

PARENT BULLETIN

Week Ending: Friday 31st January 2020

Note from the Headteacher, Ms A Sharma:

It has been an exciting week with many students involved in workshops, external trips, drama rehearsals and preparation for the next set of mock examinations. I am very pleased with the range of enrichment activities on offer at Villiers. These are extremely important in developing our students' 'cultural capital' as well as understanding of key concepts and issues.



'Your Life, You Choose' Year 7

Workshop:

On Friday last week Year 7 pupils participated in the 'Your Life, You Choose' schools project which educates young people about crime and its consequences. The day brought together a host of agencies and individuals that included the Police Youth Engagement Team, London Ambulance Service, Prison Service, Magistrates, and representatives from Victim Support, Easy (Drugs) and Fearless (County Lines). Throughout the day, pupils rotated through a series of workshops where they learnt about the consequences and impact of crime on the young offender, the victim, and the families of both, together with the wider community. The visitors commented on the impeccable behaviour of students who also demonstrated a genuine willingness to learn by actively participating in discussions and asking questions.

Wayne Lucas Project:

We are delighted to welcome Wayne Lucas, who has been working with Year 8 and 9 Art students on Wednesdays in a makeover project. This project is nine weeks long and it involves planning, designing and painting huge MDF panels, which will be displayed across the school. We

are looking forward to seeing the amazing designs completed by students.



Chess Workshop:

Chess students enjoyed a two-hour workshop learning all about new Chess techniques and skills this week. We welcomed David and Aga from 'Chess in Schools'. They promote and support students who love to play chess. Some of the students had previously met David and Aga from the annual chess tournament held in Olympia every year. 'Chess in Schools' will be working closer with our students and we are currently organising a match with another local school. More details will follow.



'Urban Debate League' at Brentford School for Girls:

A group of Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students participated in the 'Urban Debate League' at Brentford School for Girls this week. This was the first competition of the school year

and we won three debates in total. The Year 10 A Team dominated by winning both of their debates. Well done to everyone involved.



Year 9 visit to Ealing Synagogue:

Students from Year 9 attended a workshop at Ealing United Synagogue in commemoration of 'Holocaust Memorial Day', and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Students worked with members of the local Jewish community to find out more about the horrors of the Holocaust. They also had the opportunity to hear from the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, who donated a book written about her mother's life to the library.

Photography Trip:

Year 10 Photography students completed the third part of their photography project with the Wallace Collection museum this week. Students were part of the "Portraits in Spaces" project, which encourages them to think of contrast between people and their environment. The shortlisting process is culminating in an open to public exhibition opening on Friday, 13th March. We hope to see you all there to support our Year 10 pupils.

Multicultural Evening:

Our annual 'Multicultural Evening' will take place on Thursday 12th March. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity of cultures we have here at Villiers. As part of these celebrations, we are encouraging Parents to also get involved. If any of you would like to bring in any dishes from your own culture, we would really like to hear from you. If you can help, please email your details and details of the dish to Ms Augusto at ko167@villiers.ealing.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Department for Education School League Tables – Post 16:

We are pleased to confirm that Villiers High School has been ranked first in Ealing for 'A Level' results by the government in 2019. We would like to congratulate all pupils, parents and staff for their efforts in achieving these fantastic outcomes. The results are the best Villiers have achieved under this measure and Villiers' results are now in the top 1% for both GCSE, 'A Level' and BTEC.

Exam Preparation – Tips for Success:

In September, we reviewed strategies to help pupils to succeed in their exams. One key strategy is to ensure pupils have an excellent routine for sleeping. Please do support by ensuring pupils have a suitable bedtime, which allows them to get 8 to 9 hours sleep per night. This will allow them to wake up refreshed and ready to learn. Having a period before bed where pupils do not play computer games or use mobile phones also helps them to wind down for a good sleep. Research shows that whilst sleeping, pupils consolidate much of what they have learned through the day. Please do contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you have any further questions.

Year 9 Options:

Pupils had a deadline to submit their options choices, which was

30th January. We will now begin the process of interviewing pupils to see whether their options' choices match their abilities and aspirations. After this point, we will place options into the timetable and pupils will have a final opportunity to review and amend. In terms of timeframe, we expect to begin interviews in February and aim to complete the allocation process by March. Pupils will be informed of their final options choices in the summer term.

Year 9 Parents' Evening:

A reminder to all parents and carers of Year 9 pupils, Year 9 Parents' evening will take place on *Thursday 6th February* from *4:30pm – 7:30pm*. If you are unable to meet with a subject teacher by 7:15pm on that evening, please email the teacher concerned and an appointment will be arranged for you for a later date.

Year 11 Next Steps – Into Sixth Form:

The Year 11 cohort have had an assembly and open evening on next steps. All Year 11 pupils will be interviewed by SLT to help guide them as to what their choices should be based on their future plans. Year 11 pupils wishing to stay on at Villiers will make choices on an options form during the interview and have this signed by parents/carers (no application forms or references for internal applicants). Provisional offers will be issued shortly after by letter. We are aiming to have the process completed and provisional offers sent out by Easter. Please visit the school website for further details and to review a copy of the options booklet.

North Primary vs Drayton Green Primary football match:

We are continuously building relationships with local primary schools and continued this week by hosting a football match between North and Drayton Green Primary schools. Drayton Green were the

ultimate winners and it was a wonderful game.

'Tranquility' App:

We are delighted to trial a new App with our Year 10 – 'Tranquility' will help them to understand and improve mental wellbeing. On a weekly basis students communicate their thoughts and observations, which will support Villiers in placing mental wellbeing at the heart of our school.

Road Safety:

The roads around the school become very congested at the end of the school day especially as we have over 1,000 young people trying to make their way home at the same time. Please be mindful of the safety of everyone and park away from Boyd Avenue. There have been a number of near misses recently and the safety of all our young people is of the utmost importance.

Exam Dates:

03/02/20 8:45am: Y11 BTEC Enterprise exam
07/02/20 8:45am: Y11 & Y12 BTEC Health and Social Care exam
10/02/20 & 11/02/20: Y11 French Speaking mocks
11/02/20 & 13/02/20: Y11 Urdu Speaking mocks
13/02/20 & 14/02/20: Y11 Panjabi Speaking mocks
w/c 24/02/20 Y11 & Y13: written mocks begin

Dates for your diary

5/2/20: Spelling Bee trip to Greenford High School
6/2/20: Intermediate Maths Challenge
6/2/20: Year 9 Parents' Evening
11/2/20: 'Bright Sparks Music' visit – Years 10 and 11
12/2/20 and 13/2/20: Whole School Production of 'Brainstorm'