MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Mid year is a time when we start looking to those year groups who are thinking about transfers and transitions they are about to make. March 1st was National Offer Day and we are all looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 when they visit us before their start in September.

Our Year 9 students are finalising their options choices, and Year 11, in addition to revision, are also thinking about their next phase of transition or transfer. As we go through the school year we are reminded that we are constantly evolving and changing, and what seemed strange in the past is looked upon with more acceptance now.

It was lovely to hear about the students learning about sustainable food. I am extremely proud of

our students who are not afraid to experience and try new things, developing their care of the planet and each other. As a school community we are committed to helping others and we are all extremely proud of Thomas Williams who received the 'Young Volunteer of the Year' Award at the 2023 Basildon Borough Volunteer Awards, such a prestigious award, congratulations.

Ms J Williams Headteacher



KSCPP Essay Competition

We are very proud to share that Leo Marson in Year 7 has received an honorable mention for his entry to the Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project essay competition.

The competition aims to share the **Hongik Ingan** philosophy which encourages people to live for the benefit of all mankind.



For the competition Leo read 'Chung Hyo Ye, Tales of Filial Devotion, Loyalty, Respect and Benevolence from History and Folklore of Korea' and wrote an essay evaluating the values presented within this classic text.

Congratulations Leo and well done on all your hard work!

Spotlights on Clubs: Lego Club

This month's spotlight is on Lego Club.

Lego Club is a newly formed club run by Mr Venables in the Maths department, and he has put together a short bit of information regarding this exciting new venture!

Let me start with a huge thank you to the PTFA for funding the purchase of 8 School Lego Sets. Without their support this club would not have been possible.



The club is for Year 7 students and runs on a Thursday Week B at lunchtime, our inaugural session took place on 23rd February where we started to build a model of a car that we will test once built.

If you are in Year 7 and would like to join the club please come and see me in the Maths Department.

Mr Venables

Jack Petchey Award - Sam Bowden

Congratulations to Sam Bowden in Year 10 for winning the Jack Petchey Achievement Award for February. Sam was nominated for this award for his kindness towards staff and students especially within the progress centre. He is a positive role model to younger students and is a credit to our school. Well done Sam.

If you would like to nominate a student please email Mrs E Cooke at educate@mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk





World Book Day 2023

Thursday the 2nd of March was World Book Day and Mayflower High School observed the day with various activities including book reading by members of staff. We were lucky enough to get the Acting Headteacher to read the fourth part of a five - part short story, Last Breath by Joe Hill. This reading will be shared with students especially in KS3 over five registration sessions so that by the end of the week all the students would have "read" a book.

There were other activities which students were challenged to take part in, including decorating their classrooms with World Book Day ideas. Mr Magala's tutor group, 8F2, came up with beautiful ideas as illustrated in the photo on the right. This was brilliant stuff.



In addition to this, most of the KS3 students participated in various other activities including:

- Make your own book
- Make your own book marks
- Make a playlist for your favourite book
- Turn your favourite book into a poem
- Take a key event from your favourite book and make it headline news!
- Create an online profile for your favourite character of all time-draw this out.
- · Black out poetry
- Create a prop from your favourite book.
- Creative writing randomiser selecting character- setting- object
- · Make a reading hedgehog
- Create your own poster for World Book Day
- Story board your favourite story
- In groups create a piece of 5 still images to tell the story of your favourite book.

Some of the products of the activities were captured on camera and a sample is included below:









This was an enjoyable day for most of the students who actively took part in the activities suggested and planned. Well done to everyone and continue with your reading and enjoyment of books. Book reviews similar to the ones pictured above can be written and handed in to Mr. Ncube in Room 55 for display. Students can also keep tabs on the books they have read and the number of words for each so that when they get to a million words they are eligible for badges. We are currently organising one for the first millionaire at Mayflower High School and this is Christopher Reid in 9B2, a diligent member of the Reading Club. Come and be a part of the Reading Club.

The Reading Club meets in Room 55 on Tuesday Week A, period 4B (KS3 lunch) and also on Wednesday Week B, period 4A (KS4/5 lunch).

Thank you and good reading.

M. Ncube. Literacy Coordinator. Teacher of English. Mayflower High. Currently reading A Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle

National Careers Week

National Careers Week ran 6-11 March, during this week form tutors were provided with presentations which took their students through information on potential career pathways, case study examples (with videos), and essential skills needed.

