

## Dear Parents and Carers

### Progress 8 Scores released by Department for Education

The Progress 8 score measures how much progress students have made between the end of Key Stage 2 and the end of Key Stage 4, compared to students across England with a similar set of results at the end of Key Stage 2. This headline measure looks at progress across eight GCSEs. Last summer our Year 11 students achieved a Progress 8 score of 0.4 which puts Sir John Talbot's School in the top 17% of schools in the country and in second place for Shropshire schools. I am delighted with the position of Sir John Talbot's School and it shows that the hard work and dedication from all of the staff, parents/carers and students is paying off and the school really is now becoming the school of choice locally in North Shropshire.

David O'Toole, Headteacher

### Assemblies

Years 7, 8 and 10 have been reflecting on the importance of good school attendance during assembly this week. It is striking how quickly the chances of achieving good GCSE results reduce as attendance falls. 93% Attendance (or better) gives a student a 73% chance of achieving 5 GCSEs, Grades 9-4, whatever the ability. This falls to a 27% chance of achieving 5 GCSEs, Grades 9-4, whatever the ability if attendance falls to 90%. More importantly, ability is not factored into these figures! Simply being in school improves the chances of success at GCSE.

### Student Council

The student council is led by Sixth Form students Victoria Hopwood and Chloe Higgins. Elected Representatives from each tutor group work together to provide a means for student expression and to discuss ways of assisting in school affairs and activities. The student council gives students an opportunity to develop leadership skills and make a contribution to the school community. The council are currently discussing what the school can do to promote healthy eating.

Mrs Apperley, Associate Assistant Headteacher

## Beauty and the Beast

In the final run up to the school production, students are busy attending rehearsals and making final arrangements for their opening show. The performance takes place over three nights on Monday 11, Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 February at 7pm. Tickets for each of the performances are available and can be purchased from School Reception and cost £5 Adult and £4 Concession.



## Cinderella

Year 7 students performed an abridged version of the panto Cinderella for a whole school assembly at Christmas. The whole of Year 7 also sang to the other students. The Performance Faculty are very proud of what students have achieved so far this year.



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Last week Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award participants travelled to Snowdonia for a training weekend. Staying at Pen-y-Pass Youth Hostel, they took part in a small night hike, getting used to navigation in the dark. Hopefully they will never get lost while on expedition, but it's always best to be prepared! Students sampled expedition ration packs for lunch and now know which they prefer when it comes to planning their menus! On Saturday evening, students spent their time learning key skills in the Youth Hostel. Current Year 11 students returning to the Sixth Form in September can register for Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award after their 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Please see Mrs Morcumb, Head of DofE for a registration form.



## Reminders

Term dates for the academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 can be found online [here](#).

## Year 9 RE Project

During their Religious Education lessons Year 9 students have been studying the Holocaust. The module finished with students making their own Holocaust memorial. The memorials which they created have been exceptionally good this year and showed a lot of thoughtful planning and effort from the students. The photograph below shows just a selection of the memorials and some of the students who created them.



## Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening

Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening takes place on Thursday 7 February at 5.30pm. It is an important evening as Year 9 students start the process of selecting which subjects they will study at GCSE. To register for the evening, please follow this link [here](#).

## Travelling Eggs

Year 12 Psychology students are currently forming attachments with their eggs, which were born last week as they began studying this A Level topic. They have had to take the egg everywhere and like any proud parent they are documenting their early experiences through photos. One lucky egg even went on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award training weekend in rainy Wales last weekend. Students thanked Mrs Morcumb, Head of DofE for babysitting when the risk assessment for the Night Walk revealed too high a risk for the newborn.



Oss Mere – 84620

Brown Moss – 81223

Blake Mere – 77262

Red Brook - 71679

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