championships held at Wollerton Hall, Nottingham. Ellie did herself proud in that competition and is credit to her dedication and commitment to a difficult and challenging event. We all at Eskdale congratulate Ellie on her success. To have an Eskdale student competing at a national event gives us a great sense of pride – well done Ellie!

At the end of the Easter term thoughts begin to turn to warmer days too (although it is pretty dreich as I write this!), but back in January 65 students and five staff travelled to Austria for our school ski visit. It was an overwhelming success both on and off the slopes. Mrs Scales who led the visit with aplomb reports being 'Super proud of all the students who travelled to Austria to ski. Each and everyone one of them grew in confidence and competence as the week progressed and they were a credit to their families and the school. The staff could not be prouder of them all.' There is always some trepidation with such visits and to receive this feedback was absolutely fantastic. You can see some of the photos of the visit in elsewhere in this newsletter.

Austria wasn't the only overseas destination that Eskdale students have travelled too this term. Just ten days ago four of our key stage 4 students, Kitty, Melissa, Milly and Ellen made the journey with Mr Bloor and Miss Kotadia to Croatia. This was to represent the school at international ECO conference following our participation in an EU funded project. Milly in Year 10 summarised the visit:

'Last week, four students travelled to Croatia for five days to present our eco business to other members of the EU funded SPEED project across Europe. We met a lot of people from Croatia, Greece and Germany and did a fabulous job of the presentation. We took part in multiple workshops, looked around the cities of Croatia, did lots of practising and most importantly ate lots of ice cream!

Thank you to Mr Bloor and Miss Kotadia for taking us and to Mrs Winspear for making it all happen and creating all of these fabulous opportunities! We hope that some of the students from Croatia can come here soon and see our school!'

I would echo Milly's thanks to the staff and in particular to Mrs Winspear, who has masterminded the school's involvement in the project since its inception three years ago. What a wonderful experience for those four youngsters!

Our creatives faculty has been busy too. Miss Parlby (Drama) and her team of Mrs Edmondson-Preedy (Music), Mrs Parkin (Art) and Mrs Alderson (Dance) have supported students in all these disciplines giving them great experiences such as the school choir (which is a partnership ensemble with CCW) competing at the Eskdale Festival and gaining 1st place. Also, at the Eskdale Festival, Ed in Y11 gained first place in his singing class. He also won a prize for the best singer. Elsie (Y8), Ellen H (Y9) and Layarna (Y11) all won their classes.

More widely in music Year 7 have been learning to play the ukulele. They have been practising playing and singing Riptide and In the Jungle. After a term singing at the start of Y7, their enthusiasm for this topic is superb. Year 8 have been playing and composing their own riffs and hooks. Special mention for Josh and Jonny who encourage everyone in their class to play even better each week. Year 10 have been learning to play the jazz standard 'Autumn Leaves' and are beginning to improvise around the melody using the chord sequence. They have also been working on an ensemble piece called 'Come Together' by the Beatles. They all deserve a pat on the back for their hard work.

Our key stage 3 (Year 7-9) dance club also competed in the Eskdale Festival on a Sunday afternoon and gained 2nd place. The students displayed commitment, great team spirit and a real sense of fun, which shone through again this morning in the Year 7 assembly.

Year 10 and 11 drama students were taken on a Theatre Visit to York to see a fantastic production of Run Rebel. Their attitude and behaviour was outstanding which was commented on by stewards at the theatre. This is so important and chimes with reports from the ski visit and an English visit to see An Inspector Calls. A showing of the core value of Respect in action! Year 8 have achieved some fantastic work in Drama this term on our scripted project. Their reading in drama has been incredibly expressive and they have engaged with some difficult themes with great maturity. And in Art, Mrs Parkin reports that Year 9 have successfully selected personal projects this term and Year 11 are well on their way to

producing good quality outcomes in time for the end of their GCSE. Well done all! You can see some examples in this newsletter.

As the Easter holidays begin the external examinations are coming into sharper focus. Some exams, such as art and MFL speaking exams will happen before the main body of exams, but for Year 11 after Easter there will be four school weeks (minus two Mondays for holidays) or 18 days, until the real bulk of the exams start from the week beginning Monday 15 May. Timetables have been shared with home and are available to find on our school website by clicking on the blue tile on the home page. All the information students and parents need is there, including revision guides organised by subject. If there is anything your child needs then please contact the school via the post@eskdale-school.co.uk email, bearing in mind that these might not be picked up over the holidays. We will respond from Monday 17 April onwards, though for sure.

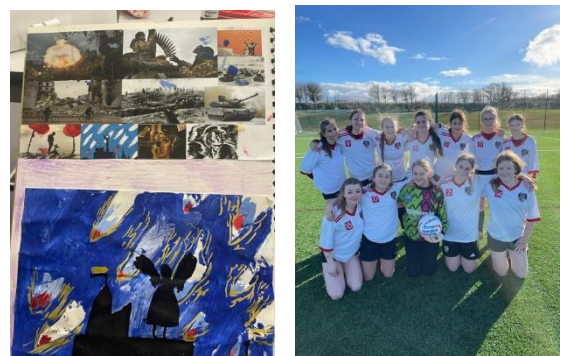
It is time for Year 11 to be honest with themselves. It is not too late to improve or to reach out for help from staff – that is why we are here, but ultimately it is the student who sits the exam and takes control of their destiny. The holiday is not just a holiday for Year 11s. All across the country, young people of their age will be beavering away revising in the knowledge that by the end of June, a long summer of freedom beckons. It is precious time, so Year 11 must prioritise their revision and preparation now and then enjoy their time after the exams knowing they have done what they can – to give their best is all anyone can ask. A mix of work and relaxation is what is needed, balancing the two to ensure rest and well-being are taken care of as well as learning those scientific formulas or historical dates! Some exam stress is not necessarily a bad thing, but if it becomes too much, then students can ask for support both from our superb pastoral team and/or our new Place2Be counsellor, Gareth Jones. We are all here to support all our Year 11 students at this exam time.

I would close by wishing all our students and their families a restful and calm Easter break. I have encouraged the students in the assemblies this week to help at home, to share the load and indeed carry our school values beyond the school gates. Respect, Kindness and Honesty are values that are more than on a poster or on a screen. I would like our students and staff to be the living embodiment of them. Please all have a lovely holiday.

Yours Sincerely



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