



**BELVOIR**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the spring term closes, we would like to share with you a selection of highlights from a very busy term and celebrate some individual achievements. We endeavour to celebrate our students' achievements both in and out of school and to that end, we often rely on the parents and carers of our more modest students to let us know. Despite the ups and downs of living with covid, we are absolutely firing on all cylinders as an academy and have been busy supporting students in bridging the gaps in their learning and preparing our Year 11 students for the forthcoming examinations which begin in earnest within the next few weeks. Extra-curricular activities and trips and visits are an integral part of our offer and it is extremely pleasing that the student uptake for these opportunities is high and this commitment is recognised through our Peacock Pride awards programme. We are immensely proud of all that our students achieve. It has been a pleasure to spend time with some of them through the Headteacher's rewards breakfasts.

### **Catch-up Strategies**

Students across the school are benefitting from a range of initiatives to help them catch up following the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. These include paired reading, extra reading, precision teaching – literacy, Sparx maths, speed teaching and quizzes to help catch up and retain information in all subjects and targeted small group intervention in Maths and English. Over 40 students have been selected to participate in after school tutoring in Maths and English through the National Tutoring Programme. These sessions have been running since January and continue for fifteen weeks. Both parents and students have commented very positively on the impact of these sessions, which are not only helping them to make progress but also in boosting their confidence.

### **Personal Development**

We continue to provide learning opportunities for personal development through the PSHE curriculum and drop down days so that students develop their knowledge and understanding to make informed choices and decisions covering a wide range of issues and themes. Drug Awareness, Online Safety, Road Safety, Healthy Relationships, Self Defence, Financial Awareness and First Aid have been covered during the term.

Thank you to all students and families who donated to the Ukraine collection which raised £1288 and our non-uniform day for Comic Relief raised £560.

### **National Science Week**

All students in Key Stage 3 took part in National Science week this term, with this year's theme 'Growth'. Activities including themed lessons, Science competitions, demonstrations of practical experiments with a fire theme and a treasure hunt involving staff across the school. Various prizes for the events were given out during the end of term celebration assemblies. Winners of the poster competition will be sent off to the Guinness world records national competition, so fingers crossed for a Belvoir winner!

### **Enterprise**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> March Y10 had an opportunity to find out more about Briton Fabricators Ltd. when Dean Morcom, their Commercial Director, came into school. BTEC Enterprise requires pupils to investigate different SME's in the

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East Midlands. Dean guided pupils through the main activities of the business including a current project on the southern Grantham Bypass. He also discussed examples of completed projects around the country including bridges and gantries for Highways England, Network Rail and various pedestrian bridges in cities and university campus locations. Pupils heard first-hand the skills and mind set required to work in this industry, career opportunities and the external factors that affect the day to day operation of this successful business.

During the last two weeks, Year 11 Enterprise pupils have been rounding off their coursework with a "Dragon's Den" style pitch of their micro enterprise business plan. Enterprises included social media management, handmade jewellery, celebration cakes, dog walking, car washing and garden maintenance. Pupils individually pitched their idea to an audience and had to deal with some probing questions on their business plans. This activity developed their communication, presentation and planning skills and, despite some understandable nerves, pupils rose to the challenge delivering professional, confident pitches.

### **Food Technology**

Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students completed their final practical assessment on the topic of 'occasions'. The two dishes had to be highly skilled, prepared, cooked and presented within three hours. Students rose to the challenge and produced some amazing dishes that would be worthy of any birthday, Chinese New Year or Wedding celebration! The Food studies team would like to thank all of our parents and carers for supporting us in ensuring that our students are so well prepared with ingredients for weekly practical lessons both in KS3 and KS4. This enables us to maximise the time available in lessons to concentrate on achieving high quality dishes.

### **Peacock Pride**

The Peacock Pride rewards at the end of this term for Year 7 have focused on achievements since starting at the Priory Belvoir Academy. A magnificent 253 badges have been awarded! For Year 8 upwards the focus has been on getting a new badge to push them out of their comfort zone and on to greater challenges. For some that has meant getting the bronze badge for an award they hadn't previously achieved and for others, progressing from bronze to silver. It has also been an absolute pleasure to see so many of the cast of Mary Poppins see their sustained effort and dedication in rehearsals recognised through the Inspiration badge. The full array of colours from bronze, to silver and right up to gold have been awarded to the cast for their part in such a wonderful performance.

### **Field Trip**

Learning outside the classroom is currently a key focus in the Geography department with the very welcome return to fieldwork. Year 10 students visited Nottingham this week to carry out the first compulsory fieldwork requirement of their GCSE course. They collected data on variations in quality of life in two different locations across the city. In May the same students will go to the East Yorkshire Coast to investigate the use of different coastal management techniques to control coastal processes. Both visits offer a great opportunity to apply geographic theory to the real world whilst developing a wide range of fieldwork skills. After Easter, Year 8 will be venturing in to Bottesford looking at land use patterns and crime prevention and then at the end of June we will be whisking 50 Year 9s, 10s and 11s off to Iceland to explore this fascinating country shaped by the heat of the earth and the ice above it.

