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- Issue #16

Inside this issue:

- 2019 Results Day report
- Parent Staff Association updates
- An update from Miss Marshall

NOADSWOOD NEWSLETTER

2019, a fantastic year for Noadswood results- Mr Pike

What a Fantastic Set of GCSE Results!

I would like to take you back to the morning of Thursday 22nd August. Our fantastic pupils came into school to receive their GCSE results. There was a huge amount of positivity in the air. We knew that this year group could produce a great set of GCSE results, both for themselves and for the school. They absolutely nailed it and achieved the best results the school has had since the new accountability measures came into effect.

Some of the highlights:

- » Over 73% of pupils achieved at least a Grade 4 in English and Mathematics
- » Over 81% of pupils gained at least a Grade 4 in English
- » Over 79% of pupils gained at least a Grade 4 in Mathematics
- » Over 78% of pupils achieved at least two Grade 4 GCSEs in Science
- » Over 33% of the pupils who sat Separate Physics GCSE gained a Grade 9
- » Over 53% of the pupils who sat Food Preparation and Nutrition gained at least a Grade 7
- » 40% of the pupils who sat Dance or Health and Fitness gained at least a Distinction
- » Over 50% of our gifted Mathematicians gained at least a Grade B in Additional Mathematics

To achieve these results our pupils required a supportive community around them. We thank all of their teachers,

support staff, parents and carers who played a positive role in their fantastic results.



Our pupils demonstrated determination and grit as well as having high expectations of themselves. We hope that as many of them as possible now have a firm foundation of knowledge and skills that will take them wherever their passions direct them, because this is what education is all about, providing as many choices as possible for our pupils' future happiness.

Good luck Class of 2019, we know you are capable of further brilliance!

**'WE ARE SO PROUD OF
THIS LAST COHORT,
THEY WORKED HARD TO
ACHIEVE THE SUCCESS THEY
DESERVE'**

Mr Crowley, Assistant Headteacher

THIS WEEK’S TOP E-PRAISE:

#	NAME	YEAR	TUTOR	HOUSE	POINTS
1	ETHAN LUC-CONSUL	11	A-LWO/ESR	ANDERWOOD	390
2	REBEKAH SMITH	7	D-PSM	DEERLEAP	356
3	FREYA LOBLEY	7	D-PSM	DEERLEAP	347
4	ALICE BAYNHAM	10	K-LEP	KNIGHTWOOD	345
5	THEO RANGER	11	A-LWO/ESR	ANDERWOOD	337

SPOTLIGHT ON... ENGLISH!



The last academic year of 2018-2019 was a huge success for the English Department. Our GCSE English results were incredibly pleasing. We achieved 81.4% Grade 4+ and 67% Grade 5+. There was further delight when we received an email from HIAS saying, 'Please pass on our congratulations to your team – it's a great achievement and I am sure that you have all worked enormously hard for your pupils.'

The English Team, at Noadswood, strives to ensure that every child achieves their very best. We had some outstanding individuals who truly excelled and exceeded even their own expectations.



Our Curriculum is carefully crafted to enable our pupils to see their learning journey and understand their progression from Year 7 to 11. This will become even more transparent through the work we are undertaking on Curriculum development through this academic year.

We offer a variety of extracurricular activities to further enrich our pupil's experience in English. Blog Club, Creative Writing Club and Youth Speaks are offered to all Year groups. Blog Club runs every Friday and enables our pupils to have their say and their articles published on the school website. If this is news to you, please check them out now. Youth Speaks allows you to challenge your public speaking

abilities and perform, persuade and entertain the audience with your display of wit and knowledge of a topic. In teams of three, participants present arguments and points of discussion, before taking questions from the judging panel who are, themselves, skilled orators. Participants can select a topic which is important to them, giving them an opportunity to delve deep into research, formulate ideas and build confidence.



