

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

As we continue to focus on work on supporting all young people to fully reconnect with their learning and the school community, I wanted to make you aware of some staffing updates to enhance this aspect of our work.

At the end of October Mrs Fiona Hirst joined our team as Pastoral Support Officer and has very quickly made a positive impact within our school community, providing support across all year groups, work as part of the Pastoral Team. At the same time, Mrs Warner, our Senior Learning Mentor, has taken on the enhanced role of 1:1 tutor, providing tuition and support mainly in maths and currently focusing on Year 10/11 as part of our official 'Catch Up' plan. Mrs Warner is a qualified teacher and is providing additional support to students as 1:1 and in small groups.

We are also really fortunate that Ms Heather Tuffs has joined our team as a volunteer for a short period of time. As a qualified Outdoor Education instructor, she is able to support Mr Couldwell in expanding the provision of bespoke outdoor support for some of our students as part of our reconnection plan.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

Buzzbook Scheme

Thanks to funding kindly provided by our PTFA, we have once again been able to participate in the Bookbuzz scheme. Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds. Participating schools give their students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. Delighted with their book choices, our students were keen to start reading straight away.



Thank you to Will Fitzgibbon in Year 9 for playing the Last Post at 11am on 11th November. As this fell during Key Stage 4 breaktime, we asked him to play this outside. It was a powerful and moving experience to watch all year 11 and 12 students fall silent and show their respect. Will also provided a recording of the Last Post which was included in Mrs Witherwick's assembly for all year groups.

Covid-19 Reminders

Department of Education Updated guidance for parents and carers

DfE has updated its guidance for parents and carers on [what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). This update provides information on the national restrictions that came into force on 5 November, the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people and advice on the use of face coverings in education settings.

Education in the media blog: exams 2021

On Monday 12 October the Department for Education confirmed that exams will go ahead next year. Most AS/A level and GCSE exams will be delayed by three weeks to give pupils more time to catch up on their learning.

The [exams 2021 education blog](#) published on 10 November provides further answers to the key questions being asked about exams 2021.

This beautiful collage made from recycled materials is one the latest commissioned pieces created by former Nidderdale student and local artist, James Thomas. Mr Hawkins was delighted to be asked to help James to create the rainbow shape in school. This wonderful art work is on display in Feastfield Surgery, Pateley Bridge.



Finish with a Flourish

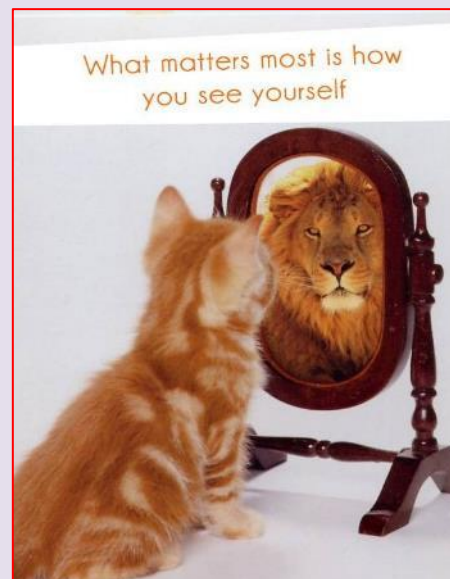
Our students in Year 7-10 continue to benefit from a range of well-being enhancing activities each Friday of Week 2. Some of our Year 9 students are enjoying gardening sessions with Ms Walker, developing our Pastoral Garden and building some bug hotels! Many of our students are using this time to learn new skills, engage in mindfulness activities or get stuck into some stress busting exercise.





Anti Bullying week 2020

Click on the picture below to see the 2 minute film developed for this year's Anti- Bullying week.



Student Leadership Team

Please join me in welcoming our **Student Leaders**:

Rachael Hattan, Michael Harker, Jonathan Levy, Sophia Gray, Jeevan Shergill

Senior Students - Y11

Mollie Wright, Scarlett Wild, Ben Hinchliffe, Jami Brown, Holly Shaw, Sophie Bate

Senior Students - Y10

Connie Milburn, Tyler Taylor, Connie Parkin, Evie Richards, Megan Longster, Lucas Storey-Binder, Brooke Millward, Jess Millward, Thea Hough

All are eager to get started with duties and have some great ideas on supporting and developing the school community. Chosen charities will be decided and announced after our first team meetings.

Mrs Ashton, KS4 Learning Manager



P.T.F.A.Fundraising



Did you know that whenever you buy *anything online* - from your weekly shop to your Christmas gifts - you could be collecting free donations for Nidderdale High School PTFA?

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, Tesco, Argos, John Lewis, Aviva, Currys PC World and Sainsbury's.

It doesn't cost you a penny extra! There are no catches or hidden charges and Nidderdale High School PTFA will be really grateful for your donations. Go to:

- www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nidderdale-highschoolptfa and join for free.
- Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
- After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation for no extra cost to you whatsoever!

[Click here to see more.....](#)

Calendar

Thursday 26th November Year 8 Parents' Evening online via Parents' Evening System. After a successful trial of this system with Year 11 parents, we will be using this video call system again. Please note that system automatically disconnects call after 5 minutes. Parents have received a letter with further details about how to use the system.

Friday 27th November school closed to all students - staff training

Week commencing 30th November - we are still hoping to offer Christmas dinner in school, further details to follow

Monday 7th December Year 11 mock exams begin.



Next week's menu is available [here](#)

Students are enjoying their home-cooked school meals and coping well with the restrictions in place during their lunch break. On a positive note as we have not been using any takeaway boxes or cartons this academic year, this has gone some way towards improving our environmental footprint.

To assist us in getting students through the service in a timely way, could you please ensure your child's cashless catering account is topped up regularly as the service slows down for all students when students arrive at the till point with too few or no funds on account.

Mrs Naylor, Catering Manage



Holly Shaw, Year 11 is a leader with 1st Birstwith Rainbows and has recently completed Levels 1,2 and 3 of Safe Space training & has also gained a Mental Health Awareness Qualification. Well done Holly!

