



BELVOIR
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of a very busy, productive and action packed term, it has been a relief to enjoy a good level of normality and for the rhythm of school life to tick along at a pace to ensure our students benefit from high quality teaching and learning experiences and support.

Peacock Pride

The academy's Peacock Pride rewards and recognition programme continues to develop and drive engagement in school life. With every year group receiving their first reports of this academic year, many students have achieved their Bronze Drive Award and many more have progressed and achieved the silver award. This is testament to how fantastic our students have been in their approach to learning across the range of subjects and they should be very proud of themselves.

Our House fundraising has continued this term with a truly outstanding number of items donated to our collection for Grantham's Foodbank. Thank you so much for your support of this Christmas appeal. Your deposits of shopping bags at reception and via your child will make a considerable contribution to easing the burden of providing food over this festive period for many families experiencing difficult circumstances at this time. Rowling was the winning House in terms of items collected and the winning forms in Year 7 and 8 have been rewarded with a film and popcorn and those in Year 9 and 10 enjoyed a trip in to the village for lunch. The latter is always a sought after reward and enables us to support our local businesses in the community too.

Personal Development

The term has afforded students across all year groups, a variety of educational experiences that have complimented the personal, social and health curriculum – PSHE. Last Friday all students watched a live theatre production called *Unacceptable* in the school hall, a play that raised awareness and knowledge linked to sexism, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. During October, Year 11 students experienced Study Skills, Gambling Awareness, and Relationships and Sex Education through the novel and popular TV drama 'Normal People'. Year 7 and 8 were also treated to a live performance from Irini Mando, a singer and song writer, who performed a number of her own songs and then spoke to the students about the importance of mental health.

Careers

We recently enjoyed the first of our first 'Careers Focus Week' when all subject areas introduced a career related learning element into their lessons. This enabled us to directly make curriculum links between learning and the world of work, strengthening the curriculum offer and purpose of learning by making it more relevant for students and raising aspirations. The event was well received by staff and students and we look forward to the

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next one which will coincide with National Careers Week at the beginning of March. Our Careers leader, Mrs Suschitzky together with Mrs Reynolds, our independent careers advisor, are busy conducting one to one meetings with year 11 students to support and guide them through their post 16 journey.

Our unrelenting commitment to supporting literacy and reading has continued through a range of reading activities. Students in Year 7 have been getting to grips with how to use Accelerated Reader, and have been quizzing like mad on the books they have read and racking up points – we already have 5 millionaires, having read over a million words each!

Year 11 Mocks

Year 11 sat their mock exams in November after a programme of revision which began with a dedicated session on study skills that supported them to create a revision timetable and to understand the most effective revision techniques to improve their retention and recall. They also undertook a four week programme of after-school revision sessions led by teaching staff to ensure that students were well prepared and supported for their exams. Students have now received their mock results and will have a good grasp of their strengths and areas of development to work on in the New Year!

Sporting Success

It has been absolutely fantastic to see so many students training and participating in sporting events this term. Sporting success at Belvoir continues with all of the girl's netball teams beating their local opposition and Years 7, 8 and 10 qualified to play in the knockout rounds of the county cup. Unfortunately, the year 10 team were knocked out in the first round. The Year 7 team made it to the quarter finals and the year 8 team beat Ibstock in the quarter finals and will go on to play in the semi-finals after the Christmas break. Congratulations to all those involved!

Congratulations to the Year 9 and 11 football teams who have made it through to county cup knock out rounds that will take place after Christmas.

In basketball we are excelling! Boys and girls teams from years 7, 8 and 9 have made it through to the knock out rounds of the county cup as well as the KS4 girls and the year 11 boys' teams who also qualified. Stand out performances in basketball include the year 8 girls, KS4 girls and year 11 boys teams, all scoring more than 60 points in a single game and running out winners by more than 50 points.

After the Christmas break we look forward to knock out games and local competitions in badminton, girls' futsal, KS4 volleyball and the start of the Junior NBA leagues for mixed basketball teams in years 7 and 8.