Alongside the careers interviews undertaken by Year 11 students last week we hope this additional guidance has been useful in helping students prepare to progress onto their chosen career pathway, or to inspire those students who currently are unsure of where their future pathways lay.

Students completed a short online survey at the end of the week which will allow us to evaluate the success of the provision and to make any changes for next year.

Mr Brooks

Sixth Form Course Consultations

This last month has seen the first 2 rounds of our face to face Sixth Form Course Consultation meetings for students and parents/carers of students from Year 11 who have made applications to join the Sixth Form in September.

These consultation meetings give these students and parents/carers the opportunity to meet with senior members of staff to discuss course choices, entry pathways and to collaboratively develop a strategic revision plan to ensure that they meet the entry criteria for their chosen subjects.

It has also been an excellent opportunity for the students involved to find out a bit more about the difference in 'life as a Sixth Former' vs their current experience of school life as well as giving staff the chance to get to know the students better on a more personal level.

Dr Fawell

Year 9 Curriculum Pathways Evening

Thursday 9 March saw the running of our annual Curriculum Pathways Evening for students in Year 9.

The evening ran from 5pm-7pm and gave students in Year 9 and their parents/carers an opportunity to discuss in detail with teachers the various subjects which are open to them for options at KS4.

A big thank you to all of the current KS4 students who stayed back to help in subject areas and to talk to prospective students about what the Options process and the KS4 courses are like from a student perspective.

The evening was a big success and we hope that students now feel better informed to make their options choices.

Mr Fox

Attendance and Punctuality Factsheet

At Mayflower High School, our core values are centred around students being safe, being a learner and being respectful. We strive for the highest possible standard of education. We recognise that this can only be achieved by supporting and promoting excellent attendance & punctuality. This is based on the knowledge and belief that only by attending school regularly and punctually, pupils will be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. Parents and carers play a key role in ensuring that their child attends school regularly and on time.

Attendance & Achievement

97-100%	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity available to them
90-97%	*At least 2 weeks missed learning	Your child may have to spend time catching up on work
85-90%	*At least 4 weeks of missed learning	Your child is at risk of underachieving and medical evidence may need to be provided to authorise any absence. You could be at risk of a Legal Action Warning Letter
80-85%	*At least 5 weeks of missed learning	Your child's poor attendance will have a significant negative impact on their learning. You are at greater risk of a Legal Action Warning Letter
Below 80%	*At least 7.5 weeks of missed learning	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education and you are at risk of prosecution

^{*}End of academic year

Tracking Attendance & Punctuality

Every student's attendance percentage & punctuality is tracked weekly. If this is a cause for concern you will be informed of this by letter and may be invited in to meet with the School Attendance Officer to discuss the concerns and set up an action plan to support with the attendance difficulties. The Attendance Officer liaises regularly with the local authority who give advice & guidance.

Progress & attainment

The school's Attendance Officer meets regularly with members of the Senior Leadership Team, SENDCO & Safeguarding Team to look at attendance percentages and cross reference these with pupils' current attainment scores. Parents/carers will be informed if their child is falling behind academically as a result of poor attendance or punctuality.

Problems with Attendance & Punctuality

Are you having problems with:

- 1. Getting your child up in the morning?
- 2. Finding uniform, bags or school books?
- 3. Your child not completing homework until the morning it is due?
- 4. Your child watching TV, spending too much time on their phone, games console or tablet?
- 5. Your child feeling anxious about school work or exams?
- Your child asking for a day off because it is their birthday or they cannot be bothered

Have you tried:

- Set boundaries for bed time, teenagers still require a lot of sleep, 8 hours' minimum
- Your child should prepare their bag & uniform the night before
- Set homework time/slots during the week to avoid the last minute panic/rush
- 4. Limit screen & TV time
- Talk about school in a positive way in front of your child, to help reduce anxieties and speak to their teacher if necessary
- 6. Be firm and consistent with your approach

Attendance and Punctuality Factsheet

Term Time Absence

Mayflower High School, does not authorise term-time holidays/absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you do decide to take your child out of school during term time, you must complete a Leave of Absence form. The Headteacher will then consider each application individually and decide whether the reason for the absence constitutes exceptional circumstances.

