



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Federation Trust

Issue 157– 19th January 2018

The Importance of the Curriculum

This week has been an important one for Year 9 students as they have attended the specialisms evening, which will help them select the subjects they will study at GCSE next year. Turnout was very high, as ever, reflecting the importance that parents and students attach to this process. In last week's Newsletter, Mr Macdonald described the changes in KS4 exams and the impact they are having on the way we prepare students. The changes also have an impact on the range of subjects at Key Stage 4 – the implications of the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8, both of which I have written about in previous Newsletters, mean that we have to ensure that our students are following a curriculum that is academically rigorous, whilst giving them every chance to succeed.

We must remember, however, that the curriculum is not just about passing exams. The design of the curriculum is very important – it is our aim and duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that enables our students to make excellent progress and be well prepared for their life beyond school. This means that students need to demonstrate excellent academic achievement, but it also means that our curriculum needs to help develop skills and attitudes that are not part of an examined syllabus, but are nonetheless essential to success and fulfilment in life. The ability to develop and maintain healthy relationships, the desire to make a positive difference to the society in which they live, the development of key workplace skills such as initiative, resilience and teamwork – it is a vital part of our role as a school to help our students in these areas.

Our curriculum design, therefore, has three main areas of focus. Firstly, we ensure that students are well-prepared for examinations, both in terms of the subjects they are studying, but also in the specific intervention and preparation activity that they undertake. Secondly, we recognise that there are many parts of the school day which are not leading to academic qualifications, but are nonetheless vitally important – Citizenship, Religious Education, PE, extra-curricular clubs and activities, assemblies and tutor times, subjects that are studied until the end of Key Stage 3 but are then not continued in Key Stage 4, which will often include creative and technical subjects, such as Music, Art and Product Design. It is often at these times that students develop important skills and interests that they may enjoy throughout life, and we must make sure they are given due weight in our curriculum design.

Thirdly, there is the 'hidden' curriculum. We recognise that students are always learning – they learn from the ethos we have in school, from the high standards teachers set in class, from the way we care for the environment around us, from the way we recognise and reward success and effort, and challenge poor attitudes and behaviour. Our INSPIRE values are a great way of summarising what we want to achieve through this aspect of school life.

Curriculum is an important focus for us this year, as we continue to respond and adapt to the many changes imposed on schools, but also to reshape it and make sure it is fit for purpose. It will be the subject of our next Inset Day, on the 26th February, and we will be reviewing our curriculum aims and structure with Directors and staff. We will update you on progress, and make sure that our website sets out key decisions and curriculum policies.

Paul Heery

Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

January	FED	AWS	BC	BC6F
19th - 26th	Year 13 Mock Exams			
22nd	Year 9 Taster Morning			
23rd	6th Former for a Day Event			
23rd	Year 11 Reports Issued			
24th	6th Former for a Day Event			
25th	Bramcote College PTA Meeting 18:30 Bramcote College			
25th	German Exchange Information Evening 19:00 - 20:30			
26th	Balai Rai Visit			
30th	Debate Mate Competition 15:20 Nottingham Girls Academy			
30th	Poetry Live Event			
31st	KS5 Spectronomy Visit			

February

1st	UK Intermediate Maths Challenge
5th	Year 11 English Language / Maths Mock Exams begin
6th	Year 11 GCSE Food Practical Exam
8th	KS3 & 4 Paris and Disneyland Paris Trip Information Evening 19:00 Alderman White School Hall
8th	KS4 & 5 Theatre Visit 19:30 Derby Theatre
12th - 16th	Year 12 / 13 Trip To Portugal

Please see our websites to view a full calendar of events and important dates.

Bramcote College Attendance Awards - Autumn Term

Prizes have now been drawn for the 100% attendance awards during Autumn Term. Congratulations to everyone below who had their name drawn for a prize:

First Prize: £20 Victoria Centre Voucher

George 7GUL
Ria 8STZ
Oliver 9NOA
Lauren 10SUO
Harvey 11SEL

Second Prize: £10 Victoria Centre Voucher

Dylan 7DON
Abi 8STZ
Hassan 9REU
Alex 10HLL
Hollie 11IAN

attendance
MATTERS

Certificates will be handed out to all students with 100% attendance during the Autumn Term. The tutor groups in each year with the best attendance during the 2nd half of the Autumn Term are as follows: 7RAM, 8STZ, 9REU, 10HEW, 11MRR.

Well done to everyone. Attendance matters!

Mrs R Bosley

GB Hockey Success For 6th Form's Jemma

Jemma Wallis, in Year 13 at Bramcote College Sixth Form, was named GB Player of the Tournament last week at the IIHF World Championship Division 1 Group B in Poland.

Jemma had a very successful tournament, and although the team narrowly missed out on winning a Bronze medal, they all gained valuable experience from being there and Jemma was fortunate enough to pick up Great Britain's Player of the Tournament award. The award is selected by the coaches, with the winner receiving an engraved watch and commemorative puck. We are extremely proud of Jemma and this fantastic end to her career with GB Junior squad, and hope she will go on to play for the Senior Women's team next year.

Well done Jemma!

Bramcote College Sixth Form

(Thanks to Jemma and her mum for getting in touch and providing the photos)



Bramcote College PTA

The next meeting of the Bramcote College PTA is next Thursday 25th January, 6:30pm at Bramcote College.

New members are always welcome, please come along and introduce yourself if you would like to become involved.

Bramcote College PTA



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