Food Technology

Students have really enjoyed getting back in the kitchen and sharpening up their knife skills and this week in food studies, they have been getting very Christmassy! Food groups have tasted lebkuchen, mince pies, stollen and blinis. They have also tested their Christmas food knowledge in our cultural food around the world quiz. On the menu this week is Christmas Crinkle Cookies – for any students who haven't got round to baking yet here is the link [Christmas crinkle cookies recipe | BBC Good Food](#)

All things reading

Year 7 were also lucky enough to have the author Sophie Cleverly come and speak to them about the books she has written, as organised by our Reading Champion Librarian Mrs Stewart. Many of our students were excited to hear her speak and also managed to get their copies of the author's books signed.

Year 7 and 8 students will be receiving a late Christmas present in January, when they will receive their free book that they have chosen on the *Books Trust's Book Buzz* initiative. They will have half a term to read and quiz on their new books.

Furthermore, we have completed two Belvoir Book Weeks this term. The first book week required students to read their books independently, whilst the second focussed on teachers across all subjects modelling reading fluency to the students through fiction and non-fiction texts linked to their subject areas.

Sparx

In Maths, this term has seen the successful launch of a new website for students in Years 7 to 10 to complete their Math's homework called Sparx. Each student receives an individualised set of questions and they are required to achieve 100% each week. This has already resulted in a marked increase in the number of homework questions completed across these year groups. With the support videos for each question students have the access to help instantly and this is also increasing their independence. Please ask your child to show you the work they are completing on this engaging maths education platform.

London Trip

Miss McPeake organised and led an overnight cultural trip to London in November for 57 lucky year students. They were treated to a visit to the Houses of Parliament and took part in an election campaign, voted and should now understand the idea of a coalition! They also witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tower of London and enjoyed a fabulous view at dusk from the London Eye – some great photo opportunities were had by all. A visit to the Gurdwara and St Paul's Cathedral and a performance of the Prince of Egypt at the Dominion theatre completed a packed itinerary in the Capital.

Belvoir students rarely let us down and it is fantastic that our staff were sought out by each venue to complement our students on their impeccable attitude and behaviour. In particular the Hard Rock Café and the Dominion Theatre both declared what a pleasure it was to host the students of Priory Belvoir!

Oh no it isn't.....Oh Yes it is!

The whole of Year 7 enjoyed our annual trip to the Nottingham Playhouse to see the pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*, organised by Miss Steer. Students fully participated in the spirit of panto with great excitement and once again, staff at the Playhouse commented on the excellent behaviour and manners of our students. Well done Year 7!

Mary Poppins

Book your tickets for our forthcoming production of *Mary Poppins* which promises to be a show stopper! Tickets will be on sale from Thursday 6th January, priced at £5 for adults and £3.50 for concessions. Tickets can be purchased through sims360. Performances are the 2nd, 3rd and 4th February starting at 7pm.

Christmas Performance

Finally, a huge thank you to Miss Form for working right up to the finish line this term in organising and rehearsing students who provided each year group with a Christmas Performance. Staff and students were treated to some stunning performances of Christmas and non-Christmas music including soloists and small group ensembles and dance. The whole of Year 7 sung XXXXX in parts which was a real spectacle, including some skilled Irish dancing by two elves! It was an absolute delight to experience our students performing live with such skill, maturity and musicality.

Helpful latest Covid Update

- From Tuesday 14th December 2021, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 was introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of Covid-19.
- The DfE has confirmed that even if **someone has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days**, if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 and are exempt from isolation, they are strongly advised to take part in daily testing. If the LFD test is positive, they should also take a confirmatory PCR even if it is within the 90 days. This is a change to the previous position because we know people can be infected with Omicron even when they have had previous Covid infection.

On behalf of all of the staff at the Priory Belvoir Academy, we wish all our families a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L S Newton
Headteacher

