

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a long term, it is always a good time to reflect on the achievements of our students. There is certainly much to celebrate and I have provided a selection of highlights from the past 15 weeks.

### **Peacock Pride**

With the first set of reports sent home this term, we've seen a number of pupils achieve the requirements of their first Drive Award in bronze and others qualifying for silver and gold. Congratulations to all of them. With the end of term performances coming up, more will qualify for the Inspiration Award and Year 7s have been racing ahead with the Physical Award in their first term.

Last week we held a series of House Assemblies, bringing staff and pupils members of each house across the year groups together to develop some camaraderie in preparation for the competitions to come in 2023.

### **Sports**

The extra-curricular programme format in PE has changed slightly with clubs running for the first part of each half term followed by a number of fixtures. This has resulted in an increased number of students being involved, especially in the younger years with girls football, netball, boys football and boys basketball being particularly popular. We have also had really good numbers of students taking part in the recreational lunch time activities taking place in the sports hall each day.

There have been girls football, netball and basketball fixtures for all year groups this term. Special mentions must go to the new year 7's who have competed with enthusiasm and vigour and the year 9 and year 10 netballers who won their respective netball leagues. Miss Jones was also really excited to announce that we will be running a Netball tour in the summer which is the first time we have been able to offer something like this and may pave the way for future trips.

The boys have also competed in football and basketball fixtures. Again a special mention must be given to the year 7s who are hugely enthusiastic and talented. For the first time in many years we will be able to offer multiple football teams in this age group which is a fantastic achievement for a school of our size. The year 9 boys got to the playoff stage of the local league but got narrowly beaten by Uppingham so sadly didn't qualify for the county cup. There have been some strong basketball performances so far in all ages too and the year 7s and 8s will be part of the junior NBA competition after Christmas.

Clubs and fixtures after Christmas will move onto badminton so please encourage your child to participate on their respective night.

### **Rock School**

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Every Wednesday after school, a hard-core group of musicians have been tirelessly at work putting together bands and rehearsing songs in preparation for the end of year Christmas Show. We have had the highest number of committed students since it began in 2021, and we are thrilled that every year group in the school is represented! In addition, students have adapted well to having to change band arrangements when year 11s needed to focus on their mock examinations and our younger students certainly missed their camaraderie and guidance! The bands performed at the Christmas concert on the last day of term for the whole school and were simply brilliant! This is the start of something bigger!!

### **Belvoir Vocal Group**

After so much difficulty in getting singing groups off the ground since the pandemic, it has been amazing to see the Belvoir Vocal Group thrive this term. Our lunchtime rehearsals are such a quick turn around, but the students involved all have a passion for singing and a great sense of fun, making the 25 minutes that Ms Form and the students spend together one of her favourite times of the week. Everyone has been impressed with the talent and those who were fortunate enough to attend the Belvoir Awards evening in November will have seen just how good they are. Their performance of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' sounded absolutely beautiful in Bottesford Church, and equally impressed the school as a whole in the end of term concert. Well done Vocal Group, you are stunning!

### **Christmas Show**

The 2022 Christmas Show was a glorious bonanza of Music, Dance and Drama performances, organised by Ms Form and supported by Miss Watson. The performance showcased the hard work going on in the performing arts subjects over the past two terms. There were solo performers, four different bands from Rock School, the Belvoir Vocal Group, a scene from Hairspray the musical which included a dance, the whole of year 7 performing their piece for this year's singing project, and there was even a performance of a song written by one of our GCSE musicians which was performed by a band they had put together during class. There were over 60 students involved in the show and this is the first year we have had so many items demonstrating the developing pool of talent we have. A great first term in Performing Arts!

### **Charity**

This term has seen fantastic 'engagement' levels once again. Our Macmillan cake sale raised £942, an astonishing amount. Many thanks to every one of our home bakers and a special thank you to the House Leaders who served over 600 people as their first responsibility in their new roles.

Thank you to the generosity of our school community, we are delighted to once again, support the Grantham Foodbank with much needed items for those people in our communities who are struggling. We have received an overwhelming level of contributions which will be gratefully received by anyone who accesses the Grantham Foodbank service.

### **Awards Evening**

In November we held the Prior Belvoir Awards Evening in the atmospheric setting of St Mary's Church in Bottesford. Over 80 awards were given out over the course of the evening, [with every curriculum area represented alongside](#) Peacock Pride to Personal Development. It was the most wonderful evening, topped off with the most inspirational speech from Oisin Castro, a former [student](#) here at Belvoir.

### **Remembrance**

Our annual Remembrance service was held in St Mary's Church, Bottesford. Year 7 and 11 were led by our cadets in the walk to the church and the service incorporated a selection of readings, literature and music delivered by students and staff. Students' sense of occasion was exemplary. Years 8 – 10 participated in Remembrance assemblies in school.