Creative Writing Club, now meeting for its eighth year, convenes in the Library for an hour after school on Fridays. All year groups are

welcome; we play word games, compose and share short stories, scripts and poetry all year round. Of course, the big event of our year is Noadswood's Summer Literary Festival, when we have the chance to bring our work to a wider audience. Sweets and treats provided!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

1) Tuesday 1st October: Year 8 Parent/Tutor evening

2) Thursday 3rd October: Year 11 Careers Fayre

3) Friday 4th October: INSET Day

NOADSWOOD PARENT STAFF ASSOCIATION - MRS ROLLETT

We are delighted to write to you to explain about our Parent Staff Association (PSA) As you know, I hope, we are keen to see our school and local community working more closely together to ensure that our pupils continue to receive the first class educational experience that we are so proud to deliver- we recognise that this is about so much more than just great teaching. Research has shown that parental/carer involvement has a very significant impact on a child's achievement, attainment and wellbeing at school. If you'd like to join us, propose ideas or support our events we'd love to hear from you.

PSA dates for your diary:

1. Parent/Staff and Friends of Noadswood quiz night on Friday 27th September 7-8.30 pm hosted by the fantastic Arthur Prouse in our school hall. It will be £12 for a team of six - bring your own food and drink. We hope it will be a fantastic way to get to know both staff and other friends of Noadswood.

2. Year 7 Disco on Friday 18th October. More details to follow.

All proceeds from our PSA events will be going towards our Community Garden. The Community Garden will

be a space big enough for a whole class to learn outside, and will include opportunities for pupils to grow and tend plants and produce. It will also be home to rabbits, which will be able to be looked after by pupils and played with therapeutically when people are experiencing stress. At breaks and lunchtimes, the garden will be available for people to read, rest and relax in - it will be a quiet space for mindful thoughts. Later down the line, our ambition is for it to be a space into which we can invite adults in our community to come and work with our pupils on the garden's plant and produce life, as well as its maintenance.

We will be working with a designer who has created absolute mini paradises within schools we know of, and who will ensure the garden is also equipped with an underground watering system so that pupils' hard work doesn't unravel because there aren't always people around to water it. It is an ideal funding goal for our Parent Staff Association, and, in Noadswood's 60th birthday year, we can't wait to invite the community to come and join us in the garden for an afternoon tea.



The PSA is a fantastic way of getting to know other local families and our colleagues whilst making a real contribution to the quality of school life for all. If you are interested in becoming involved or have any ideas you would like us to consider our next PSA meeting will be held in the school conference room on Tuesday 1st October 6-8 pm. Alternatively please drop us an email at psa@noadswood.hants.sch.uk.

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to a new year at Noadswood. We have been thoroughly enjoying welcoming our Year 6 visitors and their families to our Open Mornings and Open Evening this week. As I have been sharing with them what is most important to me about our brilliant school community – that each of you are very much part of in my mind – I decided now was a perfect time to share some of that with you all, once again.



I've shared with our visitors how much I love it when you share with us your children's wonderful out of school achievements so that I can meet them to congratulate them, or invite them along to Hot Choc Friday with me. Already this term, it's been super to hear about a Year 7's kick boxing triumphs at national level, and equally fab to learn about two Year 7 ballerinas who will be performing with the Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Mayflower.

I've equally emphasised how much I appreciate it when you raise with one of us anything that's on your mind – really, truly anything – rather than keeping it to yourself, feeling frustrated, offloading on social media and making decisions about our school without mentioning the issue to us. We are duty bound to work through your concerns with you and your children and we want to do this.

Therefore, I was delighted when someone mentioned concern they had seen expressed on social media about the CCTV cameras that are in the pupil toilets. These cameras point ONLY over sinks and the footage is only accessible to myself, Mr Hewitt and our Designated Safeguarding Leads. The policy for the use of these is available on our website, and their installation has seen vandalism and damage in the pupil toilets end; they also would provide us with important footage should there be an accident or a near miss in these facilities. I will always be happy to talk to you about this or any other policy that strikes you in any way as a concern - how much better is it to be able to find out the whole story, rather than only discussing thoughts on it with other parents?

Next, I have talked to all our visitors about how proud I am of the Class of 2019 and of the whole staff team, because of the excellent outcomes the pupils gained in their Key Stage 4 qualifications. The resilience and commitment the young people demonstrated throughout the very rigorous exams that come at the end of the new Key Stage 4 curriculum were amazing to see and it is so fantastic that it paid dividends for them the way they deserve as you will read in Mr Pike's article in this newsletter.

These outcomes demonstrate my unswerving commitment to all pupils making the best progress of which they are capable. They also reflect our departments' forging of excellent relationships with their classes to sustain them through the pressures of the exam season. Additionally, they prove that our pledge to sustain a genuinely rich and diverse curriculum that will meet the needs and enthusiasms of all your children remains absolutely the right one. The Leadership Team and I strive to ensure it is truly one that encourages full participation, curiosity and engagement for all, no matter the financial constraints we are burdened by in schools – these outcomes prove we must continue to do this.

Finally, I have been speaking to all our visitors about the culture of kindness, inclusivity, welcome and warmth that I believe in and that many experience throughout their time at Noadswood, described beautifully by our Head Boy, Ellis Quinn, when he said,

'I remember back on a rainy autumn day in 2014, looking around Noadswood on an open morning and being instantly captivated by the amazing ambience.

It's difficult to express my feelings with words, but everything felt so comforting and friendly. This comforting aura never falters; Noadswood is a magnificent place to be.'

We want to work with all pupils such that they all feel as Ellis does, so we are working to moving our systems when things go wrong away from detentions, towards taking the time after school and during the day to use the language of repairing relationships, whether that be between pupils or adults and pupils. This work is new at Noadswood, but it is driven by the commitment of a working party of colleagues and me – all colleagues are embracing the work, though it is still in its infancy as a whole school approach.

We know, for all to feel as Ellis does, we must all take responsibility for what we say, how we say it and what we do and when; true responsibility for that only comes when there is understanding and empathy about why key values and behaviours matter. For many young people this understanding and empathy is instinctive and comes naturally, but for those for whom it does not, it is important we lead by consistent example for the benefit of all.

The same applies to the new PIN cards we are asking the pupils to carry – some of you have expressed you feel we are perhaps focusing too much on uniform and equipment lapses when we should be focusing on learning, and others have mentioned to me that we should be rewarding the majority who get these things absolutely right.

On the first point, like you in your workplaces, I have to arrive at the right time, wearing the right clothing, with the right things I need for my diary's activities. I have to take responsibility for that and pride in it, so we want to equip our pupils to do the same. When I have met with one or two people for a conversation after school, following them losing their card, I have spoken to them about little tricks of organisation and reminders to yourself, things I have put in place to help myself over the years. These are important skills, alongside academic progress.

On the second point, we do reward the majority, in every House Time and every lesson with ePraise points when they arrive equipped, because they're living up to our values of being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' everywhere we go.

We also know we must support the wellbeing and mental health of all our pupils, so they can feel that sense of comfort and friendliness that Ellis captures. All Y7 pupils will have an hour-long lesson delivered by one of our ELSAs, to equip them with a whole toolkit of strategies to help them manage anxieties, wobbles in self-esteem and those moments when secondary school life may overwhelm them. All pupils now have access to a Wellbeing Site on our online system, Frog, on which they can find links to resources and apps to look at independently, too.

Both these initiatives came out of the Wellbeing Pupil Survey I launched last summer as things the pupils would like us to introduce. Another outcome from this survey was the launch of our Wellbeing Ambassador Scheme and 65 or pupils will receive training from Solent Mind later this term, whilst another group have visited another school for an anti-bullying training event as part of the Diana Award. These are all important initiatives towards all pupils finding that 'comforting aura' in school and our work will never be concluded in this respect – there is always more that can be done to involve everyone fully in what's great about Noadswood and to ensure no one feels at the margins.

There is a great deal to be proud of and excited by at the start of this year, and I will end where I started – share what's going well with us, and, equally importantly, share what's on your mind. We have lots of opportunities for you to share your thoughts through the Parent Forum, or the Parent Staff Association, but you can just send us a quick message via ePraise or give us a ring. We are in this together to make Noadswood a terrific place to be on its best days, on challenging days and at all points in between.