

## Dear Parents and Carers

### Alliance of Leading Learning Conference

This year's conference took place at Telford International Centre on Monday 25 February where over 400 delegates attended an extremely professional, valuable and simply 'gold standard' event. Delegates were inspired by addresses from three distinguished keynote speakers including Paul Howard-Jones, Professor in Neuroscience and Education, Ian Wright MBE, English former footballer and Matthew Burton, Headteacher of Thornhill Academy and star of Channel 4 documentary 'Educating Yorkshire'. His Academy ethos is based on working hard and being kind to each other.

Paul Howard-Jones explained how the different parts of the brain and processes are involved in learning. The final process of learning called 'Consolidation' takes place during sleep therefore reaffirming the importance of eight hours sleep. Alarming, recent research has shown that just one hour of computer games will damage sleep patterns and therefore the ability to learn. Paul also spoke about the importance of eating breakfast and that a missed breakfast has a very negative effect on learning.

Ian Wright spoke about his difficult upbringing in London and the important part played by his teacher, Sidney Pigden, who was the first positive male figure he had in his life. Sidney taught Ian to read and write and guided him through difficult times. Despite being a respected World War Two pilot in the RAF, Sidney stated that his proudest moment was when Ian was selected to play football for England. Ian spoke honestly about the regret he feels for not working harder in school and stressed the importance of overcoming failure.



### Mrs Apperley, Associate Assistant Headteacher

### Cross-Trust Ski Trip

Students and staff travelled to Austria during half term on a cross Trust Ski Trip. The first day was spent in Grosseck-Spieereck where students were learning to turn and were in control by the end of the day. The advanced group explored the runs at the top of the mountain and enjoyed spectacular views in brilliant sunshine. Other students enjoyed competing in slalom races. During the evening, the group visited a local castle and all enjoyed dressing up in traditional costume. Students also spent a day at Aineck and Katschberg, skiing the longest run in Austria at 7kms long, before heading back to Grosseck-Spieereck for the final morning. All students improved their skills over the week and a fantastic time was had by all.



## Lesson Gradings

Students receive a lesson grade for every lesson. The grade is based on their approach to learning and ranges from 1 to 4. Descriptors for these grades can be found in your child's planner. The names of students with the highest number of grade 1s last week for each year group are as follows.

Year 7: Henry Appleby, Katie Evans, Bethanne Fairbairn, Adrian Figura, Paulina Sala and Octavia Paul.

Year 8: Stella Hardy, Mackenzie Ruud-Eddies and Jacob Bowyer.

Year 9: William Lloyd, Scott Green and Hatty Lewis.

Year 10: Ailie Small, Faith Rice and Mateusz Dudek.

Year 11: Morgan Ashley, Paige Ashley, Toby Davies, Amy Fry and Abby Rooney.

Year 12/13: Shola Bailey and Ben Kimberley.

## Careers and Soft Skills

This week, Professor Andrew St George spoke to Sixth Form students at their forum. Professor St George has studied at Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard, as well as advising individual CEOs, bankers, diplomats and others.

He also wrote The Royal Navy Leadership Manual (Random House, 2012). Professor St George spoke to the Sixth Form students about soft skills, which are personal attributes that cannot be taught or tested. He told the story of Shackleton's journey and how even back in 1915, he used soft skills to keep his men in order. Overall, the students got some valuable advice on how to exercise and develop their soft skills.



## Internet Safety

Please be aware of a very dangerous and sinister online game called Momo Challenge. This game sets up a series of challenges which may lead to self-harm and the suggestion of suicide. The game is linked with apps such as Snapchat, Facebook and recently YouTube Kids. It is believed that the motive behind the developers of the game is to steal data as the game asks players for personal details. Please read the attached document and check your child's online activity. If you have any concerns and wish to discuss further please contact: [SJTPastoral@mmat.co.uk](mailto:SJTPastoral@mmat.co.uk)



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold and Silver Award students were visited by Shannon from Go Outdoors, Shrewsbury for a kit talk.



Shannon went through all the essential expedition kit from layering clothes to sleeping bags! She also explained how choosing the right kit will make their expedition much more comfortable!



## Whitchurch 10K

Whitchurch 10K is just five weeks away. The event, now in its third year, will start and finish at Sir John Talbot's School and is an ideal event for runners of all abilities, from those completing their first 10K, to those wishing to set a new PB or for elite seasoned runners.



For further information, or to register for the event:

<https://whitchurch10k.niftyentries.com/Whitchurch-10K-2019>.

Oss Mere – 84620

Brown Moss – 81223

Blake Mere – 77262

Red Brook - 71679

**Sir John Talbot's School**

Prees Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BY

T: 01948 660600

E: [sjadmin@mmat.co.uk](mailto:sjadmin@mmat.co.uk)

W: [www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk](http://www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk)