



THE WORKS

WISDOM • OPTIMISM • RESILIENCE • KINDNESS • SERVICE



Mr Matthew Parris
Head of School

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019 in which we share some of our recent pursuits and activities with students. It has been a pleasure to welcome students back after the festive season and to see them return in such positive spirits - no mean feat in a cold and gloomy January.

Just before the Christmas break students in years 11 and 12 were sitting mock exams and over the coming months we will be working to "succeed together" in the lead up to the important external exams. Many year 13 students are making their applications for University - an exciting time for them, supported by the 6th form tutors in school and the post-16 team. I wish them all the best as offers begin to arrive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their support with our efforts to improve uniform and punctuality. The impact has been very positive and students are very smart with a marked reduction in lateness at the beginning of the day. I am very pleased that the students have risen to the challenge and are showing pride in their appearance as members of the Minster School community.

This week is a busy one with a range of trips for our older students to support their learning. These include a History trip to the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial, Geography Fieldwork and some English-led trips to Poetry Live and Macbeth, all of which will feature in our next edition.

We at The Minster School look forward to working with you all to support the students to succeed in 2019.



YEAR 8 LANGUAGES DAY

On Friday 11th January, Year 8 Students took part in our "Languages Day", attending four different language-based workshops which included Chinese – Language and Culture; Latin – A Dead Language; Language Learning Post 16; and introductions to Russian, Italian, Catalan and Canadian French. Sessions were delivered by external providers as well as the school's own staff and language ambassadors (6th Formers who are studying a language at A-Level). Our students engaged with the activities with their usual enthusiasm and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Our thanks to all involved!

UNIFORM & PUNCTUALITY

As you are aware we have recently launched new procedures to improve the standards of uniform across the school and the punctual arrival of students in the morning. We very much appreciate the support that we have had from all the students, parents and carers in making a successful start in this campaign. There is no doubt that the standards of dress have improved as has the arrival to school in the morning.

The new procedures were introduced in Acts of Worship on the return from Christmas. The message was that we should all be proud to be part of The Minster School and a professional look and manner epitomises this. Students have stepped up to the challenge and we are *Succeeding Together*.
Mr Chaloner, Head of School.

GEOGRAPHY CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION 2018

During the Festive Season, Year 7 Geographers were given the opportunity to design and create a Christmas decoration with a geographical theme. Entries were of an extremely high standard with designs including: country/flag party chains; salt dough mountain ranges; Spanish themed bunting and many more superb ideas! The overall winners were decided by Mr Price and Mrs Summers; these were:

First Place: Olivia Swift (Globe Salt Dough Bauble)

Second Place: Maggie McKechnan (Flags of the World Bauble)

Third Place: Martha Vesey (Glitter Globe, including the two Poles!)

Thank you to all the fantastic entries!



YEAR 12 CHARITY HAMPER

T12 celebrated the end of the Autumn term with a festive fuddle. However, the students were conscious that, while they were enjoying food and drink in celebration, others might not be so lucky. Therefore, they decided to bring in extra and put together a Christmas hamper which was delivered to the charity Framework on Christmas Eve. Framework supports homeless and vulnerable service users and is currently supporting over 50 residents in their hostels and 2nd stage accommodation. The majority of these people are street homeless and move in with only the clothes that they are wearing. Framework rely heavily on donations in order to provide items to their service users and were therefore extremely grateful to T12 for their kindness and generosity.

YEAR 11 BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Y11 Bereavement Support Group sent a donation of £70 to the Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark for Christmas. This support group is comprised of students who have all experienced the loss of a parent and runs every Tuesday after school. The students understandably find Christmas a difficult time. However, they put their own feelings aside to help others in a similar situation. The £70 donation has contributed to the centre's 'bear for Christmas' campaign. Every child that accesses support through the centre is offered a comfort bear to keep. The bears offer comfort and a lasting memory of the support and care that the children have received.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

The Sixth Formers are currently in the middle of mock exams, which should help to prepare them well for, in the case of Year 13, final exams this summer. Year 12 students on 4 subjects have an important decision to make immediately after mock exam results are in. They will choose a subject to complete in Year 12 as an AS Level and not continue with next year by February 1st. In between exams our Year 12 students have been supporting Year 9, as part of our pastoral programme. What we term "Week 57" is where Sixth Formers at given points during the year share their support and guidance with lower school students. Year 9 students and their parents have a lot to consider with the options for GCSE nearly upon us. Year 12 were able to recount some of their own experiences this week and give Year 9 a few tips about the process as well as what it is like to be an older student at the Minster School. It was great to see Sixth Form students using one of our virtues of Wisdom and an example of us Succeeding Together.



JACK HEALD YOUTH PARLIAMENT CANDIDATE

In tutor time this week, Sixth Form students have been learning more about the Youth Parliament and how they can participate in the democratic process. We have our own student, Jack Heald in Year 12, standing as a candidate in the forthcoming election for the Newark and Sherwood constituency. Good luck Jack!

SPORT REPORT

Boys U18 Hockey vs Loughborough

The U18 boys hockey team played their first fixture in the National U18 competition on Thursday 17th January against Loughborough Grammar School. We only had 11 players against their squad of 15! Loughborough came with a strong side all, of whom were sixth formers whereas our team consisted of 5 year 12s, 4 year 11s and 2 year 9s! We were under pressure from the start but lasted until the 25th minute before we conceded a goal, one nil down at half time. However early in the second half Minster were awarded a penalty corner which was converted by Toby Stanley. Loughborough came at us again and took the lead with a lucky deflection. Not to be undone Minster got back into the game and played brilliantly as a team to equalise, again through Toby Stanley. We were now the stronger team and deservedly took the lead with 5 minutes to go with Toby completing his hat trick. A nervous final 5 minutes saw us hold on for a famous victory. As a team member said "They came here thinking they would win and although individually they were the better side we matched them as a team". A well-deserved victory, considering the age of the team. Onwards and upwards to the next round.



FOLLOW US ON
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https://twitter.com/minster_school

It's a great way to stay in touch with what is happening at The Minster School and a chance for us to celebrate our students and their efforts. Here is an example from our sixth form.....



This morning our Sixth Form students in Year 12 were leading a session with Year 9 to advise them in relation to future option choices and pass on their experience. They did a great job.

KEY INFORMATION

Y9 SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

The languages department has just launched an exciting spelling bee competition for the Year 9 classes in French, German and Spanish. Over the next few weeks, each group will find their best spellers who will then move forward to the semi-finals. Watch this space in our next WORKS newsletter to find out information about finalists and names of the winners in the different languages.



The next MSPTA meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th February in The Hearty Goodfellow from 7.30pm. All are very welcome.

SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Saturday 2nd OR
Sunday 3rd February:
 Silver Classroom Training day
Tuesday 5th OR
Wednesday 6th:

Silver First Aid training.
 NOTE that this date has been changed from the 12th /13th to avoid clashing with a school trip.

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS AND OPTIONS

Students in Year 9 are beginning to select the qualifications they will study through Key Stage 4. The process is designed to ensure that every student is on an appropriate pathway to support them in choosing options which maximise their achievement and opportunities for the future. It is an exciting and important time in the education of these young people as they begin to make choices for themselves to help shape their future lives. Key dates in this process are given below:

Monday 21st January – Options and careers talks. These explain the process to students and how they can be confident that the choices they make will support their future plans. Students will be issued with a booklet which explains the pathway they are on and the options available to them.

Wednesday 30th January – Y9 Open Evening. This is an opportunity for students and their parents or carers to hear more about the options process and the individual qualifications on offer.

Thursday 7th February – Y9 Parents' Evening. In addition to feedback on progress, this gives an opportunity for parents and carers to ask about the suitability of particular qualifications for their child.

Friday 15th February – Deadline for completion of the options form.



CYBER SAFETY

We've received reports from a number of students about threatening SPAM e-mails demanding payment to avoid exposure or embarrassment. These e-mails can be upsetting and often can be very convincing. If students receive messages or e-mails of this nature they should block and delete the message, they are not true. Advice on how to report upsetting or offensive messages can be found on the CEOP website - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>.

