



The Weekly Word

No. 58 Monday 23 April 2018

A note from the Principal

At last we have had some better weather and that has allowed the students to play or relax on the field at lunchtime. It makes such a massive difference to our afternoons when we are able to spend some time in the sunshine enjoying ourselves with our friends. Seeing so many little football games going on last week was lovely. Can I remind parents that drinks cans are banned at school and that we will confiscate any that we see. This is for two simple reasons a) that very often a child's behaviour is negatively impacted by the sugary and caffeine rich drinks they are consuming and b) we still have children who have not appreciated that dropping litter on the field and around our site is a potential danger to others. When our field is mown any cans left on there are shredded and then scattered around the field are shards of metal which are very dangerous. I am also concerned about the number of local residents who are walking their dogs on our fields at night time. There has been an increase in dog fouling in recent weeks – again another hazard for your children. We will be talking to those people over the next couple of weeks to ask them to walk their dogs elsewhere.



Last week saw the launch of our new pilot homework policy which we will evaluate in a few weeks' time. It has interestingly coincided with the publication of a piece of research which you can find on the [BBC website](#) which backs everything we have been talking about on our campus over the last couple of years. The basis of this article is the rationale behind our decision to ask parents to support their children in reading for 30 minutes every night. Thank you to everyone who has already been doing this.

[Link to calendar](#)

On Monday all children in Y7-9 will have a reading log which they will need to complete every night. It is also expected that your children do 1 Hegarty video and associated test every night too as maths skills are not just important for passing maths GCSE but these skills are also tested at a high level in science, geography, business, engineering etc. The older students will continue to do Hegarty on a weekly basis but will also be given exam questions for every subject they are studying as our mantra is that "practise makes permanent". The importance of children learning to work independently cannot be underestimated and we will continue to have a clear policy that homework is for all.

I wanted to publically thank parents and staff who supported the Duke of Edinburgh students this weekend on their first expedition of the year. Getting good grades is one component of securing a good job and future career but having other activities like DofE, cadets, scouts, voluntary work etc on your CV is so important too as it shows a person is a rounded individual who has interests and can work with others effectively.

[Hegarty Maths Home Support Guide](#)

[Homework learning changes](#)



Students should bring a water bottle to school. These can be filled at the drinking fountains during break-times.

Community Garden Project



 Sanctuary
Housing



We have some very exciting news about our Community Garden Project. Sanctuary Housing have awarded us with a funding donation of £5,000 towards our Garden Project. We have wasted no time at all and the landscapers have already moved in last week, lifting slabs, removing top soil, levelling and generally beginning to make good what has been a sad and neglected corner of land for a long time. Once finished this will provide the Academy with a lovely space for students to be able to spend time, use as an outdoor study area, connect with nature and learn new skills. On completion we will relaunch our after school Gardening Club, which will be open to all students. Students can come along and support with the planning, planting and evolution of the space.

Year 7s take the lead at Year 2 Mul. -Skills Fesv al

Well done to the 48 Year 7 Sports Leaders who did a fantastic job of running multi-skills activities for Year 2 children from across Banbury in March. It was an extremely successful event with 354 attending from 7 schools.

All the children completed a circuit of 9 activities which were designed to develop their agility, balance and coordination.

The leaders did a great job of looking after the children and adapting the activities when needed. Lots of them will get the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills at the Year 1 Multi-Skills Festival in May.



"The children enjoyed all the games. It all ran very smoothly. The leaders were excellent and looked like they really enjoyed themselves."

(Primary PE Coordinator)

"The leaders were great, they really looked after the children and made sure they were all included." (Year 2 Teacher)

"The children have loved the range of activities, especially the things they haven't tried before like the archery and mini golf." (Year 2 teacher)



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