

Wyedean School Sixth Form News

December 2016

Christmas newsletter

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sixth Form students on an excellent autumn term and make you aware of some of the work undertaken. They have made a fantastic contribution to our school and local community and deserve praise for their effort.

Big Bean café

On Thursday 17th November we were delighted to officially open the Big Bean Café in the Sixth Form common room. It was a proud moment for our A-level Hospitality group who've played such a big part in making it a success with the fantastic food and drinks that they offer. Mrs Lewis also deserves immense credit for having the vision and determination to make the café a reality.



Stretch and Challenge for All

Our focus this term has been on students undertaking wider reading and research connected to their A-level subjects. We carried out a prize draw for the 63 students who participated: Sam Brown, Carys Bint, Danni Bottrill and Maddy Hodgkinson were the lucky winners. Well done to Nick Summerfield, James Wright, Ceria Moulton, Katie Jones, Emily Bartlett, Ellen Durbin and Megan Burgess for the amazing effort, wider reading and enriching experiences you've undertaken. Nick, I've never known anyone ask for so many history books for Christmas! Lastly, well done to George McCarron, May Waddington, Georgia Savoie (all Year 12) and Matthew Stenson and Alice Thomas (Year 13) for getting the best reports in the Sixth Form.



Promoting our Sixth Form



We had a very successful Open Evening on the 1st December. What proved particularly gratifying was the number of current Sixth Formers who turned out to support our event. We had 61 volunteers who assisted with showing parents around the school and supporting teachers with promoting their subjects. Their presence added a buzz and vibrancy to our evening. The students were fantastic ambassadors and even greeted the news that their pizza order had been messed up with good grace and humour.

Thank you in particular to Sam Brown, Kate Connolly and Matt Grindle who gave excellent speeches. Thank you once again to Molly McGuinness, Sam Brown, Tea Butcher, Jade

Hancock and Cordelia Mizen for helping me to promote the Sixth Form to students in other schools.

Sixth Form Extra!

Thank you to all the Sixth Formers who are running extra-curricular clubs. You help to make the Sixth Form far more than just a place to study. Holly and Cerys, your fund-raising efforts have been amazing this term. We will have a fantastic Summer Ball, I'm sure. Good luck with the Youth Speaks event after Christmas, Sasha. Well done Holly and Molly for organising a collection for Bristol Children's Hospital. Caitlin, your idea to create a coding group is amazing and well done for tolerating all my questions. Computer literacy is not a strong suit of mine. We also have a number of students volunteering at Offa's Mead Primary School, Penguins nursery and The Gaff in Sedbury.



Year 12 student, Rosie Levy, organised a musical afternoon to raise money for the charity Young Minds, which supports both young people experiencing mental health issues and their families. The afternoon was a fantastic showcase for the very talented young people of the Chepstow area and raised over £1,000. Well done to Rosie and her family and friends for a wonderful concert.

Lecture Series



Our Sixth Form Lecture Series is proving to be remarkably successful. We have been treated to a range of excellent presentations which have been stimulating and thought-provoking. This half term we've enjoyed discussions on Art and Design, Advertising, apprenticeships at EDF Energy and most prestigiously of all, a question and answer session with Baroness Royall. We were also treated once again to a fine lecture from Dr Thompson from Cardiff Metropolitan University. Dr Thompson always critiques our students' art portfolios but he was struck by one in particular which he

regarded as some of the finest work he'd ever seen from an A-level student.

Well done Andreea Gilca!



University applications

This half term has been dominated by submitting applications to university. As the process draws to a close I would like to congratulate Year 13 students and tutors for an excellent set of personal statements and references. Some students have been lucky enough to receive unconditional offers on account of their applications. This is testament to the superb grades they achieved last year, their extra-curricular work and the overall quality of their applications. Don't take your foot off the gas, Bobbie and good luck with your interviews Hope, Ceira, Phoebe and Coral! The priority now is on working hard to achieve an excellent set of results in 2017.



We have 73% of Year 13s applying to university this year. We're proud of this figure but I appreciate that university isn't for everyone. I'm looking forward to supporting students with their applications for apprenticeships and job applications in the New Year.

And finally...

All the best for those Sixth Formers who have mock exams in January.

I'd like to end by thanking you for the continued support you show to the school. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr Lane
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