

Year 7 Newsletter



July Half Term

What a year it has been and what an unfortunate way to end with the school having to close. The challenges that Year 7 have faced this year have been unique and unprecedented. From being in lockdown, to wearing masks and remaining in one classroom for all their lessons it hasn't been easy. However, I'm proud to say that they have managed this admirably and adapted extremely well through Year 7. It has been extremely rewarding to see them grow throughout this year and begin to mature into young people. I really do feel that progress has been made by each and every single one of them. What is more fulfilling is that not only have they progressed academically but also socially and personally too. It has been astonishing to see the range of effort, hard work and talent that has gone into what has been such a difficult year. There have been so many highlights and memories to look back on and it is important the students reflect on what they have achieved this year.

As the summer holidays begin, it is a great opportunity to relax and spend time with friends and family whilst recharging the batteries. As the COVID restrictions ease, it's important to be cautious, take care and stay safe. Hopefully there will be some summer adventures to be had even if it is within the UK. Looking even further ahead, the start of Year 8 is an exciting but very important time. Working on the skills that have been learnt this year and developing new ones will be critical in ensuring that everyone reaches their maximum potential.

Alternative Curriculum Day

On Friday 9th July, students spent the day off timetable for Alternative Curriculum Day. They went around in form groups and took part in three different activities. The first was a virtual Zoom meeting with a member from the Red Cross to learn about basic first aid. The students looked at different emergency scenarios and worked in groups to identify how they would solve them. From the sessions I was involved with, the input from students was excellent. The second activity was led by the Geography department and involved developing skills around communication and team work. The final activity, and possibly most fun, was an open bus tour around York city centre. The weather was glorious and students came back with smiles. There was an added bonus at break time too as the canteen staff had made every student an England themed biscuit in preparation for the European Final.

Unfortunately, due to some positive COVID cases, there were a number of students who were not able to take part in Alternative Curriculum Day. I was really upset by this but thankfully the bus company have said they will take these students on the tour at a later date so they don't miss out.



Celebrating Pride

The month of June is recognised as 'Pride' month to celebrate equality and diversity across the world. The school had a non-uniform day on Monday 28th to raise money for charity, and students were encouraged to dress in rainbow coloured clothes to promote the Pride theme.

The atmosphere was great during the day as we embraced this celebration of diversity. Through form activities, students gained a deeper understanding of the history of Pride month, hearing an assembly from Mr Walker on celebrating diversity and supporting the members of this community.



Year 7 Parents Evening and Reports

Earlier on in the half term was Year 7 Parents Evening which, due to COVID, was the first opportunity for parents to speak with individual subject teachers. There were many excellent conversations and a lot of lovely praise given to students who deserve it after such a fantastic year. Feedback from both parents and teachers after the event was really positive.

In the penultimate week, students received their end of year reports with form tutor comments. It was amazing to see the progress students have made this year and they should be proud of themselves for the effort they have put in. During form time, students spent some time reflecting on these reports and looking at how they can improve when starting back in Year 8. It would be valuable for parents/carers to speak with their children about the report and celebrate the success whilst identifying areas to work on.

I've picked out the top ten students across the year group for each of the behaviour, effort and homework categories to celebrate their fantastic achievements. Well done!

Behaviour	Effort	Homework
Ruby DANN	Elizabeth ANDREW	Misham MUMTAHINA
Sasha DANN	Luce CRAIG	Ella HATFIELD
Verity FLETCHER	Verity FLETCHER	Fariha NEHLIN
Emily GLANVILLE	Emily GLANVILLE	Riya SHARMA
Georgie HARRIS	Jamie STONE	Ruby DANN
Susannah HUNT	Ruby DANN	Elizabeth ANDREW
Aiko BAILEY	Sasha DANN	Verity FLETCHER
Emily BATE	Sophie GRANGER	Jamie STONE
Evie CLARKE	Susannah HUNT	Emily BATE
Roma GATENBY	Thomas BOLTON	Elsie BUTLER

Computing Competition

The Computing Department ran a competition to design and code the best game using Scratch to win a £20 prize. Mr Dring has been extremely excited about the level of talent he has seen in Computing lessons and the quality of entries he received confirmed this. Games had to be made individually rather than as a group. There were some brilliant entries with very high quality sound, graphics, code and game play. The best entries will be submitted to a national competition for a chance to win £100.

Matthew Musk was the winning student with his Snow Dodge game (I really enjoyed playing it!!). Well done!



Student of the Month

It's always a pleasure to read the nominations for Student of the Month and hear of the fantastic work Year 7 students are doing.

For June, the Student of the Month winner was Ellie Hartley in 7BA for 'fantastic revision resources created in preparation for a science test'. The runner up was Ben Waddington 7SCU for 'fantastic work throughout the year in science and amazing results achieved in the end of year Science test'. Well done to Ellie and Ben.

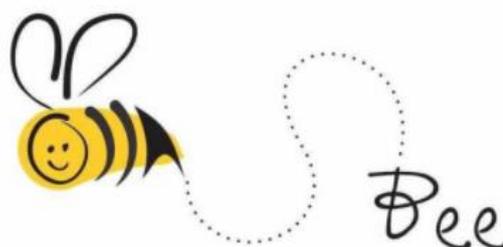


The Student of the Month for July was Emily Porteous 7HD who was also nominated three times overall. Her winning nomination was for her 'commitment to developing her mathematical understanding'. The runner up for was Changhua Jiang 7CBO for 'some excellent work in English, particularly in creative writing'. Excellent work Emily and Changhua, keep it up!

Spelling Bee

In Spanish lessons, students have enjoyed taking part in the Spanish Spelling Bee. There was a buzzing atmosphere and tensions were high as students competed in a knockout competition. They revisited various topics from the Year 7 Spanish curriculum, truly putting their memories to the test. It is remarkable to see how quickly students they have developed such a wide range of vocabulary in Spanish. The two best two spellers from Spanish groups are listed below:

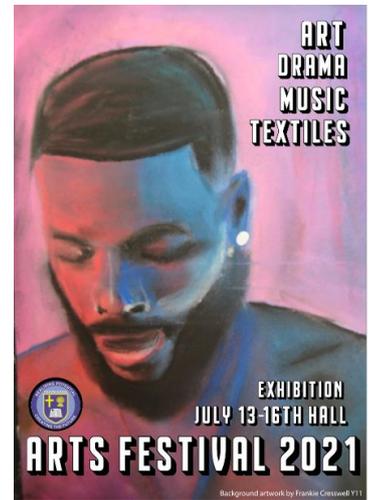
Daniel Cranidge	Lola Tunstall
Susannah Hunt	Lughan Pattinson
Celia Spence	Rufus Carter
Elliott McAleese-Shorney	Evie Nasson
Alexander Stiles	Lavena Gurung
Ruby Dann	Joseph Hailstone
Heather Smith	Ella Hatfield
Aran Song	Samuel Fountain
Teddy Leigh	Rory Bates



¡Muy bien!

Year 7 Arts Festival

Unfortunately, due to the school closure, Year 7 students did not get the chance to take part in the Arts Festival that had been organised by the Art department. They had planned for students to be off timetable for the day and take part in a variety of activities including art, drama, textiles and live music. It was a massive shame because the time and effort that had gone into organising this was phenomenal. However, hopefully the event will be postponed to a later date ensuring the students still get this great experience.



Looking Ahead

Whilst summer is a time to relax and enjoy the (hopefully) beautiful weather, it's also important to look ahead and think about September. The students have had a fabulous year but we're always keen to move forward and improve. It would be great if they could think about two or three areas for which they will focus on at the start of Year 8. This could be anything from checking Class Charts every night, ensuring they have a fully equipped pencil case every day, attending at least one extra-curricular club etc.

As a pastoral team in Year 7, we will be focusing on the high expectations we set out each day, particularly on uniform, attendance and homework. We want to build the students into independent learners who are continually striving to improve and by repeating good habits, this is how we hope to achieve it..

Key dates

Friday 23rd July - Final day of term. School finishes at 12:35

Monday 6th July and Tuesday 7th July - INSET day (school closed for students)

Thursday 9th September— First day of new academic year for Year 8 students

Please note the dates the students return to school may change as a result of announcements relating to lateral flow testing in September.

Half Term Challenge!

When the students return in September, they will be role models for the new Year 7 students. Having been in Fulford for a year, we thought it would be great if they could reflect on this and write a letter to the new Year 7 students giving them advice on what to expect and any tips they could recommend. It would be great if we could pass these on to the new Head of Year 7 so she can use them to help support her students. We look forward to reading what you have learnt! Please email in all your letters to bonselsj@fulford.york.sch.uk.