



Dear Parents

23 February 2024

The first week back has been a busy one, but once again blighted by heavy rain and high winds.

Assembly was about the whiff of Spring in the air and all we have to look forward to, including longer days, milder weather, flowers and much more. I then drew school's attention to how litter and waste can affect our enjoyment of the season, school, Island, country and planet, and how we all have a role to play in conservation and protecting our environment for ourselves, animals and wildlife and future generations. The important message is that it is not somebody else's job, but a responsibility for each and every one of us, regardless of age or role.

The word and question of the week are:

Word = conservation

Question = how can **I** protect **our** environment?

This week's Tuesday Talk was given by Isaac Turner, a Teaching and Learning Manager at the Isle of Wight College. He spoke about life at the College, T-Levels and different post-16 routes to university, and the resurgence of apprenticeships across a range of vocational disciplines. For those interested in exploring the apprenticeship route after GCSEs, he urged them (and you) to attend one of several College Open Days. T-Levels are equivalent in size to 3 A Levels, focus on vocational skills, include approximately 20% industry placement and can help pupils into higher education, skilled employment or apprenticeships.





WBD is fast approaching on 7 March, and staff continue to showcase their favourite reads on Facebook. This week's readers and their books (and pets) can be seen in the montage below.



Whilst there is a separate weekly Sports Report, I would like to draw your attention to our cross-country runners.

The school team ran in dreadful conditions and all of our runners placed well out of the 50 or so competitors per race. Alicia came 6th in the Year 7 race, Courtney 6th in the Year 8 race and Stan 4th in the Year 8 race. Well done to all three; they now qualify to represent the Isle of Wight in the Hampshire Schools Cross Country Championships in March. We wish them well.

The Poland excursion was the co-curricular highlight of the half term break, and staff and pupils set off for an informative, exhilarating and very much anticipated school trip.

It was an enriching experience filled with historical and cultural significance. Poland offers such a wide range of attractions, from its vibrant city of Krakow to its poignant historical sites. There were some definite highlights on the trip; pupils and staff visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp, to learn about the Holocaust and World War II. At various points throughout the trip, time was allocated for reflection and discussion to help pupils process their experiences and insights.

Other significant historical sites visited included the Medieval Square, the Jewish Quarter and Wawel Castle. Whilst doing so, the party was fortunate to have engaging and knowledgeable guides that really enhanced the learning experience for everyone.

It was also a rich cultural experience as Poland's culture is so diverse and vibrant. The pupils immersed themselves in Polish traditions by dancing the night away to folk music and trying traditional Polish cuisine. The trip was packed with a wide range of activities, a particular favourite of the pupils was the incredible waterpark. And of course, there was shopping to be done too!



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Overall, the school trip to Poland gave the pupils a unique opportunity to explore history, culture, and diversity in a meaningful and applied way. It was certainly a memorable, enriching and enjoyable experience for all.



'Brave Island' is an organisation which aims to provide more opportunities for young people (14-25) living on the Isle of Wight who are interested in the arts and creative industries. They are offering bands or solo artists a fully funded recording session at Calliope Studio in East Cowes and the opportunity to get one song professionally tracked, mixed, and mastered completely for free. You can find Brave Island with a quick internet search.





Reports

1. Tues 20 Feb Tuesday Talk 'Apprenticeships IOW College' (Mr Turner)
2. Wed 21 Feb S1/S2, Mixed Cross Country, CTK College
3. Thurs 22 Feb S5/6th Form, Parents' Evening
4. Fri 23 Feb S2, L'Oreal Workshop, Royal Institute, London

Future Dates & Events

1. Mon 26 Feb S2, Girls, Netball Match, Ryde School
2. Tues 27 Feb Y5/Y6, Talk (Mr Dickens)
3. Tues 27 Feb Tuesday Talk 'Teaching English as a Foreign Language' (Mrs Sobey)
4. Tues 27 Feb S1/S2 Boys, Rugby Match, Free School
5. Tues 27 Feb S1/S2/S3/S4/S5 Girls, TAG Rugby Match, Cowes Enterprise College
6. Wed 28 Feb S2, Bake Off Competition
7. Wed 28 Feb S3/S4/S5/L6th, Business Studies, London
8. Wed 28 Feb S1 Boys, Rugby Tournament, Medina College
9. Fri 1 Mar Juniors/S1, Practical & Talk by a GB Athlete (Ms Roper)

Achievements

Elsa (S2) had another successful day out at dressage with Tommy, and came second, missing out on placing first by only 0.46%! Panda (Y5), on Archie, came second in her class too, making for a very successful day for Team Littlebrook Farm.



David EJJ Lloyd
Principal