Absence may be authorised for the following:	Absence will not be authorised for the following:	
 Illness *Medical or Dental appointments Performing Rights for example Theatre Productions External Examinations Family Bereavement Religious Observances 	 Illness of a parent Holidays Day trips/Long weekends Birthdays Visiting family Surprise visits or trips booked without knowledge 	
o. Rengious observances	Morricage	

^{*}Proof of appointments will be required to authorise any absences

Punctuality

In addition to regular attendance parents/students need to ensure that they arrive on time, every day, ready & equipped for every lesson.

Being late for school has many negative consequences:

- Gets the day off to a bad start
- Increases stress for your child & can cause embarrassment
- Disrupts the learning of other class members
- Creates bad habits which could lead to poor attendance
- Confusion for your child as work or activities will have already started

School starts at 8.50, being late on a regular basis = loss of learning time

5 minutes late every day	3.4 days of lost learning every academic year
10 minutes late every day	6.9 days of lost learning every academic year
15 minutes late every day	10.3 days of lost learning every academic year
20 minutes late every day	13.8 days of lost learning every academic year
30 minutes late every day	20.7 days of lost learning every academic year

If you have any questions in regards to attendance or punctuality, please email the Attendance Officer at

attendance@mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk



Year 11 Revision Focus Evening

On Wednesday 22nd February Year 11 parents and students were invited into school to listen to a series of presentations about how to help Year 11 through Exam Season 2023. There were presentations on Effective Revision Strategies, Top Tips from Science, Maths and English as well as Wellbeing and a Parents Survival Guide. Thank you to everyone who came along, turnout was excellent with over 300 people in attendance. Feedback has also been extremely positive.

"I would like to thank the teachers that took part in the revision focus evening today, it was well run and informative..."

"Excellent session and really useful to have a joined up approach between the school, parents and student."

Thank you to all the teachers who were involved in this!"

"Thank you for providing a wonderful presentation to show ways to which we can support our children and provide clarity to the work they are doing in school. We really appreciated finding out key dates also. An excellent way to enhance communication between all parties."

If you attended, and still wish to provide feedback, please use the following link so that we can review our provision moving forwards.

https://forms.gle/AWNBHHjckFRi7GpA7

Mrs Ball



Volunteer of the Year - Thomas Williams

We are very proud to share that one of our Year 10 students, Thomas Williams, has received the Young Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2023 Basildon Borough Volunteer Awards.

Thomas has been an exemplary contributor to both the local and school communities.

As a key member of Rights Action Group, Digital Leaders, Eco club and the Student Librarian team he has given up his time to prepare, rehearse and perform over 20 assemblies. He has also taken part in litter picking and tree planting initiatives, helped coordinate the annual shoebox charity and foodbank appeals and been instrumental in supporting the reopening and management of the school library. Thomas has also established an in school pantry that will be opening this term, through this venture we will be able to offer food and toiletries to anyone in need.

Outside of school Thomas is a member of UK Youth Parliament and the Young Essex Assembly. He is Young Commissioner for Essex and sits on numerous boards and working parties related to child safety, climate change, knife crime, nutrition and mental health. As part of the Childnet Youth Advisory Board Thomas acted as keynote speaker for their Safer Internet Day at BT Tower. He is working with both Basildon and Essex

councils to ensure young people's voices are heard and effect

meaningful change in our local areas.

Thomas is an outstanding young person who goes above and beyond in his commitment to improving the lives of others. We are so happy to see his achievements recognised with this award and with the Princess Diana award he will be receiving next week as well.

Well done Thomas and thank you for all your amazing work



Mayflower makes it to Antarctica!

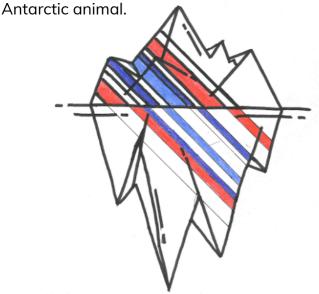
Following on from our article in the December Newsletter where Year 7 Geography students took part in an optional school competition to create a flag for Antarctica, we are excited to announce that one of our flags made it to Antarctica! The competition to celebrate Antarctica Day was run by UKPN (UK Polar Network). Dylan Foley's (7B1) flag (below) was the school competition winner - many congratulations to Dylan.

Please see below our flag being displayed in Antarctica, our certificate for our entry and some information received about the important research they undertake!

