



## School Bulletin for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parent Election for Governing Body

Earlier this week a letter went out to parents about the vacancy that exists on the school Governing Body for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in taking on this interesting and rewarding role, please return the form that accompanied the letter before the deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like more information, please contact the school office who will put you in contact with our Chair of Governors.

### Student Success

Luke Stoner-Lewis is an England Lions Physically Disabled Cricket squad player and has been selected to go to Desert Springs in Spain on Tuesday 27 March to 3 April with the full England PD squad for hot weather training. This is a fantastic opportunity for Luke as the Coach is selecting a fifteen man team to play in an International Tri Series later on in July. If Luke is selected he will be playing for his country against Pakistan & Bangladesh. Fingers crossed Luke will get his first cap. We wish Luke well in his trip and will be watching how he gets on.

### Changes in the Maths Department

Following the success of Mrs Williams, our current Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Maths, being appointed as a Deputy Head at Community College Whitstable she will be replaced by Mr Munday who currently works within our Maths department and is an outstanding teacher and for a number of years was responsible for our Key Stage 4 outcomes in the department. The changes will formally take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July. Until then Mrs Williams will act as a Deputy here and take on wider responsibilities.

### E safety – a message from Mrs Clipstone

Dear Parents/ Carers,

With the Easter break not very far off it is an appropriate time to remind you about online safety and its importance in keeping children safe at The North School. All of our pupils are taught how to stay safe and behave appropriately online, but this approach is only successful if we work together and reinforce safe behaviour at home too.

### Make informed choices:

In order to protect children online, it is vital that we fully understand the capabilities and make informed decisions about new games, apps and devices, before providing them to children.

- Do your research before purchasing a new device or game for your child; find out what other parents think, search for parental advice online and ask the shop about pre-installed apps or tools.
- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.
- Take time to find out whether the device or game has an online component or allows your child to access to the internet, which allows them to connect with others online.
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy, safety and security tools on new devices; ensure you are in a position to teach your child how to make their accounts private and how to block and report other people online.

### Filters and Parental Controls:

Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content online, but there are some simple steps you can take at home to help minimise this risk.

- Make sure you install anti-virus software, filters and parental controls on your child's device before giving it to them.
- Ensure that you are role-modelling good behaviour by using strong passwords yourself; make them difficult to guess and don't share them with your children.
- Remember that blocks and filters are not 100% effective and you can't rely on them alone to protect your children, so remind them to tell you if they see something upsetting online.

We would also like to make you aware that there are some social media apps that older students have access to and which could potentially lead to harm:

- Video Messaging Apps: Video apps like **Marco Polo**, **House Party** and **FireChat**. Here users can create videos of themselves and share it with others. While some apps can include closed messaging platforms in which friends can only invite other friends, it is possible for a user to talk to strangers through the app's messaging systems.
- **Yellow** is described as the Tinder for teens (swipe right if you want to become friends with someone; swipe left if you do not), and opens with a geo-locator. There is a 13-year-old age minimum, but there is no way of verifying this.
- There are a number of anonymous apps on the market **AfterSchool**, **Sarahah**, **SayAt.Me**, **Monkey** and **Ask.Fm** are some of the most popular apps online and promising the same feature where users can share feelings about themselves to strangers, possibly spread rumours and cyberbully friends online, without any trace of who said what. The latest app is called **QOOH.ME** where users create an online free profile to encourage users to leave anonymous comments.
- We have also been informed of an app called **Private Calculator** where young people can store pictures, apps, and games. If someone other than the owner tries to open the private calculator app with a wrong password (i.e. Parents) then all files are automatically deleted. On the positive note, there is also an app called **Oyoty** for your children's phones that parents can sign up for free. It functions as an algorithm in the background of the phone and alerts both the parent and child if it thinks a message or picture that is about to be sent is inappropriate. More information about this app can be found on <https://www.oyoty.com>.

### Useful websites for parents/carers:

- [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)- NSPCC guide to the most popular apps and websites available online
- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)- CEOP website for advice and reporting abuse online
- [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)- Report illegal content online (including indecent images of children)
- [www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk)- Report inappropriate content online
- [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)- Free up-to-date security and technical advice
- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/)
- [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide)

If you would like further support and advice regarding online safety, please contact a member of the Safeguarding team at The North School.

As a school, we will continue to educate students about the online dangers but would appreciate if you could support us at home, by keeping a vigilant eye and open dialogue with your children.

*Mrs C. Clipstone, Senior Assistant Headteacher/Safeguarding Lead*

### Visit to Kent University

Mr Spreadborough will be visiting Kent University today with some Year 10 students. This will also involve other schools within the Trust visiting the Mathematics and Economics departments.

### **Baton Twirling Competition**

Courtney Black (11E3) will be travelling to Norway this weekend to take part in the World Championships with the Innovation Junior Dance team for Baton Twirling. Good luck Courtney!

### **Year 11 & Sixth Form Revision during Easter Holidays**

A schedule of the revision sessions being held in school will be published shortly and available in next week's School Bulletin.

### **End of Term Arrangements**

The last day of term is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and school will finish at the normal time of 3pm. There is a Staff Development Day on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Students will return for the start of Term 5 on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Spring Fair – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 10am-4pm**

Ahead of our Spring Fair we are pleased to announce that 11 lambs were born on the school farm last week and all are doing well. We hope you will be able to attend the Spring Fair and see them for yourselves.

### **Sports Results**

#### ***FOOTBALL:***

Last Thursday evening our U13 girls team beat Towers 3-0 and Wye 1-0 in two fantastic games. All girls played brilliantly but a special mentions goes to Year 7 students Ella and Amelia, our two goal scorers!

#### ***TRAMPOLINING:***

This week we had some fantastic successes at the Kent School Games Trampolining finals. Iain Bremer was awarded the individual bronze medal for the Intermediate under 13 boys and then in the team competition Iain Bremer, Szymon Rejmus, Harvey Hutson and Ollie Heath came away as the gold medallists!

Regards,

#### **Grahame Ward**

School Business Manager

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