



Week Commencing 14th December 2015

As we get ready for tonight's Christmas celebration at St Bart's I would like to thank you for all your on-going support. We have had an extremely busy but hugely enjoyable term. Our open evenings have been notable highlights as they have showcased the unique and imaginative ways our staff try to inspire and enthuse our students. The students, in turn, have demonstrated their talents with pride explaining all the wonderful work they have produced and activities they have performed in.

Please read about these in the recent edition of Ryburn Reporting.

On behalf of the Staff and Governors I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Headteacher



Due to an unprecedented rise in students presenting themselves to Student Services for medical treatment, especially first thing in the morning we feel it necessary to advise parents that as a school we are only able to provide a First Aid service and **not a medical service.**

We **do not** employ a qualified **school nurse.** We **do** employ a **Health Care Assistant** whose role and responsibility is restricted to **First Aid.** She is not a qualified nurse and cannot administer medication to any students.

The law states that **schools cannot** provide even basic medication, such as paracetamol. Any student who requires medication (other than that contained in a Student Care Plan) must provide it themselves as it will not be available in school. If a student cannot avoid having medication administered in school, this needs to be agreed in advance with our healthcare assistant and **must be accompanied by a signed consent letter from a parent or carer.**

While we as a school encourage maximum attendance we cannot treat pre-existing conditions when your child arrives in school. First Aid is just that, an initial response to gauge the severity of a situation and assess what, if any, further treatment is required by professional medics. If you feel that your child is poorly and you are unsure whether they will be well enough to attend school you must take them to your GP. Thanks for your cooperation.

Staff and students taking part in both our Erasmus+ projects are looking forward to January. Two staff and six students from Year 10 will be visiting our partner in Seia, Portugal which is where the co-ordinating school for our project, 'Empower Students with Entrepreneurial Skills' is based. Flights are booked and students are registered on the projects eTwinning Twinspace. Meanwhile, Year 8 pupils are looking forward to welcoming students from our 'Happiness in Lifelong Learning' partner schools who will be taking part in a range of exciting activities at Ryburn at the end of the month.

Our Year 8 students have been busy getting into the festive spirit this week! Mrs Clements' French class and the Erasmus+ students have been making Christmas Cards for their friendship classes in Turkey and Denmark.

We will also be linking up with our friendship classes via Skype this week to share Christmas traditions and sing Christmas songs with our European students!

Arrangements for Friday 18th December:

School will finish at 12.30pm, but the canteen will remain open for all those wishing to get a meal until 12.50pm. All school buses will depart school at 1.00pm except the C14. Pupils that normally catch the C14 are advised to catch the 579 from the stops on St Peter's Avenue.

This Friday is a non-uniform day where we hope to build on our most recent success. Ryburn Roar and the last day raised a record sum of £2483.62 for **Children in Need**.

Sports News:

The Year 9 Rugby League team lost in the quarter final of the Yorkshire Cup to Castleford Academy, who are the current national champions. The team did themselves proud and worked tirelessly till the end. Finally losing 44-6, with the Ryburn try scored by Lucas Newsome and converted by Ben Littlewood.

The Year 10 Boys' Football team made it to the final 32 of the English schools cup! There were over 600 schools in the competition and Ryburn beat three teams from Lancashire before losing at home to Wilmslow High School. There were some outstanding performances from all the players but Jack Westerby, Kurtis Rennals and Josh Brocklehurst were outstanding!

The Year 10 Boys' Rugby League team will play St Mary's from Hull in the quarter final of the Yorkshire cup in January. Last year the same team reached the Semi- Final of the National Cup. This team have a number of excellent Rugby players with Harry Georgiou, William Scrimshaw, Alex Oldroyd, Oliver Waite and Ellis Broadbent all currently at professional clubs.

The Year 7 Boys' Football team won the Calderdale indoor 5- A- Side competition held at Brooksbank. The team performed brilliantly in the group stages and were worthy winners over Brooksbank in the final.

On Friday 4th December Ryburn hosted a **Primary School Indoor Athletics Event**. There were 128 competitors from seven primary schools. The event was led brilliantly by 12 Ryburn pupils from Year 10. The winners of the competition were Ripponden who will now go on to compete in the Calderdale finals.

A huge well done to **Olivia and Cameron Kirk in Year 10**, who competed at the GB Slalom Profiling Day at HolmePierre Point Nottingham.

After going up against lots of other paddlers they have both been offered a place at the Regional Talent Academy for Slalom with Olivia doing both disciplines K1 and C1 and Cameron doing just K1. This is a fantastic opportunity for them, well done again!

Well done to the **KS3 Girls Cricket team** that won the Calderdale indoor cricket festival.

Annabel Stott finished 2nd in the West Yorkshire Trampolining Competition

National Synchronised Swimming Champion!

Freya Hill (Year 13) and her fellow team members from Halifax Synchro Club took part in the ASA National Age Group Synchronised Swimming Championships 2015 during the 4-6th December.

The event took place at the GL1 Leisure Centre in Gloucester, where they battled it out with competitors from 30 other clubs from across the UK to successfully capture the title in the 'British Recreational 15-17 years Combination Event.'

The team performed an energetic but precise routine to Daft Punk's 'Technologic', and were elated to be bringing home gold. Well done to Freya and her team!

Languages Department:

The languages department are running a verbs challenge, and here are our top scorers so far....