Tracey Dornan volunteered to take your Flag on the research ship, RRS Discovery, and you can find out more about the vessel here: https://noc.ac.uk/facilities/ships/rrs-discovery

Tracey is a biological oceanographer and took photos of her colleagues Angelika Słomska (left) and Emily Rowlands (right)

Emily and Angelika are Polar marine ecologists investigating plastic pollution from the surface to the deep waters of the Southern Ocean, which surrounds Antarctica. They also research the impact of plastic pollution on Antarctic krill. Krill are one of the most important animals in the Southern Ocean since most other animals including whales, seals, and penguins feed on them. The data collected helps us understand the influences of climate change, fishing pressure and predation on this important







ANTARCTICA DAY 2022

This certificate is awarded to Mayflower High School for designing inspirational flags "in the interests of all mankind."

YOUR FLAG WAS CELEBRATED IN ANTARCTICA!

 Location Name:
 South Georgia

 Latitude:
 54°06'0"S

 Longitude:
 36°17'0"W

 Flag Bearer:
 Tracey Dornan

 Date:
 02/03/2023

 Signed:
 UKPN Antarctic Flags Team







Year 8 Art & Design

In Art this term Year 8 have started an animal project. So far they have looked at a variety of medias including tonal drawings, collage and clay.

Recently our students had the opportunity to glaze their clay pieces once they had been through the kiln. The first lot came out of the kiln on Wednesday and don't they look fantastic?! All students have done a brilliant job at sculpting their chosen animal. Well done Year 8!

Miss S Brown



Edwards Ames 8M1



Riley Dowson 8R1



Louis Bannister 8L2



Luke Andrews 8R1



Seviye Akyel 8R1



Daisy Lewi 8L2



Isla Nursey 8M2



Stan Eastman 8F2

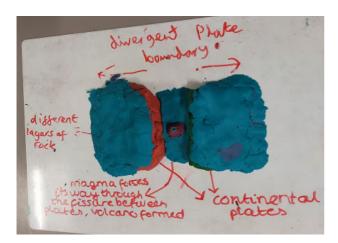


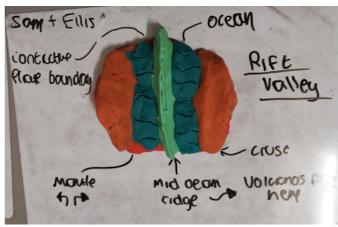
Elsie Shepherd 8M2

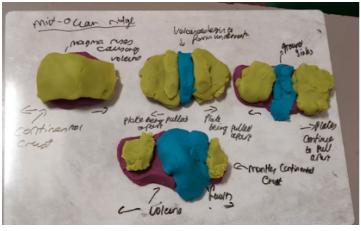
Year 12 A Level Geography

Year 12 have been studying tectonic processes and the landforms that are created by tectonic movement. This week they had been learning about the formation of Rift Valleys and to help them consolidate their understanding were asked to produce a labeled model showing their formation.

Mrs Cooke









Food Sustainability

As part of the B7 Ecology unit, Year 11 Separate Science Biology students looked at food sustainability and food alternatives. Students were asked to evaluate traditional protein sources with alternatives such as Quorn & insects!

Some (but not all) of our students were very keen to try some deep fried crickets which were surprisingly tasty as well as containing three times more protein than some processed meats. Over 25% of the World's population eat insects on a regular basis and there is strong evidence that environmental damage would be reduced if more of us were to make a switch to acquiring our protein from bugs.



Mr T Griffiths Head of Science Faculty

Design & Technology

In Design and Technology students have been finishing projects and being ready to move on to the next. All students should have now finished their product and wow what an excellent effort from Mayflower students to complete their work.

In Year 7 students have been learning about the basic cam mechanism and types of motion. They have then been applying this knowledge to make a simple automata toy.

Well done to:Liza Podsvirova, Lily Norman, Alfie Millen, Freya Hardy-Wallace, Aljo Shaji, Gerogina Verdigi, Esme Pearson, Olivia Johnson-Marns, Darcey Lister and Zack Briggs







In Year 8 students have been learning about working with metals and their properties. This ahs then been applied to make a pewter cast keyring. Students have had to learn how to use 2D design in order to create and design their mould for casting their keyring. Keyrings have then been cast and polished to a high finish.

These are just some of the keyrings that have been made, can you spot yours?

In Year 9 students have been exploring card modelling techniques, they have then applied these skills in order to create a card lamp model. Here are just a few of the first finished design ideas.

