

Dear Parent/Carers

Newsletter January 2024

Ethics Cup Success

We have started the year with a fabulous victory in a regional debating competition hosted by Leeds University. Post-16 students had to research a given topic, present their arguments, answer questions on the topic from the opposing school and from a panel of experts. Allerton progressed effortlessly through the earlier rounds and beat The Grammar School at Leeds in the final, debating the ethics of elderly parenting. I am grateful to Mr Brenndorfer for ensuring the students were battle-ready and huge congratulations to our talented team:

Emine Shukurdzhieva	Joel Green	Sam Spence	Laila Kay (Captain)
Isobel Dean	Evie Robinson	Yasmin Gawad	Chiba Hara
Evan Jarvis-Laughton			

They go on to represent Yorkshire in the national finals to be held at The University of St Andrews in May 2024.

Poor Weather

A reminder to parents that although we hope to avoid any school closures, the decision to close the school for severe weather or power cuts is usually taken before 7am. The closure is published on the LCC and School websites <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-closures> or <http://www.allertonhigh.org.uk/> and announced on local radio stations including Radio Aire 96.3 FM and Radio Leeds 92.4 FM. We have never failed yet to get to school and so the phones should be working even if we have to take the decision to close.

DfE Draft Gender Questioning Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) is consulting on draft guidance they have produced for schools about 'gender questioning children'. You can find the draft guidance and consultation document on the DfE's website <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gender-questioning-children-draft-schools-and-colleges-guidance>. The deadline for responses is 12 March 2024.

The draft guidance includes information on how schools should respond to requests from students about their gender, engaging with parents, handling students' information, managing single-sex spaces, participation in PE and school uniform.

Project Shield/The Knife Angel

The Knife Angel is an imposing high metal sculpture made from 100,00 knives collected nationally from knife amnesty. Leeds is hosting the sculpture at The Royal Armouries throughout February. We have made students aware of the sculpture as part of the work we do in school about knife crime. However, a partnership of West Yorkshire Police, the Youth Justice Service, Barca, Crimestoppers and other agencies are working together to deliver several parent sessions to support parents with important conversations at home about keeping children and young people safe from knife crime. We have been asked to make you aware of this and additional information is therefore attached.

Uniform

Some students have recently started to wear several bracelets and necklaces over their shirt and tie. During assemblies and Coaching w/b January 29, we have reminded students that they should not be wearing any jewellery other than that specified in the dress code [located in the Personal Organiser]. If seen, jewellery will be confiscated, placed in an envelope and returned at the end of the half term on Friday 9 February. We would appreciate your support in reminding your child to support the school's expectations regarding uniform.

On a different note, students have asked us to consider introducing a summer version of our uniform. They specifically wanted to wear shorts during the summer months. Mrs Whitehurst, Associate Headteacher, will be writing to you shortly with further detail.

Subject Consultation Evening [SCE]

Thank you to those parents who attended the virtual Year 7 SCE recently. We have been in touch via text with some parents/carers who booked appointments with teachers but then failed to attend. Emergency situations can occur but when parents fail to attend, they are taking slots which others could have booked.

Car Park

Many parents are using the staff car park to drop and pick students up and this makes it difficult for taxis who are picking up vulnerable students to enter and leave the car park. It is also difficult for emergency vehicles to enter.

Parking permits have been issued to all staff and parents/carers who have an agreement with us to use the car park. Please park in the Park & Ride or elsewhere when you are dropping off and/or picking up.

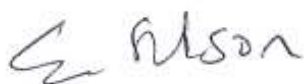
Calendar dates

A reminder below of key calendar dates in February.

February 7	-	Guided choice presentation for Y9 parents/carers
February 9	-	Y8 HPV vaccinations
February 9	-	Y11 Photos
	-	GCSE Geography visit [Holbeck]
	-	School closes for February half-term
February 15	-	Geography Field Visit [return Monday 19 February]
February 20	-	Guided Choice Option deadline [Year 9]
	-	GCSE Holbeck Visits this week
February 22	-	Theatre visit [Frankenstein] at Leeds Playhouse, 7.45pm
February 26	-	March mock week Yr11
February 29	-	Y12 Subject Consultation Evening
	-	Theatre visit [Blue Beard] at York Theatre Royal, 7.30pm

Thank you for your ongoing support. As ever, please contact the relevant Head of Year and/or the general office if you have any concerns.

Kind regards



Elaine Silson
Headteacher

