A Word from the Headteacher

It has been great to see all our students focussing on their learning and getting stuck in during the darkest of months. Despite the freezing temperatures students have started the year in good spirits.

Just to remind you as we move into exam season, all Year 9, 10 and 11 students have access to the GCSEpod revision service. We are encouraging all our students to use GCSEpod as a revision tool. It provides focused learning in a unique ‘Pod’ format across 20 GCSE subjects, which we have filtered by exam board. Each pod only lasts between 3-5 minutes and the app can be downloaded onto student’s phones, tablets or computers.

It would be great if parents/carers could encourage our students to use this amazing revision aide. If anyone needs any help Mrs Miller is more than happy to assist.

For more information visit the school website: [http://www.bingleygrammar.org/students/gcsepod/](http://www.bingleygrammar.org/students/gcsepod/)

Mr Luke Weston
Headteacher

GCSEpod

We provide access to GCSEpod for our students so they can make the most of their revision time and it can also help with homework.

GCSEpod is a digital service that provides focused learning in a unique ‘Pod’ format across 20 popular GCSE subjects, which we filter so it is specific to the exam boards we use for each subject.

GCSEpod is a great way to revise on the go and pods can be downloaded to phones, tablets and other devices to watch/listen to at a later time. The pods are a great way of revising core concepts and consolidating work done in class.

Each subject is broken down into topics and questions are answered in short concise ‘Pods’.

We have sent emails out to all students in years 9-11 explaining how to log onto the service. Use the site to learn and revise and maybe win £150 shopping vouchers as well as something for school!

It would be great if parents/carers could encourage our students to use this amazing revision aide. If anyone needs any help Mrs Miller is more than happy to assist.

For more information visit the school website: [http://www.bingleygrammar.org/students/gcsepod/](http://www.bingleygrammar.org/students/gcsepod/)

Mr Luke Weston
Headteacher

Attendance Matters

 Attend to achieve

98%+
Excellent

95-98%
Good

90-95%
Worrying

Below 90%
Serious Concern

Which zone are you in?

The Pod Games Have Begun!
Bask in regional and universal glory by watching GCSEpod

Log in to gcsepod.com for the chance to win awards and prizes:
£150 shopping vouchers and a whopping £1,000 for your school!

>> Click here to log on to GCSEpod and get revising.
World Book Day

World Book Day is on the 1st March and as usual there will be a whole host of activities in school to celebrate the joy of reading. We will have a visiting author, a week long book fair, lots of competitions and much more. Please visit the World Book Day page on our website in the Parents & Carers > Curriculum section where more information will be added in the coming months.

Research by the National Literacy Trust has shown that young people who read every day have a thirty per cent chance of exceeding their attainment targets! And pupils who enjoy reading will do even better. Exams aside, many of us would suggest that there is no greater joy than reading – it is an end in itself! And so, again this year, we plan to celebrate the world of books by holding an array of fun events.

Activities:
- Quizzes and competitions
- A visit by a published author – Kit Berry
- Writing workshops
- Staff and sixth formers dressing up as their favourite book characters (for the human literary hunt)
- And much more!

Book Fair
We will have signed copies of the first of Kit Berry’s Stonewylde series of novels available to purchase and we will be holding a book fair in school from Friday 23rd February where a range of books can be browsed and bought.

Every pupil will receive a £1 book token provided by the organisers and sponsors of World Book Day which can be used at the book fair. Books at the book fair are priced from £2.99. The £1 book tokens can also be used to purchase £1 books by authors such as Clare Balding and Michael Bond. These books can be obtained at any participating bookstores, there will not be any £1 books at the book fair. To find out more about World Book Day visit: http://www.worldbookday.com

Bingley Amnesty Youth Group

The Bingley Amnesty youth group is made up of students from all year groups. Over the last half term they have been supporting the Amnesty Write for Rights campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to send messages of support to people around the world suffering from human rights abuses. Students have been writing messages of solidarity to let them know we are thinking of them. They have also written letters appealing to those in power to stop the abuse.

Click here to read the case studies our Amnesty Youth Group have been campaigning for >>

The group have also used creative ways to show support and solidarity with thousands held indefinitely in immigration centres by making paper birds to represent the symbol of freedom.