**It's Time to Nominate your Lord-Lieutenant's Young Person of the Year for 2023**

The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire has launched his 2023 awards designed to celebrate young people aged 13 to 19 across the city and county.

Any young person aged 13 to 19 years old living in or in full time education in Leicestershire or the city can be nominated by another young person, their school, parent/carer or other professionals or community organisation for one of this year's four categories

As always, the categories for this year aim to showcase the very best examples of effort and achievement. Young people can be nominated for either the Young Person of Courage, Young Volunteer, Young Leader, or Young Artist category.

The closing date for this year's nominations is **17 February 2023**. You can find out more about the awards and how to nominate a young person at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/llawards](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/llawards)

### **SEN - Precision Teaching**

Literacy provision teaching has continued to support students who find reading and spelling difficult. These sessions are for 10 minutes each day for 6 weeks. 30 students across year 7 and 8 have taken part and all have made good quality measurable progress. Every student has graduated the intervention with a minimum of an 80% increase in their ability to accurately spell and read a list of 100 of the most common words within the English language.

### **SEN Clinics**

Earlier this month we had the second SEN clinic of the year. This is an invitation to parents with students on the SEN register to book a meeting with Mr. Colton the SENDCo, if they wish to and discuss support for their child, review provision and ask for support. These clinics have been very successful and helpful to both parents and the school in supporting SEN students across the school. The next SEN clinic will be late January. Parents will receive an email with the date and times to book a slot.

### **All things careers:**

#### **KS4 information evening**

Thank you to all KS4 parents and students who came along to the Information Evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. We had over 15 local post-16 destination providers, including past Belvoir students, disseminating information about all the post 16-options on offer, from T Levels and Apprenticeships, to College and Sixth Forms. The evening had a real buzz and we hope students and parents found it invaluable in thinking about life beyond Belvoir.

#### **Future first Careers Fair**

Year 11 attended the Future First Career Fair at Newark Showground on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Students spoke to an array of local post 16 & post 18 destinations, as well as apprenticeship/training providers, employers and the armed forces. Students came back laden with information leaflets, prospectuses and pens, ready to plan their lives after Belvoir.

#### **1:1 guidance interviews**

By the end of this term, one third of Year 11's will have had their 1:1 guidance interviews, if your child hasn't yet had one, don't worry, they will all be seen before February half term. If you would like your child to see our Careers Advisor as soon as possible, please email our Careers Leader – Mrs Suschitzky

[lsuschitzky@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:lsuschitzky@prioryacademies.co.uk)

#### **Work experience**

Year 10 are busy planning their work experience placements in March 2023. There are some fantastic placements planned ranging from photography to agriculture. Well done for seizing this opportunity so positively Year 10! Please speak to our Careers Leader – Mrs Suschitzky, if your placement isn't arranged yet, there is support available.

#### **The Prince's Trust**

A small group of selected year 11 students have been studying The Prince's Trust nationally recognised qualification: 'Career Development and Work Experience'. to help boost employability on leaving school.

### **English**

The English department launched their new reading for pleasure sessions with Year 7 and 8 students in August. Once a week, all students in these year groups have an English lesson in the library. During this session, students get to explore and read the new stock in the library, take accelerated reader quizzes which test their comprehension of the books they have most recently read, and listen to the chosen 'texts that tempt' read to them by their class teacher. Tempting texts read so far include 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar' by Roald Dahl and 'Resit' by Tom Palmer.

During Read Aloud Belvoir Book Week, students have also had the story of the Greek titan Chronos read to them (an extract from Mythos by Stephen Fry), and Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes. We have also seen an expansion of our library stock, taking into further account the interests of our students. Our section on farming and rural affairs has expanded, as has our collection of books that have been inspired popular television shows, such as the Enola Holmes Mysteries and the Heart Stopper series. We have also expanded our collection to challenge our advanced readers to move on from tried and tested primary school favourites by incorporating, amongst other things, Stephen Fry's Greek Myth books in to our stock, to encourage them to find out more about the tales that inspired Percy Jackson's adventures.

During the final week of term, we have been celebrating *Jólabókaflóðið*, which is an Icelandic Christmas Tradition where people give each other a book to read on Christmas Eve, sit round a warm fire, drink hot chocolate and read their new books. Students in Years 7 and 8 have been gifted books from the English department, and chosen by themselves from the Books Trust Book Buzz scheme (which includes 'When the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle and 'How to be a Champion' by England footballing hero Marcus Rashford), were given hot chocolate and a chocolate coin to create a memorable reading experience at the end of a long term. Please do ask you child about their gift, and maybe even read it after they have finished it!

If you would like help with encouraging your child to read at home, please take a look at these recommendations: [7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/7-Top-Tips-to-Support-Reading-at-Home.pdf)

Upcoming events for next term include a visit to the school by a local theatre company to give a performance of the classic text 'A Christmas Carol' for our students in Years 9 and 10, a visit by the author Tom Palmer, and a trip to the Globe Theatre in London for our Year 8 students to watch a performance of 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare.

