



Weekly Bulletin – 3 May 2024

This week we have been exploring what we can learn from Mary, the mother of God. When Jesus was crucified, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross and suffered with him. She never abandoned her child, even during adulthood, particularly when things were at their worst. This sort of enduring love is exemplary for parents, or whoever cares for us. We get into trouble, sometimes for the right reasons, sometimes not, as children and as adults. Parents or guardians like Mary, stand with their children throughout life, especially when things go bad, even if they are unable to alter the course of tragic events, to offer love and support in whatever way they can.

A calling for all budding female mathematicians and scientists!

We would like to promote with all our female students in Year 9 & 10 the following event:

WISDOM free event on-campus Wednesday 12th June 4:30pm – 7:30pm for Year 9/10 girls

The School of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics at Newcastle University are hosting their annual "**WISDOM: Women In Science Doing Outstanding Maths & Physics**" on Wednesday 12th June from 4:30-7:30pm. The event takes place in the Herschel Building of Newcastle University and is aimed at engaging year 9/10 girls in maths (year 8 and 11 might also benefit from the event if they are interested). The idea is that girls come along with their Mum (Grandma, Auntie, Dad or other interested guardian) to see the doors that can be opened by studying maths at A-level and beyond.

The event will include:

- 2 Engagement talks from inspirational women in Maths, Stats and Physics [details in attached flyer]
- Q&A with inspirational women from industry and academia [this is always very popular with participants]
- Profiles from students/staff from the School of Maths, Stats and Physics
- Careers carousel where participants can meet and chat with inspirational woman from a range of backgrounds that all use Maths (or Physics) in their daily work [and to look at the fancy kit and demonstrations they bring along]
- Refreshments

Further information and the online sign-up form can be found at <http://go.ncl.ac.uk/wisdom>

Sextortion

The National Crime Agency have this week released an urgent warning to schools alerting us to a global increase in the practice of Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion, more colloquially known as "Sextortion" - <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/kidnap-and-extortion/sextortion-webcam-blackmail>



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This issue predominately seems to be affecting children and young adults (mostly male) in the 14-18 age bracket I am enclosing a model letter provided by the National Crime Agency that provides information about the phenomena and what to do if you have a concern.

Having read the letter, even if you are not specifically concerned about this particular issue, the advice given on how to respond to an e-safety concern seems applicable for many other situations and the websites and links in the letter would be useful for all parent/carers to be aware of when dealing with other e-safety concerns.

Author Workshop

On Monday, a selection of Year 7 students were given the opportunity to attend a workshop delivered by the author Dan Smith - the writer of 'The Crooked Oak' series. The students really enjoyed listening to how stories are planned and written and appreciated the insight into how writers go about publishing their work. Students were also given the chance to listen to the author read extracts from his book. We have ordered some of his books for our library, so students can have access to them in school.

Attendance

Thank you all for your continued drive for good attendance, we really appreciate the efforts you make every day to ensure our children attend well and engage with their learning, thank you. If you have any concerns at all about attendance, please contact school on attendance@stbb.org.uk Further support guidance can be found through the Education Hub Attendance support:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/?s=attendance>



Spot light on Yr. 10

Year 10 students continue to impress with their attitude towards learning and are progressing well through their GCSE courses.

Last half-term, a small number of Y10 students attended the 'Bay Tales Live' crime writing event as a reward for winning our crime writing competition. They listened to advice and inspirational stories from a range of successful authors and were presented with a winner's certificate on stage!

Students have displayed great resilience and organisation in studying some challenging concepts.

This week, Miss Todd spoke to the year group about their first set of trial exams, which will take place in June. This is an important step on their journey towards GCSEs. Students have been thinking about what they want to achieve in the future and how they can get there. Over the coming weeks, they will be working closely with their form tutors and subject teachers to ensure they know how and what to revise. They will be pointed towards useful resources that will help them get the most out of their mock exams. Further information will be sent to the parents of Year 10 students shortly.

Congratulations to Keira Gardner in 10T, who has completed her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award through the army cadets.



In school, a number of Year 10 students are working towards their next Duke of Edinburgh expedition, and we look forward to sharing further successes.

10H has had a very successful term. Ronya Lane represented the school at the Bay Tales Crime Writing event after winning the in-school crime writing competition. Kallen Osborne raised over £40 for CAFOD by completing a sponsored silence. Zoe Young has returned to football training for the first time following a lengthy and patient recovery from a serious injury.

This week James Dolan, has been hard at work for the Student Inclusion Council. He gave a presentation to a group of students who also have EHCPs, and they discussed their view on what makes an inclusive school. The work they completed has been shared with Mike Finlay (Head of SEND, Northumberland) and Mike shared how grateful he is to James and the other students for their contributions.

Year 11 End of Year Arrangements

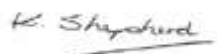
As the exam season for Year 11 is underway I would like to clarify the end of year arrangements for Year 11. Students will be required to attend school until **Friday 07 June 2024**. After this date, students will only need to attend school for their exams. Students are expected to wear their school uniform for all of their exams. There are some exams that are due to take place in the afternoon, that will finish after 3.15pm. On the odd occasion when this happens, students will need to make their own arrangements for getting home.

Throughout the exam period, if you are concerned about your child, then please do get in touch with us. Miss Cowey, Head of Progress for Year 11, will be available throughout the exam period, as will your child's Form Tutor. If you are looking for further advice about what you can do to support your child at this important time in their lives, some useful advice can be found at:

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/1337/supporting-your-child-through-their-gcse>

Further information will be available in a letter which will be sent to Parents/Carers of all Year 11 students over the coming days.

Wishing you a peaceful bank holiday weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Shepherd". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mr K Shepherd
Headteacher