



The Weekly Word

No. 48 Friday 1 December 2017

A note from the Principal

Our second PSHCEE drop down day proved to be a massive success this week. I wanted to particularly thank those parents who enabled their Y10 children to join them on work experience. We have had such positive feedback from the students about their day out in the workplace. We are hoping that because this experiment was such a roaring success that we will be able to organise a more lengthy work experience for the majority of Y10 students towards the end of the Summer term next year. We will communicate with Y10 parents about this after Christmas.



We look forward to seeing you all next Thursday for the Christmas concert at St Mary's Church. Please be seated by 6.45 p.m. as the concert will start promptly at 7.00 p.m. We already know what talent we have from the KS3 music celebration we hosted last week and I know it will prove to be a wonderful evening of familiar tunes. And then Friday is the second Winter Wonderland event on the campus. After last year's success I am confident that what I have seen in the planning is going to be even better this year. I have been particularly impressed to see how many students have asked to be directly involved this year. Please come along and support your children and bring your friends and neighbours too. We have ordered fine, dry weather for the evening but please wrap up warm. There is something for everyone - young and old.

[Link to calendar](#)

Banbury Academy and Avocet Theatre Company

Winter Wonderland

Friday 8th December 2017 | 5.30pm until 8.30pm
at Banbury Aspirations Campus

Entertainment | Christmas Market | Santa's Grotto
Competitions | Games | Refreshments | Christmas Characters
Fairground Rides | Virtual Reality Headset Experience ...
& Much More!

Fun for the whole family.
Free Entry!

 **Banbury Academy**
an Aspirations Academy

 **Space Studio Banbury**
an Aspirations Academy

 **ATC**
AVOCET THEATRE COMPANY

PE News



Cross country:

Tia won the U19 girls and Nyle came 3rd in U14 boys on Wednesday at the Warriner



Cold weather procedure:

Due to the weather being cold, this is the following procedure for PE lessons:

Allowed:

- Blue/Black tracksuit bottoms – sports ones only
- Sports skin under Banbury Academy polo shirt
- Banbury Academy rugby shirt
- Gloves

Not allowed:

- Leggings
- Hoodies or random jumpers
- Students who are acting as leaders due to injury need to make sure they follow this correctly to prevent getting cold. No additional items will be allowed to be worn.

If you have any questions please contact dmerrick@banbury-aspirations.org

Follow us @aatbanburype

Parents coffee morning: all years

All parents /carers are warmly invited to join us for parents coffee morning on Dec 12th 10.15-11 am. Mince pies will be provided!

This is a great opportunity to meet senior members of staff in an informal setting and discuss all things school related.

Please let the school office know if you would like to attend so that we have an idea of numbers.

Look forward to seeing you then!

C.Berry (Assistant Principal)



Incredible fundraising



Lily and Mia Y10 will be shaving their hair at school to raise money for Alec, a family friend, who has the life ending illness Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). They are hoping to raise £1000 to go towards buying Alec a ceiling hoist to help Alec become more independent and less reliant on his parents. The fundraising event will be taking place on Monday 18th Dec at 1.30pm in Banbury Academy's Wykham Theatre, in front of students, staff and family and will be live streamed on Facebook. The girls will also be donating their hair to The Little Princesses charity, which makes wigs for people suffering from hair loss.

When asked why this particular event, why head shaving, Mia said: *"People always think that you need hair to be beautiful, but it can actually be a barrier – we are not defined by our hair, in the same way that Alec is not defined by his disability."*

Lily said: *"We are just trying to give Alec as normal a life as possible. Something that we take for granted, like using the toilet independently, will be massively liberating for Alex. We are hoping that shaving our hair to raise funds and supply wigs will also be liberating for us, as well as giving Alec a better quality of life."* [JustGiving](#)

A decorative poster for a Christmas concert. At the top, a yellow star with rays of light emanates from it. Below the star is a glowing lantern hanging from a string. The background is filled with soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of yellow and orange. The text is centered and reads:

You are warmly invited to attend:

**THE BANBURY
ACADEMY
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

St Mary's Church - Banbury

Thursday December 7th at 7pm. £2 entry
Come along to sing some carols, and hear a
range of wonderful performances, and
munch a mince pie!
See you there.

Government Guidance: Screening

Following several high profile cases in the national press recently I thought it opportune to remind parents about the Government's guidance for schools on searching, screening and confiscation. There are some items staff in a school can search for without the consent of students if we have reasonable grounds for suspecting they may be carrying a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

knives or weapons

alcohol

illegal drugs

stolen items

tobacco and cigarette papers

fireworks

pornographic images

any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or

to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).

At Banbury campus all members of the Senior Leadership Team have delegated authority to undertake a search if there are reasonable grounds to do so. We ensure that the search is carried out by a member of the team of the same gender as the student as per the Government guidelines.

For those parents who want more detail please follow the [link](#).

Careers Advice: Oxford Uni subject taster days

We have details of some taster days at the University of Oxford, including Philosophy plus Science taster at the Mathematical Institute and subject specific taster days at University College. For details of the Philosophy plus Science Taster Day [click here](#) and for the Univ Subject Study Days [click here](#)

Five ways to wellbeing

On Wednesday the 29th November as part of Drop Down Day, pupils in Y7 learned about the "Five ways to wellbeing" and the positive impact adding these 5 actions to your life can have on how you feel.

The five ways to wellbeing are:



The students came up with an excellent wellbeing tool kit including lots of examples of things we can all do to add these five things to our lives and a lovely definition of what wellbeing means to them.

They learned how to belly breathe to enable them to 'take notice' of how they are feeling, and to change their focus to their breath rather than their worries or anxieties, and started a 'three good things diary' to practice shifting their focus from what may be going wrong to the things that are going well, the progress they are making and the things that make them smile and feel good.

Examples of the students work as a group will be on display in the library until the Christmas holidays.

Sarah Elsley, School Nurse

This Friday 8th December Unison are celebrating support staff at Banbury Academy through their annual 'Stars in Schools' initiative. Unison use the day to highlight and recognise the vital work that support staff do in schools to ensure that schools are a safe and happy place for children and young people to learn. Often tucked away behind the scenes, support staff are essential to the smooth running of a school. A representative from Unison Branch Office will be attending the Academy to reward support staff for their continued hard-work and commitment.

Keep up to date with the latest information about what's going on in school.

Please follow us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit the [academy website](#)

