



Ringwood School

Year 8 Newsletter- Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents/Guardians

Throughout the year I will be writing to you with a brief outline of the highlights of the previous few weeks and some comments about upcoming events.

This half term has been centred around the house values of Hardy which is to 'Dream Big'. The students arrived to school with a few new additions in the form of the barn and the canteen, and it has been great to see their response to it. There is no better example of that than seeing how excited they were to show you around our school during the information evening earlier in September. It is in the barn where the students have had their assemblies this half term which have covered topics such as literacy, the importance of attendance, the power of perseverance and embracing diversity. This idea of embracing diversity has also been covered in PSHE lessons over this half term and it has been great as a Head of Year to hear some fantastic examples of members of the year group putting what they have learnt into action in a positive way. You just need to look at all the students wearing red for 'Wear Red Day' to see this in full effect.

Tutor time has also seen a bit of a change this half term, with the introduction of Literacy activities and CCR activities, which are based around specific days of celebration or a specific focus for the week. These have included 'European Day of Languages', 'Democracy', 'Dyslexia Awareness week' and a focus around World Mental Health Day which was earlier in the term. I have received very positive feedback from tutors on how the students have adapted and participated in tutor time to these new activities.

As well as the hard work the students are putting into their lessons, this half term has seen many students throw themselves into extra-curricular activities as well. For example, at the start of the term a group of Year 8s got involved in the Engineering challenge which was a huge success. Clubs have started up again as well and it was amazing to see a lot of Year 8 students attend the Freshers Fair at school, and to hear of so many attending a huge variety of clubs outside of lesson shows how multi- talented the year group is. Please ask your child to keep an eye out for clubs available next half term.

We have also seen success on the sports field, with both boy's football and girls football registering wins this half term. The boys with a 2-0 win over Noadswood away from home and the girls being crowned as New Forest Champs following a great performance in a 7 a side tournament earlier in the year. It has been great to see so many turn up to sporting clubs after school and I am sure there have been many more successes over the half term.

There have been many positives in the classroom as well, and I have received a lot of positive feedback from teachers at the continued effort and academic excellence from students within the year group. This has come in line with a big change to the school's behavioural policy which I know has not been easy for many of the students to adapt to straight away, but over time they have got used to it and behaviour within the classroom has most definitely improved. I look forward to seeing this continue after half term.

Looking ahead to next half term, as mentioned clubs and extracurricular activities will continue. There will also be a training day for our 10 Year 8 students who are representing the school as Anti Bullying Ambassadors, who will then pass on feedback to the rest of the school. Assemblies after half term will focus around Nightingale's house values of 'Make no excuses' and the focus for PSHE will be on the students emotional well-being. I have included at the end of this newsletter some information on World Mental Health Day, and also some really useful websites and strategies

that your child can use if they are feeling overwhelmed or that they need support with their mental health, especially over the week where they are not in school.

Finally, I also wanted to take this opportunity to again thank you for all the support you have given over this half term, it has made a big difference to both the tutor team and myself, as the students start their journey in Year 8

Have a great half term and I look forward to seeing all the students back in school on Halloween

Kind Regards

Henry Nicholson

(Head of Year 8)