A huge well done to: Oliver Maycock, Rose Wallis, Millie Wiseman, Ruby Toll, Izzy Cheesman and Amy Baker



A huge well done to the students who made it into the newsletter this time. Keep up the amazing work in KS3.

Food

In Year 7 students have been planning their pasta salad practical lesson and made their very own version of a pasta salad for an assessment. This gave teachers the opportunity to see the knife skills that students had learnt over the first half of the year. A huge well done to those of you who have already made yours. Can you spot it in the newsletter here?











Year 8 Computer Science

Year 8 Computer Science students have been starting to learn the basics of the Python programming language this term. Their first major challenge was to create some basic programs which allowed them to handle both integer and string data types.

Considering that this is their first exposure to a non 'drag and drop' type programming style I think they have done really well.

Here are some examples of their work.

Miss McDowell

```
File Edit Shell Debug Options Window Help

Python 3.9.6 (tagg/73.9.6ichDiff?c, Jun 18 2021, 18: 26:21) [MSC v.1929 48 this (ABMO4)] on win32

Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license()" now information.

PESTART: //ROWEAREAS/2lhqateF5/year 0/computer so lence/python/cww.py
enter first number:3
enter second number:3
enter second number:3
enter second number:3
enter second number:4

>>>

File Edit Format Run Options Window Help

one = int(input("enter first number"))
two = int(input("enter second number"))

Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license()"

print("the average of ",one," and ",two," is ",answer)

File Edit Format Run Options Window Help

one = int(input("enter number"))
two = int(input("enter rectangle width"))
two = int (input("enter rectangle length"))
answer = one * two
print ("the area of your rectangle is ",answer)

File Edit Format Run Options Window Help

one = int(input("enter rectangle length"))
answer = one * two
print ("the area of your rectangle is ",answer)
```

```
File Edit Format Run Options Window Help

|user_reply = input("Do you like robots? (Type yes, no, maybe or only ones with lif user_reply == "yes":
    print("Beep boop!")

elif user_reply == "maybe":
    print("Make up your mind, human.")

elif user_reply == "only ones with laser eyes":
    print("Zzzap!")

elif user_reply == "no":
    print("Well, robots don't like you either.")

else:
    print("Your human nonsense offends us!")
```

General Synod – February 2023

As an elected member of the General Synod I have the pleasure of attending regular meetings of the governing body of the Church of England. What is discussed and voted upon here can have both direct and indirect impact on members of the Mayflower community.

February's session of Synod was long and challenging. As ever there was a mixture of business, both 'take note' and legislative.



Safeguarding, quite rightly, is an item on every Synod agenda and a report was received from the new Director of the National Safeguarding Team who recognised that there is always room for improvement.

Debates took place on various issues around the cost of living crisis, both in terms of clergy pay as well as addressing concerns about how this is affecting those the Church of England serves.

A loyal address was made to the new King and legislation was passed changing wording in various areas that would have formerly addressed Queen Elizabeth II. Other legislative business tidied up other small changes such as the raising of the age limit for marriage to 18.

Much of the focus of this session was the outcome of the six-year Living in Love and Faith consultation. This addresses current church practice that does not allow for celebration of same sex marriages or any service of blessing within the church, and also might prohibit clergy who enter a same sex marriage from ministry. The process has been undertaken from grass roots level, where materials were produced to allow groups within churches to discuss what the Bible might say on the matter and how this fits with a modern context, with the opportunity to feed back to the College of Bishops at each stage. In response to this the College of Bishops, led by the Bishop of London (pictured), has published resources that could be used in same sex blessings in church, although the teaching on marriage has not changed. This would leave the church in a similar position as before 2002, where those re-marrying after divorce could not have a subsequent marriage in church, but could have a service of blessing of a civil marriage.

Unsurprisingly, tensions run high on this debate. There are those who see the offered changes as an unacceptable step beyond scripture and those who see this step as too little and discriminatory to LGBTQIA+ people who have been excluded from church for too long. Suffice to say this process has not yet run its course.

One other headline grabber was the front page article claiming that the Church of England was going to start using non-gendered language for God. This has been the topic of much conversation, but was actually only one of over 200 questions submitted by individuals on a vast range of subjects. This change is certainly not something that is being discussed. Of course, when translating from Ancient Hebrew and Greek gender works very differently anyway.

