



The lead up to Christmas in Year 8

Recently there has certainly been a festive atmosphere in school thanks to the sparkling lights, student participation in Christmas Jumper day and the appetising Christmas lunches served in the canteen. Despite the dark nights drawing in, students have continued to bring their passion and enthusiasm to activities and lessons, which has been a pleasure to see!



Report reflection and Year 8 Progress Reviews

An important milestone this term has been Year 8 receiving their first reports of the year, bringing lots to celebrate and reflect upon in terms of progress moving forward. We hope that you have had the opportunity to discuss your child's report and their academic successes with them. In school students took part in the Progress Review with tutors, setting new targets to work towards. Students who had shown significant progress or had the highest grades for effort, homework and behaviour were invited to attend a celebration morning where students enjoyed a hot chocolate with peers.

Catch the bus trip!

At the very end of the previous academic year back in Year 7, students had the opportunity to go on an open top bus guided tour around the key sites in the very heart of York city centre. Students really enjoyed this opportunity to see the city they live in, literally from a different perspective with their peers. It was a shame that unfortunately some students missed this opportunity due to different circumstances. The rescheduled trip took place on Monday 13th December with many students enjoying the picturesque views of historical York whilst listening to the many interesting facts given en route! They had a lovely trip, even if the weather was a bit chillier than the original scheduled date of summer!



Careers and aspirations focus

Another important element of form time this term has been careers and students thinking about possible future careers. Discussions have shown how the curriculum and student current academic studies are directly preparing them to enter a plethora of roles in varied sectors in the distant future. Whilst it is early to be considering employment prospects at this stage, it was useful to focus students' minds on the impact of focus and commitment to learning now, in order to pave the way to their chosen career path of tomorrow.

Odd Socks Day and Children in Need

Students have raised money and awareness of important issues through participating in donating money to wear non-uniform to raise money for worthwhile causes. Wearing odd socks for a day represented students' solidarity in celebrating uniqueness and combatting bullying. This gesture marked Anti-Bullying week (15th - 19th November) where students were encouraged to have positive conversations with others as part of the 'One Kind Word' campaign. The aim was to spread positivity and celebrate diversity within our communities. Students considered the impact of bullying, and how they could support those experiencing bullying.



Student of the Month

It is always a pleasure to read the nominations for Student of the Month and hear of the fantastic work Year 8 are doing.



In November, Ivy Herd was the Student of the Month winner for positive contribution in maths. The runner-up was Roma Gatenby for fantastic effort and all round attitude this half term. Well done Ivy and Roma!

The Student of the Month winner for December is Amy Staton for brilliant devised work in drama. Great work Amy! The runner-up was Benjamin Slocombe for positive hard work and constant hard work in history. Well done!

Winter concert

There was certainly a festive atmosphere for the Fulford Winter concert and students were grateful to have the opportunity to perform live once more. The orchestra performed Viva La Vida, Carol of the Bells, and then the finale We Wish You A Merry Christmas. The choir sang All I Want for Christmas is You with the KS4+5 Swing Band, Merry Christmas Everyone, Bells of Bethlehem, From Now On (Greatest Showman) and Christmas Medley.

There were a plethora of fantastic performances from students from year groups in a very enjoyable evening but a well done from the Year 8 team to the following students for their commitment to music and performing and for their performances on evening.

Y8s in the orchestra

Harvey Banks

Theo Barrow

Emily Bate

Jusiene Bernardino

Thomas Bolton

Joseph Hailstone

Sam Thurlow

Gregory Tipton

Y8s in the choir

Verity Fletcher

Roma Gatenby

Eda Shaaban

Sam Thurlow



Chocolate Friday – focus on effort and homework

Starting Year 8, we have been putting a big focus on completing homework with quality and handing it in on time. Students have risen to the challenge and been rewarded with positives for excellent pieces of homework. We have introduced the 'Chocolate Friday' celebration in form time where students are entered in to a raffle draw for earning three or more positives for effort and homework. The winner of the draw each week wins a small chocolate reward which seems to be motivating students!

Key dates:

Friday 17th December – Final day before the Christmas holidays. Early closure

Tuesday 4th January – Spring term begins (school reopens)

Last Thoughts

It has been a busy term with lots of opportunities for students to be involved in, and undoubtedly, students will welcome a well-earned rest over the winter break. We hope students spend invaluable time with friends and family over the festive period and from the Year 8 pastoral team, we wish the students and families a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

