IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Careers Education programme is in the spotlight this week with ‘Minivans’ event for Year 7 yesterday and Careers Day for Year 8 today. Minivans is a business simulation requiring groups of students to manufacture and sell (model) vans. The event is run by our local School/Business partnership and brings local businesses into direct contact with our students too. All activities in Careers Week are designed to make students think about the world of work, imagine what they might become, be aware of what they can do to prepare and to develop the skills and knowledge they will need to help shape their own futures. We are grateful to the volunteer parents who have come in to speak to Year 8 about their employment to students who also learn about interviews, CV’s and personal statements. One of our volunteers, Nina Hartstone, has been filmed in school by the BBC London News team following her BAFTA and Oscar successes last month. The item is scheduled to run in the programme at 6.30pm tonight on BBC1 – do tune in if you can! Next week, Heathrow Airport visit on Thursday to run a ‘Coding Challenge’ with Year 8.

Power of words

As we celebrated ‘World Book Day’ this week we also reflected in our worship time about the importance of words used to inspire rather than hurt one another. It was inspiring to see so many children (and adults) enter into the spirit of the day on Tuesday by dressing up as characters from a huge variety of books. Reading is such a strength in our school and no surprise when you see the level of interest such a strength in our school and no surprise when you see the level of interest such a strength in our school and no surprise when you see the level of interest such a strength in our school and no surprise when you see the level of interest such a strength in our school and no surprise when you see the level of interest such a strength in our school and no surprise when you see the level of interest.

Digital Citizenship

Words can also be powerful in a negative way. Online, via text, App or social media platforms, some young people seem more inclined to become abusive or inappropriate in what they say. We are increasingly aware of problems created outside of school hours when children have communicated using bad language and worse. This is happening at times when parents have responsibility not school so please make sure you are aware of how your child is using the internet or digital media. Our Citizenship focus in school this term is on e-safety or Digital Citizenship. There is a wealth of information and advice on Internet Safety aimed at parents on the school’s website and Paul Hay, our local consultant, is running a workshop for parents in school on Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm. Do keep the date in your diary and further details will follow. We are all now reading about the damage to adolescent mental health due to unmonitored screen time so it is vital that all parents and carers are alert to potential risks and danger. Last week the school emailed parents on the subject of “Momo” and including an address to visit for advice if this has been a concern to you or your child.

Whole-School Photograph

On Friday 15th March – next week in fact – we are having group photographs taken. Each Tutor Group is pictured with the Form Tutor and then the whole school will assemble outside for a huge group picture of more than 500 people. This happens only every four years so it is important we get it right and look our best. We ask that all students are compliant with school appearance guidelines, smartly dressed in uniform and with ALL students wearing their navy blue school jumpers. Students without a jumper will not be able to be in the photograph. In 2015 we had everyone included and the fact that everyone is uniformly dressed makes the overall effect so much better. Arrangements for purchase, prices and all other details will be available after the event in due course.
Visit to Eton

Some of our Year 8s had the opportunity to go to Eton College this week and learn about Eton during Tudor times.

Here are some students examining a property contract signed by Henry VIII himself.

National Careers Week

This week KS3 have taken part in careers and business events. Year 7 dressed professionally to compete in the business Minivans challenge led by Honda and the Learning to Work team. The pupils had to work in allocated teams, create a business plan, sell products and present their ideas. The winning teams from each room won prizes and the overall winning team won a few more Honda goodies. Well done to all of year 7 for their professional and mature attitude and fabulous business attire.

Year 8 have their business day today in the shared block, they are learning about CV’s, online job profiles, interview tips and will be hearing from external speakers including our own Oscar winning Co-Chair of the PSA Nina Hartstone. The pupils also learnt about pathways into careers and how to behave in the business world.

Accelerated Readers—Congratulations go to:

Millionaires: Sonia Garcia-Jany 7/2, William Finnis 7/4, Jared Ineson 7/1, Zuzanna Chojak 6/3, Monty Charles-Collett 8/1, Eryn Meeuwissen 7/4, Lucy Bevan 6/3 and Sophie Drake 5/1.

2 Million words: Martha Beswick 6/4 and Jenny Compton-Williams 7/2.

Honours Reader: Kyle Gabriel 8/2.

Sports & PE Update

Pupils have been working hard in gymnastics over the last couple of weeks. We have some very talented pupils who have been showing off their skills. From 8/2 these include Oliver’s 1 minute headstand, Leilani’s balance, Jessica’s Y balance and Imogen’s straddled handstand. We look forward to seeing what all of the other classes are able to achieve by the end of the term.

Keep an eye out for updates on the year 7 and 8 football fixtures and the gym and dance show competition.

Please ensure if you have signed up for a club you are still attending, there are only a few weeks left for this term. Also see Miss Stansfield if you have any suggestions of clubs you would like to be run in the Summer term.

World Book Day

A great ‘World Book day 2019’ was had by all at St. Edward’s Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School! Ali Gardner captivated and inspired students during the day. The costumes were amazing. Winners of the day were: Alexander Kosydar (KS2); Ty Stevens (KS3) and Miss Finnerty (staff).

Parents can follow us on Twitter @sterf2018

In order for us to accept your follow request, please drop the office a line with your twitter handle so that we can match up and then we will accept the request.