

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to our final parent bulletin of Spring 1 as we draw to a close another very busy and varied half term. I must start by wishing everyone a great week off and remind you all that Monday 19th February is an INSET day so pupils will return on Tuesday 20th February.

Attendance

Year 5 96.1%
Year 6 93.9%
Year 7 93.6%
Year 8 94.2%

Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together. From January 2024, The Government is launching a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school.



We wish to highlight to parents, as it states in our policy, that any child whose attendance is consistently below 90% will not have absences authorised without medical evidence, unless there are exceptional reasons which render this inappropriate (for example, a known medical condition); school cannot routinely authorise absence where a child's attendance has reached this level of concern. Please continue to notify the school of any absences but please be aware that this does not automatically authorise their absence. Your child's current attendance percentage will appear on their school report being emailed to parents today.

As always, if you wish to discuss any aspect of attendance support, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance and then their Head of Year. In the meantime, please do take a look at our website page on attendance and follow our new link, which holds useful information and guidance.

Lost Property

Please can you remind your child that if they have recently mislaid a water bottle, it may be worth checking in lost property (Year 8 corridor). There is a large quantity of unnamed bottles there.

Also could all uniform and in particular water bottles, be named before coming into school.

In addition, we would really appreciate the donation of any unwanted school skirts you may have at home. These are quite a popular request from parents looking for second hand uniform, but unfortunately we don't have any to offer at the moment.

Industry Visit - Careers in Space

Last Thursday, Years 5 and 6 were given a fantastic talk about careers in the space industry by Steve Plant. He talked about his job - writing policies for projects which involved risks in space. He also talked about current projects such as clearing up debris from space and solar panels being fitted to satellites which could send energy back to Earth. He also talked about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers and talked about the three British astronauts who are being trained by NASA. The most exciting part of the presentation was watching rockets being launched from Scotland. Here are some comments from Year 5:

"I liked it when we learnt about the astronaut programme and three British trainees, two were woman and one was disabled".

"Facts - I didn't know there was loads of rubbish in space".

"It made me want to find out about jobs in space".

"He listed lots of jobs and explained them. I liked the idea of a scientist".

We are really grateful for Steve giving up his time to come to talk to us and for inspiring our pupils to look at future careers in STEM.

If you would like to come into school and share your career journey with us, please contact Mrs Robertson through the office.

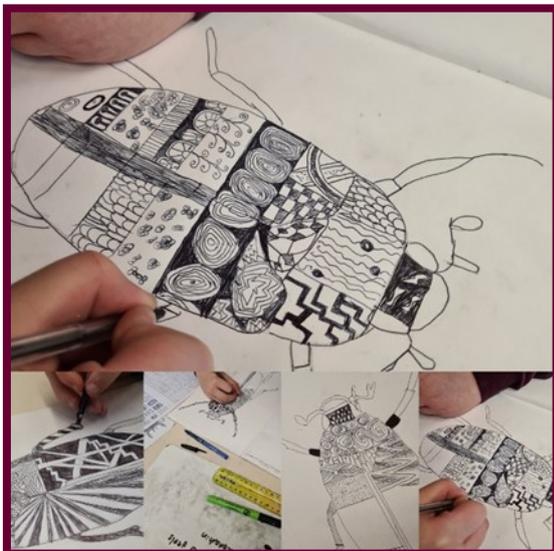
Virtual Reality

On Tuesday, year 5 got to enjoy a play called Virtual Reality. This play was a cautionary tale of young people and social media. In the play, the character of Chip seemed unaware of the potential dangers of the World Wide Web and how social media, when used for the wrong reasons, can affect your personality and aspects of your life. This play tied in very well with our assembly theme for the week which is all around Safer Internet Day!



Year 6 Art

Inspired by Russian Artist Alex Konahins incredibly intricate insect drawings, Year 6 have been experimenting with mark making and patterns using biro.



As one half term finishes another one, with so many opportunities, lies around the corner. We are all very excited for Spring 2 with so much going on including parents' evenings, the musical production and the French trip. We hope the holiday provides the chance for the pupils to come back rested and ready to embrace all we have to offer.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker