



Meadowdale Academy Newsletter

Newsletter Date: June 2017

Headteacher: Mrs J. Finn

Headteacher's News

Another memorable year is coming to a close with much to celebrate and still much to anticipate. The doors of opportunity have been well and truly pushed open and an exciting learning adventure travelled. As the journey comes to its conclusion I'd like to thank all fellow travellers for their enthusiasm, support and hard work. Staff, students, governors and parents have all worked in fantastic partnership to make this a year in which we can be proud of the achievements of the children and Meadowdale Academy as a school.

'Together we all made it happen'

Ofsted recognises 'Team Meadowdale' continues to excel

Ofsted visited during a very busy, pressured week of SAT's and during a year that has had unexpected absences. Despite those issues, because we are a school that is ambitious, has capacity and is committed to always improving and delivering excellence, - we triumphed!

I am very proud of the staff and students whose enthusiasm and effort make Meadowdale the highly achieving school that Ofsted recognised. **WELL DONE ALL!**

Ofsted - Dear Mrs Finn....

"The diligence and sustained ambition of teachers is reflected in the strong progress that pupils continue to make."

"You have strengthened leadership by building a strong team of senior and middle leaders who share your commitment to achieving the highest possible outcomes"

"You have a shared purpose and ambition and a team ethos"

"You continue to improve the quality of teaching"

"At KS2 in 2016, pupils made outstanding progress in reading and writing"

"The proportion of pupils who met and exceeded expected standards in maths and English were **well** above those nationally"

"While the school has clear academic strengths, you and your team are equally committed to the social and emotional development of pupils"

"You and your team have instilled a culture of high expectation"

http://www.meadowdale.northumberland.sch.uk/web/final_ofsted_inspection_letter

We are committed to building upon strengths and developing challenge in the next academic year.

CREATIVE CURRICULUM WEEK FAST APPROACHING

3rd – 7th July

“The past we inherit The Future we hold”

This year, it is pertinent that in a time of uncertainty we are moving into ‘decade’ groups to look at social and political history and how children of the future generation will shape future societies and history. ‘Love not hate’ will be, amongst others a key message.

Details of the project will follow.

Meadowdale Academy *40 years young*

As part of our Creative Curriculum project we will be celebrating 4 decades of Meadowdale Academy. We would love to build a ‘Memory Lane’ filled with artefacts, memories and photos of our school history. Please send or email memories or photos. There is also an invitation to visit our ‘Memory Lane Café’ during the project week.

Mobile Phones

Increasingly we are spending too much time dealing with issues arising from the prohibited use of mobile phones at the start and end of the school day.

A reminder of our rules and expectations to safeguard all pupils:

- All phones to be handed in
- No mobile phones out in the yards at the start or end of the school day
- Anyone caught breaking these rules will have their phone confiscated and an adult will be asked to collect the phone.

In the light of the time being wasted in policing phones, as of September 2017, a no phones policy will be implemented in school.

Message from the Office Manager

A gentle reminder that we can only administer prescribed medication which is needed more than 3 times a day in school. Because of high pollen if your child needs anti-histamine please administer this at home before they leave for school. A Medication Care Plan must be completed by the parent/guardian for all medication administered in school. **Please note children must not bring medication into school – it has to be handed in by an adult.**

Remember – there are still a few weeks left for attendance rewards - Children who achieve 100% attendance for a full week will receive a star which is drawn at the end of the term for a prize. Parent/Carers of Pupils with 97% attendance or above will be entered into a draw at the end of the academic year for a £50 voucher. Pupils who manage 97% attendance or above, for the full year, will be entered into the ‘IPAD in It to Win It’ draw.

Year 5

Year Five have had no let-up in our busy learning schedule this term.

Already, we have packed in a very useful 'virtual reality anti-bullying workshop'; a sports transition event with our new buddies from Year Four; and a wonderfully peaceful visit to St. Cuthbert's church for some Mindfulness workshops. With all of these fabulous activities, alongside our usual learning timetable, we've certainly used our time here in the summer term efficiently!

There is so much more to come, so look out for information coming soon about our end of term reward trip and our Battle of Bosworth re-enactment at the end of our history topic - 'Tudor Britain'.



Year 6

Well done to all of Year 6 during SATs week, everyone worked very hard and excelled themselves. The students who did not go to Ford Castle this week studied Daniel Gooch. The 'Kite Man' is coming into school in July to work with Year 6 to show them how make their own kites.

Year 7

Well done to Year 7 for all of their hard work this term. As a reward for your continued effort we will be visiting Cresswell Beach for the day on Thursday 13th July where we will be exploring the rock pools, making sand sculptures, taking part in team games and paying a visit to the delicious ice cream shop. Let's hope the sun shines!



