



The Weekly Word

No. 76 Friday 15th February 2019

A note from the Principal

Unbelievably we have reached the half term break already. This last 6 weeks has flown by and seen a range of activities happening on our campus. Over the last two weeks we have had a particular focus on exploring the issue of extremism and radicalisation with students in mentor time. We want to ensure that all of your children have the knowledge to keep themselves safe. Please ask them about the ideas they have been working on in school. It has been interesting to listen to their views on the issue.



I am getting more and more saddened by the abuse that our young people face through social media. We have talked a great deal to our students about online safety and not using social media platforms to threaten and intimidate others. However, it is a daily occurrence that we have reports of online abuse perpetrated by students who come to Wykham Park and Space Studio Banbury. I will admit that Monday mornings can be particularly challenging when students come into school and respond to social media interactions when they physically come into contact with those who have been sending vile messages.

[Link to calendar](#)

I ask yet again for your support in checking what your children are posting on Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and other platforms. The 13 year old age restriction is imposed for a reason - young people do not have the emotional intelligence or resilience to use the platforms sensibly. As adults we are responsible for monitoring the activities of our own children to ensure that they are neither becoming victims or perpetrators.

For those who are going away we hope you have a good break with your families. We have a full programme of study support for Y11 students next week and look forward to welcoming your children to the sessions our staff are putting on in a voluntary capacity. With only 13 weeks to go until the start of exams these extra support sessions will be invaluable to our students in their drive to continue improving before the 13th May when their external GCSEs start in earnest.

Can you please ensure that if your children have lost uniform or equipment that it is replaced over the holiday so that we can come back refreshed and ready to learn on the 25th February.

Dates for your diary:

- Half Term - Mon 18th Feb to Fri 22nd Feb
- Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thurs 28th Feb
4:00-6:30pm in the Buttery and Library.



NASA Trip of a Lifetime



Four very lucky students from Banbury Aspirations Campus Sixth Form have earned the opportunity to visit NASA in America. They took off on 13th February and return on

22nd February. Here are their impressions of the selection process.

The NASA selection experience by Soniya, maybe future Astronaut and Sixth Form student.

The journey of selection was full of excitement and suspense. The thought of being able to go to America and visit NASA has always been my dream and now that I have this opportunity I feel delighted to be able to take part. There were 12 of us at the beginning and only 4 for us could go; it was difficult to make any predictions as each of us was equally passionate to visit NASA. We had to write a letter describing why we should be selected and then, as a team, had to raise funds through cake sales to demonstrate our ability to raise money. We would eventually need to raise funding for the trip of about £10,000. After 2 weeks, we had to go through an intensive interview process for around 30 minutes describing what we were planning to do for our fundraiser and why we should be selected to go to NASA. After a few weeks, I got an email saying I was one of 4 people who was selected! I had to apply for a Visa as I am not a UK citizen as Nepal is not in the countries where an ESTA

Visa could be provided for their citizens. I tried to email different companies asking for donations, some very generous companies did get back to me but some didn't. We raised funds through donations from teachers and parents while providing tea and coffee for parents' evenings and during the sixth form open evening. We did VR sessions during the Santa Fun Run and had meetings with Mr Sterland about the other ways we could raise funds. We had a meeting with Mrs Barringer explaining about our schedule and what are we expecting during the visit. I am really looking forward to this trip especially going to Houston and visiting Mission Control. I am also really excited about getting to talk with employees working at NASA. This is a really brilliant opportunity and I am really grateful to be a part of the NASA team.

The NASA selection experience by Toben, Sixth Form student.

The NASA trip had a relatively challenging selection process. We had to write an essay using the questions we were presented with by answering them in detail as honestly as possible. On average, it took us approximately 30 minutes, which I think we can all agree were the most nerve-wracking 30 minutes of the process. We then had to wait for the group of teachers and staff members to decide who was the best choice for the trip. Insomnia, fear, and 30 minutes of doom were all worth it in the end though. I now have a trip to the world-famous facilities, that were used in accomplishing one of the greatest feats of human discovery: Apollo 11, to look forward to. I am looking forward to the tours of the site because it's amazing to see the equipment they use for space travel, even if some of it is a bit retro. I am also looking forward to talking with some of the staff who work at NASA, they contribute to allowing humanity to achieve what was previously thought to be impossible, and are working in positions that most people struggle to achieve, which I personally think is quite amazing.



Inspire • Nurture • Excel

Brackley and Cheney Music and Performing Arts Centre

invites you to a FREE...

UKULELE FOR BEGINNERS taster session!

Year 3 +
Ukuleles provided.



Absolute beginners welcome and those having lessons.
**ONLY 25 SPACES AVAILABLE SO BOOK NOW TO
AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

VENUE: Southfield Primary Academy, Brackley, NN13 6AU

DATE: MARCH 2nd 2019

TIME: 9:15am – 11:15am

For more details or to book a place,
email: Janine Mold at brackleycheney@NMPAT.co.uk
or call: **01604 637117** and leave a message f.a.o. Janine Mold (Centre Head)

www.NMPAT.co.uk/BrackleyCheney



Bikeability cycle training courses for 11-16 years olds

Improving your skills for cycling in traffic



20 and 21 February 2019

North Oxfordshire Academy, BANBURY

9am - 12.30pm **Level 2** | 1pm - 4pm **Level 3**

For more information and to book your child's place visit
Eventbrite and search for **Bikeability** and **Banbury**

Trip to Prague

19 students from SSB, ranging from Y9 to Y13, had a fantastic four day trip to Prague. They toured the city to get their bearings then visited the castle, a glass factory,



the Skoda factory, film studios and the Petrin tower.

They were impressed with the astronomical clock and the stunning buildings of Prague.



They saw the similarities and differences between the handmade glass factory and the massive highly automated car plant. In the glass factory a team of 8 would work together on one piece and if there was a problem no one would get paid for the piece.

In the car factory the roles had to be swapped around as otherwise the repetitive tasks would cause health problems. They all agreed they would rather work in a team than in the car plant despite the perks available for the car workers.



At the film studios they got the chance to dress up in some of the costumes from their vast collection and James found a suitcase that he could have brought his mum along in!

They also had a river cruise, and those that had the energy saw the city from the top of the Petrin tower (300 steps to get to the top).



Year 11 Revision - Half Term

The following timetable of revision sessions are being run over half term. Students will have received a letter inviting them to specific subject sessions.

WPA & SSB Y11 FEB HALF TERM REVISION SCHOOL 2019				
Day	Date	Subject	Time	Staff
Monday	18th Feb	English	9.30-12.00	Miss Irvine
Tuesday	19th Feb	French & Spanish	9.30-12.00	Miss Peruga & Mr Smith
		Science	12.30-3.00	Mr Colville
Wednesday	20th Feb	History	9.30-12.00	Mr Bent
		Drama	12.30-3.00	Mrs White
		NCFE Food Voc. catch up	12.30-3.00	Miss Hetherington
		Geography	9.30-12.00	Miss Williams
Thursday	21st Feb	Bus. Stud. Voc. catch up	12.30-3.00	Miss Thomas
		Maths	9.30-12.00	Miss Thomas & Miss Hetherington
Friday	22nd Feb	Art	9.30-3.00	Miss Brookes

Term dates for 2019-2020 are now available [here](#) on the website.

Keep up to date with the latest information about what's going on in school.

Please follow us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit the [academy website](#)

New Books in the Library!



Our new books have been causing quite a stir, with excited students borrowing them as soon as they are put on display. Here is a small selection, lots more to come.

