



Meadowdale Academy Newsletter

Newsletter Date: January 2017

Headteacher: Mrs J Finn

Headteacher's News

Happy New year to all! And it is with great delight that I return to the much privileged position as Headteacher of Meadowdale Academy.

An exciting 2017 lies ahead of us as parents, teachers and students, 12 chapters are yet unwritten with 365 new opportunities to seize. I would wish that we all make every day count and end each one with a thankful attitude. Our first whole school assembly focused on exactly those mindsets.

As a means of further developing such mindsets..... We have begun a 'Meadowdale Gratitude and Memory Jar' that we plan to fill with memorable moments, achievements and thanks for the many things we take for granted, the gifts of friendship, the gifts of family and the gifts of learning. Perhaps you might enjoy capturing yours and your family's memories by beginning a gratitude jar at home and at the end of the year celebrate all that 2017 has brought you.

My gratitude jar is already brimming and I would like to send out my thanks to everyone for their best wishes during my absence and to 'Team Meadowdale,' the hard working staff and students who continued to 'Make it happen' last term.

Let's make every day of this New Year count.

J. Finn



Attendance

Currently as a whole school our overall attendance is 95% and to meet government expectations we are aiming for a minimum of 98%. To encourage this, every student who achieves 98% or above this year will be entered into a draw for an iPad in July.

Attendance and punctuality are a key part of our children's learning and a huge well done goes out to the 306 students who have achieved 100% attendance so far this academic year.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you for the donations for the Shoe Box Appeal. Eleven students from Meadowdale delivered the boxes to the depot in Cramlington. Meadowdale sent 61 boxes and a total of 61 boxes left the Cramlington depot. Meadowdale students were highly commended for their appearance and behaviour whilst off site.

Year Group News

Year 5

Our first term as 'Meadowdalers' went by in a flash with so much learning and fun squeezed in! Children and teachers agree that we have had a wonderfully settled and enjoyable start to middle school.

This term is no different with lots of exciting learning and extra-curricular opportunities planned. In our spring term we will see some of the year group off on their residential quest to Robinwood, whilst those remaining in school have an adventure of their own. We also look forward to hosting year four pupils from our feeder middle schools for our annual 'Poisson D'avril' day. We are ready to 'Dream, Believe and Achieve' our way through 2017!

Year 6

Year Six have taken part in a Business Enterprise workshop this week, building gigantic tetrahedrons out of sticks and elastic bands. To succeed in the task we had to listen carefully to the instructions and work as a team to build a tetrahedron (a triangular based pyramid) as tall as the gym, which was stable enough to rotate.

Year 7

Happy New Year and welcome back to all of our Year 7 students. We have much to look forward to in what promises to be another half term full of great opportunities. The iPads are proving to be hugely popular and an excellent resource for us to use to enhance our curriculum across a range of subjects. All students have access to a Doodle maths and should have brought home a letter explaining this with their user details on. Ten minutes a day can make a huge difference!

We are also looking forward to our visit to Durham which is taking place next week. The day really brings our history topic of 'Medieval England' to life for the students and gives the opportunity for some fantastic follow up work in school.

Finally, I would love to see lots of Year 7 students in our school show this year, so come along on Thursday night and find out more about it. It promises to be amazing!

Year 8

We had great end to last term with a science trip to the Centre for Life and a visit to the cinema to see "Moana" as part of the reward trip. Everyone's behaviour was excellent and we all enjoyed the Animal exhibition which was incredibly interesting.

All pupils have settled in well after the Christmas break and we look forward to another busy term. Year 8 will be involved with workshops on 'hate crime' and 'cyber bullying' along with having the opportunity to apply and complete their Sports Leadership Award.

Maths



Congratulations to all our pupils from Years 5, 6 and 7 who are involved in Maths-Whizz. We have won a national competition for the most improved usage from September to November. Our students have been working really hard, well done. Our prize is a visit from the Math-Whizz team, including The Professor himself. We will have a whole school celebration assembly on Friday 20th January, followed by a party for our Math-Whizz students!



