

13 July 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's almost the end of the academic year and so, after a mini heat-wave, this week it's started to rain!

Newsletter

I am pleased to report that the first edition of our newsletter is now available on our website, featuring a range of activities and achievements. Please let us know what you think. If you have any suggestions, Mrs Thorp (School Business Manager) is overseeing the production of this termly communication, assisted by Mrs Bynt (Learning Resource Centre Assistant).

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are now a Directly Licensed Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and, following a launch event, now have around 70 students signed up for the Award – a very positive development in the wider life of the school.

School Uniform

Further to the change communicated in my last letter home (18 May '15), please remember that students will need to be dressed in mid-grey school trousers / skirts when they return to school in September. Students are likely to find themselves out of circulation if they do not comply with the dress code. The newsletter contains an article that provides further detail on acceptable styles.

Forest Schools Alliance

CTTC is now a Strategic Partner in the Forest Schools Alliance that comprises John Taylor High School in Barton-under-Needwood, De Ferrers Academy in Burton-on-Trent and King Edward VI School in Lichfield. This network of successful schools provides a framework of engagement for sharing expertise and good practice and, in particular, gives us a broad CPD programme across the four schools. It is also the arrangement through which we are involved in initial teacher training.

'The Big Sing'

'The Big Sing' is a cross-phase initiative designed to encourage children of all ages to sing (largely through a choir-based format). Chris Till (our Subject Leader for Music) and Gary Mulvey (our Leading Practitioner – Cross-Phase Progression) worked really hard to promote and develop this project this year, which involved 43 students from CTTC, 16 from Holly Grove, 31 from Highfields, 24 from Ridgeway and (for the first time) 38 from Gorsemoor. The event took place in the evening (in our Sports Hall), was very well attended (over 300 parents and other spectators) and was a huge success. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

'Rising Heroes'

Just before the Easter break, a group of our sixth form students (and some in KS4) were recruited by an ex-student, Jack Dowling, to raise funds for BBC's Children in Need. This was linked to his involvement in a social mobility project called 'Team Up' (organised by Lloyds Bank), whereby university students are recruited and trained to mentor and tutor disadvantaged young people.

As part of the 'Team Up' challenge, participants are asked to organise a fund-raising event and video (and edit) their efforts. The sixth-formers organised a 'Terrace Got Talent' showcase event on the evening of the last day of the Spring Term, together with a lunchtime preview event that featured a student 'flashmob'. They also made arrangements with BBC Birmingham to recruit Pudsey Bear for the day. All in all, they raised nearly £2000.

On the basis of the video submitted, of the 20 'Team Up' teams involved, the CTTC team was one of just three invited to London on 25 April to compete for a first prize of £2000 and an 'insight experience day' with Lloyds Bank. The team delivered a presentation and responded to questions from a panel comprising the CEO of UCAS, CEO of 'Team Up', Head of Emerging Talent at Lloyds Bank and Head of Business School at Queen Mary University. CTTC were duly judged the winners. The organiser of the event commented that CTTC 'blew it out of the water'. The students involved were: Janson Talbot, Charlie Dunbar, Chloe Garner, Erin Smith, Lewis Coles, Mia Roberts, Olivia Jenkinson, George Cooper and Natasha Blundell.

Parents' Calendar

Please find attached a copy of the Parents' Calendar for 2015/16, which can also be accessed from the school website. This will also soon be available as a downloadable version in MS Outlook (in response to a recent parental request).

For the new academic year, students return on Wednesday 9 September 2015. As usual, there will be a 'staggered start': please consult the Parents' Calendar for details.

Last day of term

As usual, we will be finishing early on the last day of term. Students will have lessons through periods 1 to 3 as usual and have a final registration period with their tutor from 12.20 pm until 12.30 pm. Students will then be free to leave. The canteen will be open until 1.00pm for students who wish to buy food.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Best wishes for a good Summer.

Stuart Jones
Headteacher