Two members of our Amnesty youth group, Bisma and Halima, are travelling to the Amnesty International Headquarters today (Friday 26th Jan) as members of the Amnesty Advisory Youth group. Bisma and Halima will be taking the letters which Amnesty will send to the people on the campaign and the birds of freedom will be sent to detention centres. Bisma and Halima will visit the headquarters 4 times to work with other students from Youth groups and help Amnesty to launch future campaigns.

This term, the group will be planning an Amnesty Tea party to raise awareness and money for Amnesty International and we will continue to campaign for those whose human rights have been taken away.
Awards Evening

Just before the Christmas break we were lucky enough to celebrate with our students past and present at our Annual Awards Ceremony.

Students and their families were invited to share in each other’s success and collect certificates for their summer exams; GCSE, BTEC and A Level. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces as their hard work was recognised formally during the evening. It was also nice to hear from our 2016-17 Year 13 students who are doing so well at their chosen universities.

Over the course of the evening we welcomed hundreds of students and their families to present them with their well-earned certificates. Our musicians entertained the audience with pieces performed by our Clarinet group, saxophone group and singers.

More photos overleaf...
Awards were not only given for exam results but also for academic achievement, individual subjects, academic excellence, and academic progress. Throughout the evening the audience were addressed by our Headteacher Mr Weston and our Chair of Governors Mr Chris Conderson. The evening was closed by our Head Girl and Boy, Isobel Jacklin and Hayaat Karim, who gave an entertaining vote of thanks.

Thank you and well done to all who attended the event – it is a highlight of the school calendar and we always love gathering together to celebrate our student’s achievements.
A-Level Geography Trip Jan 2018

A group of Y13 A-Level Geographers headed to the Holderness Coast to collect primary data for their individual investigations.

At Flamborough we had gorgeous sunshine and worked on measuring beach profiles and characteristics in addition to looking at coastal erosional landforms. Fish and chips were enjoyed for lunch at Hornsea before looking at the impact of coastal defences and a contrasting beach profile. Mrs White would like to say well done to the group for being great ambassadors for the school and really making the most of the opportunity.

Solutions Not Sides

Last Friday we welcomed the organisation Solutions not Sides into school to speak to some of our Year 10 RE students and Sixth Form RE/History students.

The programme is run by the charity One Voice Europe and provided an amazing insight into the real lives and struggles of Palestinians and Israelis living with the conflict.

During the two 2 hour sessions, the students were introduced to Hamutal (Israeli) and Hoda (Palestinian) who talked about their childhoods, their families, their home towns and how so many aspects of their lives have always been overshadowed or controlled by the conflict.

Both Hoda and Hamutal have very different experiences and ‘different truths’ but believe their path of non-violence empowers and can bring about change which would benefit both sides.

The interests of each side was discussed and our students were then asked to attempt to decide on a solution which would work equally in both sides favour. Our students really engaged with the process and some found their preconceptions and stereotypes challenged by this humanised version of the conflict.

Our students asked both speakers questions about their beliefs, thoughts on Zionism and their decision to tackle the problem in a different way to their families and friends.

Click here to learn more about Solutions Not Sides >>

Thank you to Solutions Not Sides for your visit and for sharing this valuable lesson with our students.

Food Science & Nutrition

Last week our Year 9 Food Science group were busy denaturing proteins by mechanical action, making foams and stabilizing protein networks with the aid of sugar.

During the practical session the students also demonstrated high level cookery skills browning sugar (caramelisation) and starch (dextrinisation). Convection heat transfer methods were used to set the eggs (coagulation) and our students gelatinised a delicious filling. We do hope our Year 9 parents enjoyed all the effort and hard work when eating the fantastic end results.
Year 9&10 Brilliant Club Launch
On Monday 15th January, Mrs Williams and Mrs Bradley took our Year 9 and 10 Brilliant Club students to the Scholars Programme launch event at Sheffield University.
The Scholars programme is an eight week programme that places university researchers (PhD tutors) into schools to teach university style tutorials to small groups in STEM or the Arts and Humanities. At the end of the programme students complete a final assignment.

