

# The Ferrers News



**10 November 2017**

As you will see from this newsletter, we have packed a great deal into the first couple of weeks and much more is planned for the rest of the term across many year groups. Coming up is a Core Curriculum Evening for Year 11, Year 9 Options Evening, a range of Personal Development events with outside speakers and opportunities to support charity events.

I would like to thank all of the students who returned to school wearing the correct uniform and with the equipment needed to be ready to learn, it made for a really smooth start to term 2.

*Mrs Angela Smith*  
Head Teacher

## **Calling All Parents to Support Learning & Maximise Success through Edmodo**

Please ensure that you set up your parental login for the learning platform Edmodo. To set up your login, ask your son or daughter for their Edmodo parental code. You will then be able to see all of their homework and when it is due. We need your support in ensuring that students are revisiting the key learning from their daily lessons and using the resources that teachers are sharing through the site to consolidate their learning. Login here at [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com).

## **Loving Reading at The Ferrers School - Year 7 Author Visit & Reading Club**

Lawrence Prestidge, a children's author came to visit and gave an assembly to Year 7 students. Lawrence's most famous book so far is 'Terror at the Sweet Shop,' which has sold more than 7000 copies since its publication last year and is currently being developed into a stage musical in London. He is now releasing another book this month called 'Chester's Fairground,' which he hopes will be just as successful! In the assembly, our Year 7 students got to hear about Lawrence's inspiration for his books, learn more about the writing process and listen to a reading from 'Terror at the Sweet Shop.' This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see how English can be relevant in the real world, and we had some excellent questions during the Q&A hosted by Lawrence at the end of the assembly. We hope this will inspire a love of reading and writing in our students and would like to thank all of Year 7 for being so engaged and enthusiastic during the assembly.

A new KS3 reading club (for years 7-9) has been set up for anyone who loves reading but also for those who would like to develop their reading skills and get ideas of new things to read. This will take place every Monday lunch time in the Learning Centre from 12:55-1:20pm. All are welcome – the more, the merrier!

## **Year 8 'Buzzed' visit**

Year 8 had the opportunity of 'The Buzzed' theatre company come in to deliver a thought-provoking play about life choices and the dangers of peer-pressure and drugs. The play involved showing stages of a young girl's life and how her easily-persuaded nature resulted in her life spiralling out of control. Harry in Year 8 had this to say about the production: "I really enjoyed the production and realised that you can always turn your life around for the better. Also, there was lots of examples of peer-pressure in the play and it made me even more determined to make a stand against negative peer-pressure in the future".

## Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks day will take place on the last day of Anti Bullying Week, Friday 17th November, to help raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. We would like to invite all students to wear odd socks and to make a £1 donation - or any donation you think appropriate - to support the Anti-Bullying Alliance to continue coordinating Anti-Bullying Week.



## Aiming High

Year 12 and 13 students with aspirations to study at Oxford or Cambridge attended a workshop held by Pembroke College, Cambridge. They picked up many useful tips on how to compete against the world's best scholars. Good luck to them in the future.

25 Year 13 students had the chance to be interviewed by local members of the Rotary Club about their plans for the future. This was an excellent opportunity for them to improve their interview skills with friendly and helpful feedback. Thank you so much to the local Rotarians for giving up their time.

## Year 11 Mock Examinations

With the countdown to mocks well underway, it is really important that all students are revising every day. The new linear exams require students to develop strong recall skills and exam stamina. To support students with their preparation, we have the 'Making the Grade' Programme. November's activities are shown below. It is essential that students work hard for these exams to enable teachers to get a true picture of their current strengths and areas for development. Teaching will then be tailored to bridge any gaps in the remaining months of Key Stage 4. We would also strongly encourage the use of SAM Learning and GCSEpod to supplement the more traditional revision strategies. Exam timetables will be released soon.

In addition, we extend an invitation to all parents, carers and students in Year 11 to our Core Curriculum Evening. This event is taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6pm and Curriculum leaders will share key strategies to support students in preparing for their mocks and provide useful advice to make most of the remaining months of Year 11.

## Year 11 Making The Grade Programme: November 2017

		Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4	
	Lunch	BTEC Business <i>Unit 3 Coursework</i> D5		Dance: Set Works revision	Music: Recapping the Haydn Set Work 9:00 – 12:00	
	After School	History <i>The Normans</i> H18 Science <i>Aiming for that 7, 8 &amp; 9 in Biology</i> S5	Maths <i>Foundation Paper</i> H5			
	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10	Saturday 11
Lunch	Business & Graphics revision D3	French <i>Drop in</i> L1	BTEC Business <i>Unit 3 Coursework</i> D5		Dance: Set Works revision	
After School	RE <i>Masterclass</i> H9	English <i>Poetry Anthology</i> H21 PE: GCSE L4 & Gym (trampoline)	Geography <i>Living World</i> H11 Science <i>Aiming for that 7, 8 &amp; 9 in Trilogy</i> S7	English <i>Paper 1 Fiction</i> H22	English <i>A Christmas Carol</i> H19	
	Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wednesday 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17	Saturday 18
Lunch	Business & Graphics revision D3	French <i>Drop in</i> L1	BTEC Business <i>Unit 3 Coursework</i> D5		Dance: Set Works revision	Art Coursework support 9:00 – 12:00
After School	German <i>Revision</i> L2	<i>Going for That</i> <i>Grade 5 in Physics</i> S8 PE: GCSE L4 & Gym (trampoline)	History <i>Germany</i> H18 Science (S5) <i>Aiming for that 7, 8 &amp; 9 in Biology</i>	Maths <i>Foundation Paper</i> H7 Pre Exam Season Support Evening Hall: 6:00 – 7:00	Dance: Set Works revision	

## Attendance Matters

It was pleasing to see attendance figures for the whole school increase compared to the same time period as last year. Last terms winners from the prize draw for 100% attendance were Ellie in Year 7 and Jacob Year 10.

We want all year groups to exceed the national average attendance data of 95% during this academic year and ask for your support by ensuring that all appointments, where ever possible, are made outside of the school day and that students attend every day.

### Why is high attendance important to my child's education?

As a parent / carer you want the best for your children. Having a good education is an important factor in opening up more opportunities in adult life. Did you know that:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime, a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly
- at least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.

(source <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/hias/learning-behaviour-attendance/attendance-guidance-for-parents/why-is-high-attendance-important-to-my-childs-education.htm>)

### Sporting Achievements & Results - Year 7 District Football Tournament

The Year 7 Boys won the 7-a-side tournament, without losing a game or conceding a goal. As winners, they will go forward to the Midland Regional tournament, held at the Soccerdome, Pride Park, Derby in the new year. Congratulations to the whole squad.

The Girls football team finished third in their tournament, winning one game 2-0 and losing the others 3-1 and 1-0. Congratulations to all who participated on the team.

### Uniform Reminders:

We would also like to remind you that trainers are not allowed. From **September 2018**, we will be enforcing this aspect of the uniform policy fully and will be expecting all students to be wearing formal school shoes. Therefore, if you are buying or replacing school shoes in the meantime, please ensure that they are leather or leather like shoes and not branded trainers (even if they are black with black laces!)

### Key Dates for your Diary

Date	Year group	Event
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11	Core Curriculum Information Evening
6 <sup>th</sup> December	All	Winter Showcase
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 9	Pathways / Options Evening
11 <sup>th</sup> December	All	Christmas Carol Service
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 9	Birmingham Christmas Market trip
20 <sup>th</sup> December	All	School closes for Christmas holiday
<b>Term 3</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> January	All	School re-opens to all students