Mega Verb Rockstars Champions of 2015

7.2 French - Lily Allen

7.6 German - Lara Dillon and Jessica Kirton

7.4 German - Emily Hulme

8B1 German - Ben Kershaw

9A1 German - Harrison Wilby

9B1 German - Ethan Brockbank

STEM Club News:

Science teachers Mr Russell and Miss Monk will be presenting at the annual Association for Science Education (ASE) Conference in January. Also, five pupils from the flight simulator competition team at Ryburn Valley High School have been invited to visit the Royal Aeronautical Society headquarters in London next February.

Vocational Skills:

The vocational/work skills students have raised £60 selling Christmas tea light holders at Year 8 parents evening and to members of staff at breaktimes .

New Peer Mentors at Ryburn

Eighteen **Year 10** students and seven **Year 12** students took part in a one day training course to enable them to become Peer Mentors for younger students.

The training was delivered by a representative from the children's charity Kidscape, and taught our young people how to support other students who may be suffering problems in and out of school with workload, exams and revision, friendships, bullying, self esteem and any other issues they want to talk about.

The Peer Mentor system will be set up after the Christmas holidays and students will be able to talk to someone during break, lunchtime or after school. Watch this space for more details!

Ryburn Oscars

Also, tickets will soon be on sale for the Ryburn Oscars, which will be taking place on Thursday 3rd March, 2016. The last date for film entries will be Friday 5th February and they should be handed in to Mr Fairclough. All media and film students' work will automatically be entered but other students are invited to compete for an Oscar and prize – more details coming soon.

Upcoming Events:

Monday 14th December, School Carol Service, St Bartholomew's Church, Ripponden 7.00pm.
(Please note, the change of venue and time. This is different to information previously published)

Thursday 17th December 7.00pm Ryburn Sixth Presentation Evening- Guest speaker, Sally Wainright (Writer of Last Tango in Halifax and Happy Valley)

Charity Fund Raising

Mrs Davies is raising money by having her hair cut off in January! She is donating it to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which makes real hair wigs for children who have lost their hair to chemotherapy. Please see Mrs Davies if you would like to donate.

Ryburn Sixth

Record Attendance at 6th Form Open Evening

There was standing room only at the Ryburn Sixth Open Evening on the 2nd December. Presentations were made by staff and students including a comedy 'quiz' by Year 11 students James Senneck and Cori Love, music and dance, and speeches by Year 12 and 13 students. Year 11 students from both Ryburn, and other schools in the area, turned out to talk to staff, investigate the subjects on offer and to speak to representatives from the most popular northern universities. We are very pleased to say it was a record attendance at the event. Ryburn Sixth is promising to be a very popular choice because of our exam results and the success our students achieve in their University applications and beyond.

For more information about Ryburn Sixth please visit www.ryburnsixth.co.uk

UCAS Entries At Record High

Year 13 students are now applying for their university places for September 2016. With the deadline looming, many students have already had offers from their choices, and competition is fierce. Our students are aiming high with applications to Oxford, Goldsmiths of London, Durham and St Andrews as well as other Russell Group Universities. Courses applied for include English Literature, Law, Economics, Games Programming, Speech and Language Therapy and Engineering. We wish all of our Year 13 students the best with their applications.

Volunteers Claim Their Certificates

Maisie Strong and Olivia Webster in Year 12 have both completed over 40 hours of volunteering this year and have claimed their V10 and V30 certificates from the national youth volunteering organisation VInspired. Both girls took part in the Borneo Expedition during the summer where they volunteered in a village school, and they have since participated in several other activities including fundraising events, Open Evenings and Reciprocated Reading with younger students. We aim to have a volunteering certificate for all Year 12 students by the end of the year. The certificates are nationally recognised and can make all the difference in a UCAS or job application.

Extra Curricular Activity Calendar

Lunchtime

After School

MONDAY	Netball (10/11) – Sports hall Football (7) – Astro/Wembley Film Club (All) - Lecture Theatre Comic Book Club - S24	Netball (7) – Sports hall Senior Ryburn Dance Academy (invite only) - Theatre
TUESDAY	Basketball (7/8/9) - Sports hall Football (9) – Astro/Wembley Gaming/Minecraft (7/8) - 301 STEM club (All) – 118 Debating Society (All) – 108 Brass/Wind Group (Instrumentalists) Drama Distinction Club (All) – 210 Voice Academy (All) - 224 Maths Club (All) - Maths Computer Room Flight Simulator Club	Hockey (All) – Astro Turf Ryburn Recyclers (All) - 215 Junior Ryburn Dance Academy (invite only) - Theatre
WEDNESDAY	Astronomy (GCSE) – DV Lab Film Club (All) - Lecture Theatre	Gymnastics (All) – Gymnasium Football (11) - Wembley
THURSDAY	Football (8) – Astro/Wembley Rugby (7) – Rugby Pitch School Magazine (All) – 108 Disport (Invite only) – Sports hall Chess Club (7/8/9) – 220 Netball (8/9) – Sports hall Soul Band (invite only) - 224 Media Club (All) – M1 Maths Clubs (All) - Maths Commuter Club Flight simulator Club	Girls Football (All) – Astro Turf
FRIDAY	Art Club (7/8) – 211 Amnesty International Youth Group(All) - 202 Scrabble Club (All) – 109 Horrible Histories (7/8) – 207 Football (11) – Astro Turf Top Vox (Invite only) – 224 Dodge ball/Boccia (invite only) Dance 4 All - Theatre	