Today's launch trip included:
- a tour of the University campus
- a study skills session
- a chance to meet and question current students
- their first tutorial with the PhD tutors

The Scholars Programme is designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills and ambition that support progression to highly selective universities and work in partnership with 17 of the country’s most selective universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

Both PhD tutors were very complimentary about our students who were a credit to the school. The first tutorial sessions in school will begin next week.

The students have been split into two groups depending on their field of interest and will be studying:
- STEM: The Anatomy of Pregnancy with PhD tutor James Nott
- Arts/Hum: From Climate Change to Child Soldiers: Dystopia in the Twenty-First Century with PhD tutor Christina Brennan

We look forward to reading the final assignments in March!

Yr 9 Girls Rugby Coaching
This month our Yr 9 girls PE groups have been coached by James Oliver from the RFU.
The girls have been getting fully involved and are really enjoying the sessions as well as improving their Rugby skills. England Rugby Union coach James Oliver, with the help of Mrs Bleasby and Mrs Swann, has been teaching our students the physical, technical, tactical and mental aspects of the game and the groups have really developed in a short space of time. Well done to all our Year 9 girls who have got stuck in even when the weather has been against us.

Yr 7 Girls Cycling
This month our Yr 7 girls PE groups have been cycling!
The mud hasn’t stopped them - the girls have all improved their cycling skills and confidence over a period of weeks with coach Chris Young from British cycling.
The Yr 7 boys will get a chance later in the year when Chris returns.
Yr 9 Student Progress

Earlier this month, 30 Year 9 students met with Mr Weston to be recognised for achieving the highest percentage progress in classroom ‘Engagement With Learning’ (EWL) in the year group. This is based on teachers in all subjects recognising that these students are putting in outstanding or consistently good effort on a daily basis.

Mr Ward, Head of Year 9 said, “We are extremely proud – once again many students in Yr 9 are clearly getting stuck into their GCSE courses and making the right choices.”

Mr Weston spoke with the group acknowledging the effort they were putting into their studies and encouraging them to keep it up to achieve their ambitions.

Our Year 9 Student Support Officer, Mr Brown said, “These students have worked extremely hard during the last half term to further improve their EWL score across all subjects. It was, as always, a pleasure to be involved in the award meeting and present the students with Headteacher’s Awards.”

Yr 10 Teenage Cancer Trust Assembly

On Monday Lenny from the Teenage Cancer Trust came into school to talk about understanding Cancer and the challenges teenagers and young people with cancer face.

The talk covered five areas:

- what cancer is and how it spreads
- the warning signs: L.U.M.P.S
  1. Lumps (check for lumps regularly on your whole body)
  2. Unexplained tiredness (persistent and/or extreme)
  3. Moles changing (get to know what your moles look like and keep checking them for changes)
  4. Pain (persistent, unexplained and/or extreme)
  5. Significant weight gain (unexplained or extreme)
- the 3 ways cancer is treated and how TCT help and support teenagers and young people both medically and socially/emotionally.
- the challenges young people with cancer face and how their lives change
- why a healthy lifestyle is important

Lenny told Yr 10 how every day 7 teenagers/young people are diagnosed with cancer in the UK and that their social and emotional needs were important as well as their obvious medical needs. His job was to raise awareness as young people with cancer have said that’s what they want.