General Synod will meet next in York in July.

Mrs Cumber



THE MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (PTFA)

www.pta-events.co.uk/mayflower-high-school

Thank you to everyone who supported our Race night in February. It was a great evening and we raised an amazing £1244 for the PTFA!



We still have some wristbands left.

Buy them now in preparation for the summer holidays when it's hot and sunny and you fancy a day out!!



Thanks to Mr Rhodes for being this month's random number generator!



Sign up NOW via Pta-Events for a chance to be the winner of £100 cash in April's Lucky Lotto Draw: www.pta-events.co.uk/mayflower-high-school

Where does the PTFA money that is raised, get spent?

So far this academic year, the PTFA has raised over £8300!

How it works?

Every department in the school has an opportunity to bid to the PTFA for equipment or resources that go above and beyond their normal budgets.

These are some ways that we've helped our departments and students since September:

A letter from Mr Fowler

Many thanks to the PTFA for their financial support to the DT department. We had a bid accepted earlier in the year for some 3D printer filament. Please find a photo attached of some of the prints we have been experimenting with. My hope is to utilise the 3D printer in the DT Club and in KS4 & 5. The DT club attended the Christmas Bazaar and we managed to raise around £50. I will be discussing with Ms Miles as to what exactly to spend the money on.



Well done everyone for your efforts.

Simon Fowler

A letter from Mr Griffiths

Dear PTFA

I am writing to thank you for your kind donation to the Science faculty. As a result, we have purchased a number of new microscopes to replace the existing damaged ones. They have already been put to use by the students and it is ones of those pieces of apparatus they all seem to love using, no matter their age. This includes the teachers and LSAs! The apparatus will enhance Science lessons at all key stages for many years to come. Many thanks for all the hard work that went into raising these funds.

Have a restful Christmas break.

Tim Griffiths
Head of Science Faculty

A letter from the English Department

The English Department is making much use of the vue cameras. It allows:

- teachers to model annotating poems and unseen texts
- students to take the lead by using the camera and talk the class through their annotations
- us to easily share examples of best practice.

The cameras are easy to use and proving a big hit to teaching and learning. Thank you so much. They really are appreciated.

Bid 2 - workbooks/revision books

I asked the PTFA for a selection of GCSE and KS3 books to support the work that our year managers do with students in both 10A and the bridge. This means that learning continues with students at all times and these revision books are an invaluable resource for students who may not be able to access this support from home.

Both these bids were really gratefully received and it is so nice to feel that the PTFA are working with us and supporting us in helping our students.

Many thanks for your hard work - it is really appreciated - Emma Cooke

Mrs E Cooke

AAHT:Behaviour for Learning KS3 KS4 Geography Coordinator 01277 623171

What wonderful testimonials to the work of the PTFA and the support of The Mayflower community as a whole. Long may this continue!



Thanks to everyone who donated uniform, football boots and revision guides for our sale this week.

In addition to our frequent sales, uniform is available from our on-line shop.

Please help us to re-stock our rails by dropping donations to one of our three drop-off points (see poster). Thank you in advance.



Monday 27th March 2023 - Next PTFA Meeting

Do you feel passionate about making a difference to our Mayflower community? Please come along to our friendly monthly meetings. Mayflower High School sixth form common room - arrive any time from 6.45pm (for drinks/nibbles) ready for a 7pm start. Everyone welcome!

A letter from Mrs Cooke

The PTFA kindly funded the reward badges for me at the start of the year. We introduced last year a new rewards system seeing each year group working towards bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges for receiving merits within the school. Previously we had only used stars and we felt there was no incentive for a student to work towards this if they had received it lower down in the school.

Potentially a student each year could end with 4 badges (£1 per badge) and this would cost £1100 each year per year group. Although the students hand back their badge as they move onto the next one - they keep the badge they end the year on. We would always need to replace a large amount of badges each year.

The impact is that so far this term for example in KS3 currently:

Year 7

118 students are wearing bronze badges

7 students are wearing silver badges

Year 8 128 bronze in year 8 10 silver

Year 9 103 bronze 11 silver

As part of the bid to fund these badges I used money to pay for a reward breakfast for our diamond students. This was a really lovely treat for our students and I included a picture of this in our newsletter and also I have attached it below.

We simply do not have the funds to pay for these badges so it is really appreciated as it is so important in the work we do to reward students for demonstrating our values.