Year 8

We had a fantastic trip to London in May. Pupils were a credit to the school and enjoyed seeing the major tourist attractions. - London Eye, Madam Tussauds and the two shows "The School of Rock" and "Wicked" were particular highlights.



Only five weeks left at Meadowdale Academy now, but what an eventful time to go. We have Creative Curriculum, Transition Day, school prom and Lightwater Valley still to enjoy before we say good bye to our Year 8's.

English



What a bustling and productive couple of months we have had! The English department (along with our marvelous students) has been as busy as ever, with SATs, story writing and even Shakespearean soliloquies prominent within the English curriculum.

Year 5 are now embarking on the study of Tudor England, with a focus in English on 'Shocking Shakespeare'.

Year 6, now that SATs are complete, are studying 'Magic and Fantasy'. Students will be focusing on Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', as well as other texts that fall within the unit's wider themes. At this point, I must say a HUGE well done to all Y6 students, who approached their SATs with true Meadowdale spirit.

Year 7 are beginning to develop basic KS4 analytical skills by studying the GCSE prescribed text 'Romeo and Juliet' (has anyone noticed a pattern yet? ☺). This is a challenging unit that exposes students to the demands of high school and offers the opportunity to study Shakespeare at a deeper level than KS2.

Year 8 students, by now, have already acquired many of the necessary skills to successfully transition to KS4 and the challenge of GCSE English and Literature. This term, students study 'Macbeth' and will have the chance to complete past GCSE tasks and exam questions, as well as to perform a range of scenes.

Could I also take this opportunity to promote an 'Adventure Story' writing competition, organised by the outdoor company 'Go Ape' and recommended to us by a parent. Details of the competition can be found via the following link:

<https://goape.co.uk/adventure-stories> entries must be submitted online. Your child may spend some time on this within his/her English lesson, or a draft copy might be requested as a homework task. Students have the chance of winning a class trip to Go Ape -a tree-top climbing adventure (I've had a go myself, and believe me, it is not for the faint hearted!). Spot prizes will also be awarded in school for impressive entries.

Maths

Junior Maths Challenge

For the first time, this year we had a Year 7 team as well as Year 8 enter. Students have completed multiple choice questions, pitched to the highest standard and competing against students from all over the United Kingdom. A big well done to all who took part:

Year 8: Lewis Cochrane, Keira Scott and Abbi Tate

Year 7: Zain Arshad, Jake Cox, Josh Eastway, Ryan Fisher, Jack Livingston, Euan McLaren and Samara Paxton. Altogether we have 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze Certificate – these will be handed out in our final Golden Assembly – who will get each one?

Women In Science Doing Outstanding Maths

Alongside Newcastle University, we are offering girls in Year 8 an opportunity to go to this exciting event on Tuesday 20th June. The girls will have a chance to hear from women working in mathematical careers and to see the doors that can be opened by studying Maths A-level and beyond. All interested girls should have received a letter from Mrs Bunce. For further information go to <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/maths/outreach/teachers/> or see Mrs Bunce.

Maths-Whizz - It's **competition** time!



If you are part of Maths-Whizz or not, everyone is able to enter this competition. You need to design a pet that can be sold through the online pet shop. Your design must be coloured and on a piece of paper with your name and form class clearly marked. Give entries to Mrs Bunce **no later than Wednesday 20th June**. For further information see the poster in the Year 5 computer area or see Mrs Bunce.

Also, for all students with a Maths-Whizz subscription, there are some new game available now – have you seen them? In July, the **summer challenge** will begin – see who can score big for Meadowdale.

Sports at Meadowdale

Congratulations to years 5 and 6 who won the Blyth/Bedlington Sports Partnership Athletic competition for the 3rd year in a row.

Competing against 12 other Primary schools this is a fantastic achievement. Five boys and girls will now be selected from the squad of athletes to compete in the Northumberland School Games on the 22nd June.



Bedlington Partnership

A partnership in Bedlington put road safety in the spotlight recently. Meadowdale Academy have worked closely with St Bede's RCVA Primary School, St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, West End First School, Northumberland County Council, Leading Link and Northumbria Police



Future Dates for your Diary



- ❖ 19th June – Show week – High School Musical
- ❖ 23rd June – Year 8 Safety Workshop
- ❖ 30th June – Year 6 Safety Workshop
- ❖ 3rd July – Creative Curriculum Week
- ❖ 5th July – St Benet Biscop Transition Day
- ❖ 5th July – Whole school Beamish Trip
- ❖ 11th July – Transition Day Bedlington High
- ❖ 11th July – Year 8 Prom
- ❖ 13th July – Year 7 Cresswell Visit
- ❖ 14th July – Whole school Sports day
- ❖ 18th July – Year 8 Lightwater Valley
- ❖ 20th July – Year 5 Waves Visit