Lenny’s talk gave our student’s lots to think about and we hope that it will help anyone affected by cancer either personally or within their family or friendships - thank you to Teenage Cancer Trust for giving their time to raise our student’s awareness and we look forward to Lenny returning on Mon 05 Feb to speak to our Yr 11s.
## Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29 Jan</td>
<td>Yr 11 Mock Speaking Exams Week</td>
<td>Yr 11 Mock Speaking Exams begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29 Jan</td>
<td>Early Finish – ‘CPD Monday’</td>
<td>School closes at 2.00pm on CPD Mondays for continued staff training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 07 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 10 Parents Evening</td>
<td>Our Year 10 Parents’ Evening will be held on the evening of Wednesday, 7 February, 5.00pm – 8.00pm in the Main Hall. Letters have been sent out this week giving information about the online booking system which opens at 8.00pm on Monday 29 January and will close at 11.55pm on Sunday 04 February.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 08 Feb</td>
<td>School Closes for Half Term</td>
<td>School closes for the Half Term break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 09 Feb</td>
<td>Teacher Training Day</td>
<td>School closed for Teacher Training Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 10 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 8 Italy Ski Trip</td>
<td>The Yr 8 Italy ski trip sets out on Saturday 10th Feb and arrives back on Sunday 12th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 10 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 10/11 USA Ski Trip</td>
<td>The Yr 10/11 USA ski trip sets out on Saturday 10th Feb and arrives back on Saturday 17th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 10 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 12/13 Iceland Trip</td>
<td>The Yr 12/13 A Level Geography Trip leaves on Saturday 10th Feb and arrives back on Tuesday 13th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19 Feb</td>
<td>School Re-opens Early Finish – ‘CPD Monday’</td>
<td>School re-opens. School closes at 2.00pm on CPD Mondays for continued staff training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 26 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 11 Progress Exam Week</td>
<td>Yr 11 Progress exams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 08 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Focus Group Meeting</td>
<td>New members are always welcome – please meet at school in the main reception at 6.45pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 05 March</td>
<td>Yr 13 Assessment Week</td>
<td>Yr 13 Assessment Week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 05 March &amp; Wed 07 March</td>
<td>Yr 9 (whole year) DTP &amp; Men ACWY injections</td>
<td>It is advised that all teenagers receive the DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio) and Men ACWY (Meningococcal and Septicaemia) vaccinations. Consent forms will be handed out by immunisation nurses during assembly on Thursday 08 Feb. These consent forms need to be returned in the envelopes provided after half term, week commencing Mon 19 Feb. Please return them to the Main Office/First Aid room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 07 March</td>
<td>Yr 12 Higher Education/Options at 18 Evening</td>
<td>A date for the diary: Yr 12 students and parent/carers will be invited to attend - more details to follow next month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 07 March</td>
<td>Yr 11 &amp; Yr 13 Whole Year Group Photos</td>
<td>Parent/Carers and students will be able to purchase year group photos through the photographer’s website. Further details to follow.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Notes from the Teachers:

### Geography Italy 2018

The next payment of £150 is due Monday 5/2/18. Please make sure this is paid to the finance office.

### Yr 11 Teenage Cancer Trust Assembly

Lenney from the Teenage Cancer Trust will be coming back into school on Monday 5th February to talk to our year 11 students to raise awareness.

### Latin Dance Club (8 week course)

A new Latin Dance Course will run in G9 on Wednesdays after school for 8 weeks. Students will learn salsa, cha cha, merengue and bachata dancing. The course is open to all year groups, there is no charge and don’t worry, dance partners are not required!

### Year 11 Prom

A date for your diary: The year 11 prom is at the Mercure Bankfield Hotel on Thursday 5th July. More details to follow.

### Year 7/8 French Trip 2018

A reminder of the last two payments due: Payment 1: £45 due by 5th February 2018. Payment 2(last payment): £35 due by 5th March 2018. Thanks for prompt payments to date. We are looking forward to providing you with more information as this term progresses.

### Year 11 MFL

Year 11 mock speaking exams next week: Mon Jan 29th - Fri Feb 2nd. Please check with your teachers for your day and time slot. Come to A8 promptly at the time you have been allotted. Remember exams are being recorded so you will need to enter the block in silence.

If you are REALLY REALLY ill and cannot make it into school on the day of your exam then you MUST a) let school know and b) provide a DOCTOR’S note. These are the FINAL mock exams before the real GCSE in April (23rd-27th) so we need to get it right. Good luck with the revision! From all the MFL teachers.

### Hegarty Maths

The Maths department would like to recognise those students who are going above and beyond with their independent learning - here are our Hegarty Maths Stars!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Questions Answered in Jan</th>
<th>Highest Learning Time in Jan</th>
<th>Best Class for Hours per Pupil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zahra Hussain 10a/Ma1</td>
<td>Maleeha Hussain 10b/Ma3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raeesa Azghar 10a/Ma1</td>
<td>Zahra Hussain 10a/Ma1</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maleeha Hussain 10b/Ma3</td>
<td>Nihal Ali 11b/Ma2</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nihal Ali 11b/Ma2</td>
<td>Helen Constantinou 10a/Ma1</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Holdsworth 11a/Ma1</td>
<td>Amy Carrol 11a/Ma4</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>