

ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTER

Our next newsletter would normally appear at the end of the first week back to school in January. However, there are a number of issues of concern which we feel are important enough to merit an additional issue. The January issue will appear as normal, on 9 January 1998.



BICYCLES

As the days get progressively shorter, we have reached the time of year where pupils are leaving school in at best gloomy light, and some will be arriving home in the dark. We have been concerned to see pupils bringing bicycles to school without having suitable front and rear lights. We have had one report of a near accident resulting from a pupil cycling in poor visibility conditions, with no lights.

We have displayed warning posters in school, and have urged pupils in assemblies to ensure that they have appropriate lights and wear light clothing and reflective bands. We ask that parents check to see that their children are taking this matter seriously. We sincerely hope that no child has to find out the hard way about safety on the roads.

We would like to point out that the new flashing LED-type red lights are not in themselves legally acceptable as bike lights: a "candescent light" is required by law - basically a light with a normal bulb. Please check with suppliers whether lights are legal when purchasing.

HOMEWORK

Staff at school have spent the last two weeks making a special check on homeworks. Any pupil who has not completed work to a satisfactory standard, or not handed in work for the due date, has been referred to Mr Fearnley. Students appearing more than once have been placed in detentions, and those appearing more than twice will be on homework report until their performance improves. Parents will be informed if and when this happens.

We see homework as an important extension to the work we do at school. As well as the content of the work being valuable, we also wish to encourage the discipline of meeting deadlines and organising personal time. All students in school have been provided with Homework Planners or Diaries to assist their planning.

Many homework referrals have stemmed from forgetfulness. Hopefully students will remedy this by more concern for their preparation for each school day.

Occasionally problems stem from lack of understanding - either of instructions, or of the content of the work set. In these circumstances staff will usually extend the deadline, and organise a time to see the student for further help - usually a break or lunchtime.

We hope that parents will ask their children about homework, and periodically check homework diaries to see what is being set, and what work is due in. Should there be any concerns about homework, please contact Mrs Green (Lower School), Mr Thomas (Upper School) or Mr Fearnley.

✂.....

I have received Newsletter No 2X December

Signed

(Parent)

Pupil

Tutor Group

GCSE REVISION PROGRAMMES

In the New Year the BBC will be launching a GCSE self-help revision service for students.

It offers:

- A total of 26 hours of television, transmitted in 2 hour blocks for ease of recording overnight on BBC2. Each block is divided into ten minute sections for ease of use.
- Free interactive on-line resources on the Internet (possibly also available on CD ROM).
- Books for students available for purchase from high street stores and by mail order.

The aim is not to try to reflect the whole of the examination syllabuses within these resources but to produce 'bitesize' manageable chunks from key topics - areas which are often found difficult by students or which examiners' reports have highlighted as key areas of weakness - to help students' understanding and to accelerate their learning process.

The BBC will also provide a free guide for parents on how they can help and support their children during revision as well as free information for students about the service. The materials will be appropriate for the whole ability range and will cover seven curriculum areas: English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, French and German.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

If we need to close the School because of very bad weather or a break-down of the heating systems Radio York will be contacted. Please listen to Radio York on mornings when there is heavy snow or similarly bad weather for any news. The frequency is 103.7 FM.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 16 December
7.30 pm

St Michael's Church, Malton

Everyone welcome

SPONSORED WALK

The sponsored walk which took place in September managed to raise £3046. This money will be used to support educational trips and visits throughout the school year. Thanks to all walkers and sponsors.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property contains large numbers of coats, other clothing and items of games kit. Considerable amounts of money have clearly been spent on these items by parents. Named items are, of course, returned to their owners, but unfortunately most of the items that reach lost property are unnamed and - despite appeals in Assembly - unclaimed.

We expect pupils to remove all items of clothing from cloakrooms at the end of the day, either to take them home or to place them in their locker. Items left in the cloakrooms at the end of the week are removed to lost property. Unnamed items that remain unclaimed at the end of each half-term will be passed on to a good cause.

Reminder of forthcoming key dates:

December

12 (Friday) Senior Citizens Party

16 (Tuesday) Carol Service 7.30 p.m.

18 (Thursday) Last day of term

January

5 (Monday) School re-opens

5 onwards Year 11 mock exams - study leave for students.

13 (Tuesday) Year 7 Parents Evening

19-onwards Year 13 Mock exams - study leave for students