### **Maths**

Students have been excellent at completing their homework on Sparx this term. The completion rates across all years have been outstanding. As the programme tailors the questions to the individual pupil it has been great to see that all have had well-tailored homework throughout the year. We will continue to reward those students who continually complete all their homework on time and we have seen a significant increase in the number of students fully completing homework tasks and on time every week!

### **Business and Enterprise**

KS4 Business students were treated earlier in the term with a visit from Donya Donger from Peacock Farm in Muston. She spoke to our students about running a business and how she promotes her products. It was great to hear about how a local business is growing and how they have had to adapt since the pandemic. If anyone is struggling for Christmas gift ideas Mr Quinn recommends their blackberry vinegar and is also looking forward to trying their other flavours too!!

### **Geography**

A busy term in Geography, started off in September with Year 7 creating a Landscape in a Box model and 'visiting' each other's landscapes in a virtual fieldwork lesson. There were some wonderful models which were then proudly displayed at the Year 7 tutor evening. In November it was time for some real fieldwork to investigate river processes at the River Devon in Bottesford.

Year 8 have been studying Tectonic Processes and the planet has not disappointed by providing us with examples of earthquakes & volcanic eruptions to bring current events into our lessons.

Year 9 have been studying Development Issues in Africa to widen their understanding of other parts of the world, in preparation for their exams & option choices after Christmas. Year 10 have completed the first three topics of

their GCSE course, followed by their first experience of answering real exam questions. They are now studying the Geography of the UK which includes two fieldwork investigations (more information on this to follow in the New Year).

Finally, it was a pleasure to reward exceptional students for their work in Geography at the Awards Evening in November, including the Belvoir Earthshot Award (you may have seen the real Earthshot prizes being awarded by Prince William recently).

### **Bon Voyage!**

40 year 8 students enjoyed a language and cultural trip to France in September, where they tried their out their French language skills, experienced French food and discovered French monuments. On return, they have learnt about life in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and discussed some British values such as the right to education. Year 9 are currently learning about French foods and had a chocolate tasting, comparing in French the different types of chocolate. This lead to learning how chocolate is made, and the issues behind growing cocoa beans in mass, such as child slavery in cocoa plantations. Students then discussed the Rule of Law in England, which protect children from work exploitation, and are entitled to a free education. Some Year 9 also took part in the national GCHQ competition, an intelligence, security and cyber company in England, and well done to A Turner for being the winner of the school with over 1500 points! These were challenging code-cracking challenges using a variety of languages, so well done to everyone who took part in this challenge! Last but not least, Year 10 exchanged their first letter with their French pen pal, and are looking forward to receiving their Christmas letters soon!

### **Warhammer Enthusiasts!**

On the final day of term, Mr. Colton took 15 students to Warhammer World in Nottingham. The trip included a tour around the Warhammer Exhibition centre, game demonstrations and the opportunity to model and play Warhammer with other enthusiasts.

### **Christmas! Oh no it isn't!**

The annual Year 7 Panto trip this year was Dick Whittington at the Nottingham Playhouse. Year 7 were full audience participants including collective singing of the highest standards. A great time was had by all. Over 450 students signed up for Christmas Dinner on Wednesday which was a veritable feast. Thank you to IDEAL catering for cooking and providing a quality Christmas dinner which was thoroughly enjoyed, particularly by some of the Year 11 boys who managed to eat two meals!

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

January 2023

### **School reopens to students on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Year 7-9 'flu Vaccinations

w/c 10<sup>th</sup> January – Year 9 Mock Examinations

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Modern Foreign Languages Workshops – details to be confirmed

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Careers Interviews

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Year 9 and Year 10 English – A Christmas Carol Theatre Performance

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 8 and Year 9 English – Author in school

February 2023



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> – Year 9 Battlefields / Belgium Trip  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8 Beginners French Play  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Year 10 Parents Evening  
w/c 20<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> February – February Half term

#### March 2023

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 9 Options/Parents Evening  
w/c 6<sup>th</sup> March – Year 10 Work Experience Week  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Year 7 Beginners French Play  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 7 and Year 8 Friends of Belvoir Disco  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 Parents Evening

#### April 2023

April 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – Ski Trip to Andorra  
w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays  
w/c 24<sup>th</sup> April – Year 8 Mock Examinations  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Year 7 Parents Evening

#### May 2023

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day Bank Holiday  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Coronation Bank Holiday  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Weekend  
w/c 15<sup>th</sup> May – Start of Year GCSE's  
w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 7 Mock Examinations  
w/c 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term

#### June 2023

w/c 19<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 Mock Examinations  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Provisional Year 11 Leavers Prom  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Netball Tournament Weekend at Keele University  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – GCSE Contingency Day (*all candidates must be available up to and including this date*)  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7 induction Day  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7 induction Evening

#### July 2023

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Last Day of Term