All pupils in Year 7 now have a personal login to use the app DoodleMaths. This will be part of each maths lesson, yet can be used at home too. This is a free trial, so usage per week is limited. We will also be giving login detail to our Year 6 students next month, who can use DoodleMaths at home as part of their arithmetic practice. Any questions or queries please see Mrs Bunce.

English

I'm finding it hard to believe that we've already completed a full term here at Meadowdale. Our English curriculum has been as fun and jam-packed as ever, and we have finished the term with lots of positives to reflect on. All students in the school enjoyed visits by the bohemian poet 'Jim McCool', story-teller 'Richard O'Neill' and a repeat visit from the grammar man 'Barrie'. We've also spent time developing Gifted and Talented provision in Y8 – some students were lucky enough to visit the Jam Jar cinema to see a remake of the Bronte classic 'Jane Eyre' and all students in Y8 spent the term studying GCSE standard poetry. It was due to students being inspired by one of these poems ('November' by Simon Armitage) that led to 47 of them raising money, buying gifts for and visiting the elderly at Barchester Care Home; an incredibly successful and touching trip which we hope to repeat in term 2.

Finally, on the back of our poetry competition last term, the English department is now promoting a story writing competition for KS2 students – this will be judged by Richard O'Neill with two copies of his signed books up for grabs as a prize. Stories can be about anything, should be around 500 words and need to be handed in to your child's English teacher by 25th January.

Computing

All of year 7 students now have iPads and are beginning to enjoy the benefits of these in their lessons. Maths sets have already started to use an app at the start of all lessons which tailors itself to each student's strengths and weaknesses in the subject.

The use of school360 and Google classroom is allowing students to create content on the iPads which they now have access to at home to extend their learning. We are excited by the opportunities and the impact the iPads are already starting to have in lessons.



Sports at Meadowdale

Year 6 Indoor Athletics

A team of Year 6 pupils travelled to Blyth Sports Centre to represent Meadowdale Academy in the Blyth/Bedlington Indoor athletics Championships on Thursday 5th January. All the boys' and girls' did exceptionally well winning all the races and the majority of field events in the morning competition. At the time we did not know if we had won the competition overall because schools competing in the afternoon session were also competing against our times and distances.

By the end of the day we had received a text to say that we had dominated the competition and won by a huge 85 points. Well done to all those pupils who competed and Meadowdale will now be representing our area in the County Finals in March.



Personal Development, Behaviour and Wellbeing

- ❖ Monday 23rd January – Year 6 Bikeability
- ❖ 2nd & 9th February – Years 6,7,& 8 – Anti-racism and radicalization workshops run by Northumbria police as part of the nationwide 'Prevent Strategy'
- ❖ Friday 10th March – KS2 & KS3 Assemblies 'Take Away' theatre company production of 'Hope'. These contemporary and powerful performances focus on issues relating to cyber-bullying via social media sites.

In the event of school closure due to inclement weather you will be notified by text message by 8am. There will also be updates on Meadowdale Academy website, Northumberland County Council Website, Meadowdale Academy Facebook and Twitter pages.

Meadowdale Academy – www.meadowdaleacademy.gov.uk

County Council – www.northumberland.gov.uk

Facebook – www.facebook.com/nccalerts

Twitter – www.twitter.com/northumberland

Dates for your Diary

- ❖ 18th January – Under 11 County Cup
- ❖ 19th & 20th January Year 7 trips to Durham
- ❖ 20th January – Maths Whizz assembly
- ❖ 23rd January – Year 6 Bikeability
- ❖ 27th January – Maths Whizz Assembly and celebration
- ❖ 2nd February – Year 6 'Hate Crime'
- ❖ 14th February – Grandparents Valentine lunch
- ❖ 15th February – Valentines Disco
- ❖ 16th February – Year 8 'Hate Crime'
- ❖ 10th March - Cyber Bullying Performance