



## The Weekly Word

No. 78 Friday 8th March 2019

### A note from the Principal

It has sadly become increasingly commonplace for our reception staff and other colleagues to find themselves facing unpleasant and sometimes intimidating interactions with parents. We understand that sometimes it is frustrating when people don't get the response they want immediately but we will not tolerate any members of staff being treated disrespectfully by parents or other relatives. I would respectfully remind parents that we are not allowed to speak to other family members about a child unless they too have parental responsibility.



I have taken the decision that unless an issue creates an immediate and present safeguarding or health threat to a student then we will not see parents without prior appointment. I am sure all parents will understand that with over 860 students on campus and heavy timetable loads then it is not possible to see people who arrive in reception without an appointment to see a member of staff. We all know that we cannot turn up at A&E, the doctors, the solicitors etc and expect to see someone

[Link to calendar](#)

immediately and it is the same in schools. We will endeavour to see parents within 48 hours but this will not always be possible depending on prior diary commitments. I have also instructed reception staff who are increasingly being spoken to inappropriately over the phone to terminate phone calls politely should they be verbally abused or threatened. The wellbeing of all members of our community is of paramount importance to me and I know that you will all support our stance on protecting workers from all forms of abuse.

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](#)

#### Dates for your diary:

- **Year 13 mock exams - Mon 4th March to Fri 15th March**  
**Timetable available on the website [here](#)**
- **Parents' Evening Year 12 & 13 - Thursday 21st March**
- **Sixth Form application deadline- Friday 29th March**

*Reminder!*

## Young Writers Competition



Year 8 should be smiling from ear to ear this week due an incredible success in the first round of the Young Writers Competition! This national initiative saw over 24,000 students from across the United Kingdom create a host of short stories based on the exciting theme of 'Mission Catastrophe!'

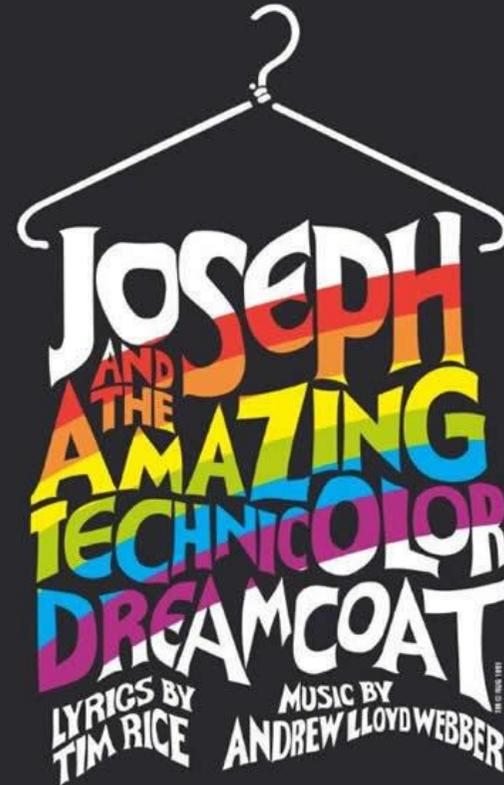
As part of a Drop Down Day earlier this year, Year 8 were immersed into

the wonderful world of the written word through a host of diverse activities and tools including both Virtual and Augmented Reality (known as VR and AR). Such activities helped immerse our budding writers into plots and various character mindsets and as a result, a tremendous 60 students have been invited to have their short stories published!

Each successful student will receive a published copy of their work and due to the impressive volume of successful students, the whole year group have been invited to participate in round 2 of the competition! Exciting times ahead!

Mr Peters

An Amateur School production by arrangement with The Musical Company Ltd



Show dates:  
**Tuesday 30th April -**  
**Thursday 2nd May**

Doors open: **6:30pm**

Curtain up: **7pm**

Tickets: **£7:50**

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## School production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Tickets available from: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wykhampark>

Tickets can only be purchased via the website above. Tickets will be sold on the door subject to availability.

## NASA Assembly



On the morning of the 6th March, four Sixth Form students from Space Studio Banbury shared their experiences of their recent trip to NASA with a room full of curious young minds at Harriers Banbury Academy, as part of their Science Week activities. Giving an assembly is an intimidating task, but Soniya, Callum, Jonathan and Toben did an admirable job: their enthusiasm for science and its applications in space exploration was infectious. They had also clearly understood the universal appeal of big rockets, including lots of pictures of them on their slides. Our hosts had nothing but positive comments about their presentation, stating that the students were a credit to their school and that their manner with the children was fantastic. The question and answer session at the end was a definite highlight, with pupil's questions ranging from 'how did you get

there?' and 'how long did you stay?' to 'how close can you get to a neutron star before you die?' and 'could we one day live on Mars?'. The SSB students answered these questions in good humour, demonstrating their deep scientific knowledge and satisfying children's natural curiosity. The assembly was even extended to allow those from the older year groups to ask more questions – the sheer number of hands up was great to see. It was clear from the looks on children's faces that they left the assembly inspired: this was just one small step for our Sixth Formers, but a potentially huge leap forward in inspiring the next generation of astronauts, engineers and scientists.

Miss Kozma







The Rotary Club of Banbury  
presents



# MARCH CROCUS CONCERTS 2019

at

**St Mary's Church, Banbury**

**Choirs and Musicians from  
Local Secondary Schools**

**7.00pm - admission £5** on the door  
no advanced ticket sales

**ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FREE!**



**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Bloxham, Sibford and Tudor Hall**



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Chenderit, North Oxfordshire, The Warriner  
and Wykham Park**



Proceeds in aid of

**HELEN & DOUGLAS HOUSE**

and

**END POLIO NOW!**



## Year 10 Mock Interviews

Next Tuesday year 10 students will be taking part in mock interviews with external volunteers as part of drop-down day. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to get some practical interview experience, as with any interview preparation is key.

Here are our top 10 tips to help them prepare.

1. Be punctual. Aim to arrive 5 minutes before your appointment.
2. Look smart. The first impressions are important.
3. Practise. Role-play the interview with a friend.
4. Listen. Listen carefully to the questions. Make sure your answer tells them what they need to know.
5. Prepare your answers in advance. Interviews put you under pressure and can make you forget important things. Be ready to talk about your experience, achievements and qualifications.
6. Give detail. Be specific when you're talking through examples. Explain what the task was, what you did, problems you faced and how you succeeded.
7. Be honest. Never lie. It's too easy to get caught out.
8. Be positive. Use positive language, and talk yourself up. Show you're enthusiastic.
9. Relax. Have a quiet evening the night before. Have a bath or watch your favourite film – anything that makes you happy.
10. Don't dwell on it. Try not to fixate on things you wish you had or hadn't said.

Miss Foster