We regularly talk to students about cyber issues in school, through both our PSHCE curriculum and in assemblies. We try to respond to trends and needs as they arise and will cover issues like the one above in our eSafety assemblies later in the term. Several parents have recently asked us for advice on talking to children and supporting them at home, where often parents feel at a disadvantage in terms of knowledge and experience to their tech-savvy children. There is an excellent range of advice for parents and guardians about keeping your children safe online, including how to talk about these topics to children. These can be found on the ThinkUKnow website <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> and we would very much recommend them as a great starting point.



Unfortunately, the online world can be an unpleasant one, and it is particularly hard for you as parents and for us as a school to monitor and to see where problems occurs. A key piece of advice for students is to block those who are unkind to them and flag any offensive or abusive messages using the 'report' facility built into messaging apps. Students should seek support from a trusted adult if something upsets them or upsets someone they know. It is vital that students don't get drawn into online arguments or unkindness as issues quickly spiral and are very hard to resolve.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 22nd January 2019:

Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit
Birmingham, 9.00am-4.30pm

Year 11 Trip to 'Macbeth'

Theatre Royal, Nottingham, 6.30-11.00pm

Year 10 Battlefields Trip Parent/Carer
Information Evening, B20, 3.30-4.00pm

Wednesday 23rd January 2019:

Year 8 & 9 HPV Vaccinations (girls only)

Year 11 GCSE English Literature 'Poetry Live'
Royal Centre, Nottingham, 9.40am-4.00pm

6th Form Boys Football @ Minster vs Becket
Kick Off, 2pm

Thursday 24th 2019:

Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit
Birmingham, 9.00am-4.30pm

Young Enterprise Sherwood Area Trade Fair
Training Event, East Midlands Designer Outlet
6.00-7.30pm

Monday 28th January 2019:

Year 11 Science Live Visit, 8.30am-5.00pm

Year 12 Snowdonia Parent/Carer Information
Evening, 6.00-7.00pm

Tuesday 29th January 2019:

Year 8 C/R STEM Day

Year 8 T/W Humanities Day

Wednesday 30th January 2019:

Student Communion, P4

Year 9 Options Evening, 6.30-8.30pm

Thursday 31st January 2019:

Year 8 C/R Humanities Day

Year 8 T/W STEM Day

6th Form French Cultural Visit to France

Parent/Carer Information Evening, 5.30-6.30pm

Friday 1st February 2019:

Year 12 & 13 Religious Studies A Level Ethics
Visit to Cadbury World, Birmingham
8.50am-5.30pm

YEAR 11 GCSE REVISION CLASSES

Y11 students will be receiving the results of their mock examinations (along with their second Y11 assessment point data) shortly. In preparation for the summer exams, and to give students the best chance of achieving the best results possible, departments are holding after school revision and catch up sessions (listed below). Please encourage your child to attend as many sessions as possible in order to give them the best chance of success.

English	Literature revision classes will be available later in the term (more information to follow)
Maths	Speak to individual teachers. Teachers run their own revision sessions on different nights.
Science	Drop-in study support sessions for Year 10-13 are held from 3.15-4.15pm (see below for days, and posters in science for rooms).
Biology	Tuesday
Chemistry	Monday (Week A), Thursday (Week B)
Physics	Thursday
Geography	GCSE Geography will do revision sessions approximately 6 weeks before exams. These will be on a Monday and run until 4pm. Exact dates/schedule to be confirmed nearer the time.
D&T and Art	Food: Tuesday after school D&T (alternates): Tuesday in D64 (Week A) and Thursday in D64 (Week B) GCSE Art Club is open for students from 3.15pm - 4.15pm (Mondays and Tuesdays in D61 with Mr Govinden, Thursdays in D66)
PE	GCSE PE revision after school on Thursday from 3.15pm – 4.15pm. GCSE coursework catch up will be available every Monday after school.
Travel & Tourism	Coursework catch up session every Thursday after school from 3.30pm until 4.30pm until further notice.
RE	Thursday after school
Music	Revision sessions will be every Thursday from 4.15 -5.30 in A4 starting from Thursday 24 th January. Coursework catch up and composition support is available every Tuesday and Thursday from 3.15 – 4.15pm

INSET DAY MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

Students not in school

Contact us:

Email: office@minster.notts.sch.uk | Twitter: @minster_school | Tel: 01636 814000 | www.minster.notts.sch.uk