### **Rock School Begins!**

This term, our talented year 10 GCSE Music students have started Rock School after school on a Wednesday and are already sounding great! Each student has an instrument that they are specialising in for their GCSE, and the group are getting valuable experience of playing as part of an ensemble, something they have to do for one of their GCSE assessed performances. It has also been fantastic to see that they are all willing to give the other instruments a go as well; their 'can-do attitude' is inspiring to see! They are currently in the process of putting together a set list ready for a concert at the end of the Summer term, and we'll also be opening up the group to guitarists from other year groups after Easter. We want to make Belvoir Rock in 2022!

## **Music and Performing Arts**

Our students continue to showcase their talents in a competitive context and have recently enjoyed considerable success in the Grantham music festival. Congratulations to the following:

- Arlen Williams, Year 7 achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in String Solo Grades 1&2 category
- Norah Flavin, Year 7 achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the String Solo Grades 5&6 category
- Isla Williams, Year 9 achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the String Solo Grades 3&4 category
- Daisy Bayman, Year 9 achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Vocal Solo category
- Tom Fletcher, Year 10 achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta category and also passed his grade 6 singing exam with distinction.

## **And Names in Lights.....**

- Zak Rothera-Oxley, Year 9 stars in the Alex Garland Film *Men* released in cinemas on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Georgia Bowbanks in Year 11, is currently starring as Bonnie in *Bonnie and Clyde* at the Arts Theatre in London

## **Sport**

It has been a busy term again for the extra-curricular sports programme in school. Practices and fixtures have taken place in badminton, volleyball, football, rugby, badminton and basketball. For some students this has been their first taste of an activity in a competitive fixture, for example contact rugby and girls basketball. For others they have been able to showcase their talents through the knock out stages of the county cup.

Some notable highlights include:

- Year 7 girls reaching the quarter finals of the netball.
- Year 8 girls reached the semi-finals of the netball and basketball competitions.
- Year 9 boys reached the quarter finals of the football and basketball
- KS4 girls reached the semi-finals of the basketball.
- Year 11 boys reached the finals of the basketball but sadly lost out to a really strong Wigston Academy team on the Leicester Riders show court. A number of KS4 girls have also begun to take part in senior netball as a team and are making fantastic progress.

Mr Miller has started up a Year 7 rugby team with up to 20 students training on Thursdays after school. The team has recently enjoyed their first fixtures competing in mini festivals against other local schools. We are excited to see the team develop and join the ranks of our other sports teams competing at a high level.

As always the PE department is incredibly proud of the achievements of students especially when we are competing against much larger schools. They participate with enthusiasm and energy but always show the best of themselves and are a credit to both the academy and their parents.

The calibre of individual students competing at local and national level is immense at Belvoir:

- Liv White                      Netball                      U15 Leicestershire County, Market Harborough youth Netball club, U15 Loughborough Lightning academy
- Zach Atkins                      Basketball                      Under 18 Premier team, Nottingham
- Fin Tuck                      Basketball                      U14 Leicester Riders, Final Stage U15 Aspire England Trials
- Willow Baxter-Clucas                      Basketball                      England Aspire Pathway
- Cameron Markham                      Basketball                      England Aspire Pathway, Nottingham Hoods
- Alex Halstead                      Football                      U13 Nottingham Forest Football Academy
- Arthur Dobson                      Football                      U13 MK Dons Football Academy
- Claudia Clemons                      Rugby                      Leicestershire County
- Callum Melville                      Swimming                      Scotland National Team
- Logan Melville                      Football                      U14 Nottingham Forest Academy
- Chloe Daybell                      Swimming                      Nova Centurion Swimming Club competing at National Level
- Ethan Squires                      Cycling                      U16 Beeston Cycling Club competing at National Level

- Lucas Bowen                      Gymnastics            Nottingham Gymnastics Club and reselected for GB team
- Louie Truman                   Squash                   U15 England, Nottinghamshire Premier League
- Tilly Shaw                        Horse Riding           U16 British Show Jumping Juniors competing at national level,  
East Midlands regional player
- Elijah Killen Smith            Tennis                    U14 National level, Grantham Tennis Club
- Hannah Roberts                Football                  U12 Nottingham Forest Academy
- Archie Carson                   Rugby                     Tri-County Rugby, Kesteven Rugby Club
- Josh Hatherley                 Cross Country         U15 Wreake and Soar Valley Athletics Club
- Toby Shaw                        Endurance              U16 British Rounds, Edge Off Road Events
- Campbell Searle                Cricket                   U13 Leicestershire County Cricket
- Brooke Morley                  Football                  U16 Nottingham Forest Football Academy
- Grace Hatherley                Cross Country         Selected to represent Leicestershire in finals

### **Living with Covid**

The Government have recently updated the national and school guidance on the next steps for living with Covid. Below are key parts of the information which you may find helpful.

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

This will mean:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days.
- Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.

We have two members of staff leaving us at the end of this term to pastures new. Mrs Exwood has given us 15 outstanding years as a teacher of Food Technology and latterly Enterprise. And Ms Forsyth has given us 13 outstanding years as Head of Design Technology. We wish them the well in their new pursuits.

Finally, we have a number of employment opportunities, particularly for Learning Support Assistants – please follow the vacancies link on the school website for more details.

Have a good Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L S Newton

Headteacher

