



Headlands HEADLINES

ISSUE **12** FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2021

Headteacher's message

On Monday 6 December we are hosting our annual Year 11 Mock Interview Day. We have over 50 employers from the local and regional area coming into school to meet our fantastic students and put them through their "paces" as if they were being interviewed for real jobs! This day is always a huge success and every year does lead to at least one legitimate employment opportunity for a student where an employer is so impressed they offer a student a real life job! The team and I are really looking forward to seeing our Year 11 students dressed for work and hearing about their experiences as the day progresses. A reminder to the rest of the school, this is a day when you don't need to attend school.

This year we are supporting Cash for Kids Mission Christmas on Friday 10 December and inviting students to wear a festive jumper to school for a donation to the charity. Cash for Kids is a grant-giving charity helping the children that need it most across the UK. As a result, we are aware not every child can afford to purchase a festive style jumper and if they would prefer to wear a jumper of their choosing - this is also "okay."

With so much uncertainty regarding the new COVID-19 variant and based on our previous experience of increased transmission linked to coach journeys, the Senior Team and I have made the precautionary decision to postpone our planned Rewards Trip to the Cinema and

have moved it to January 2021. This decision has been made to try and safeguard our students and staff, as best we can, from contracting COVID-19 for the last week of term and the Christmas holidays. A big "thank you" to Mr Fairlamb for organising this event and re-arranging at such short notice!

Iwould also like to cautiously make parents / carers aware of our current staffing challenges - challenges shared by many schools across the country which are directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. When staff are absent from work (either due to their own illness and / or one of their children being poorly due to COVID-19), historically we have been able to cover colleagues through our expert in house team of Cover Teachers and have rarely relied on Agency Supply Teachers.

However, in recent weeks as cases of COVID-19 across the region have increased, we have had to call on Agency Supply Teachers on a more regular basis and for the first time in as long as any of us can remember - yesterday the Agencies we use (from Hull through to Scarborough) have simply run out of Supply Teachers. The logistics of then not having any staff to cover for absent staff is proving to be rather testing and I know we are incredibly lucky to have a team of staff who have come up with creative and safe solutions. Moving forward I just wanted to highlight this "challenge" to parents / carers so that should much bigger decisions

need to be made they won't come as a surprise.

Iam aware we have received several phone calls from parents/carers in recent weeks querying why they have received attendance letters home highlighting their child's attendance to school - in particular when the absence has been COVID-19 related. This is a Department for Education (DfE) Policy change in how COVID-19 related absence is recorded. In the last academic year COVID-19 absence was recorded on our Management Information System as an "X" code and did not "count" as an absence. Since September 2021 the DfE have instructed schools to record any COVID-19 absence as an "I" code - for illness - and this is therefore an absence. As such more and more students nationally, not just at Headlands School, have attendance that has fallen below the 95% benchmark through no fault of their own. We appreciate this maybe frustrating for families however our hands are tied as we have a statutory duty to follow this latest DfE policy.

Finally, as we approach the final two weeks of term, we are aware this can be a tricky time for some of our families. Should any of our families require additional support in the form of food parcels over the Christmas period please do not hesitate to contact Miss Brown (Deputy Head) via the Main Office.

Stay safe and well,

Mrs Bone



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STEM Club



This week saw the start of an in person STEM club. The group's first challenge was to create an extendable arm that was capable of lifting objects. Lots of designs were tried from very short to extremely long and they were all put through their paces. There were some serious engineering challenges that had to be overcome and everyone worked really hard to build and test their designs.

If you are interested in joining the STEM club we meet on a Wednesday after school in Room 45.

A fantastic result!

Well done Team
Headlands for raising

£666.52

for Children in Need 2021





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Lateral Flow Tests

Lateral Flow Testing will take place on Tuesday 4 January for students whose parents have given consent. The timings for each Year group are as follows.

Period 1 - Year 7

Period 2 - Year 8 & 6th Form

Period 3 - Year 10 & 11

Period 4 - Year 9

Library fun with Year 8!



Year 8 Leader

Is now Mr Barber. A big "thank you" to Mr Buckby for all his support with the Year Group and welcome to Mr Barber who has now taken on this responsibility.



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Sports

KS3 and KS4 Badminton winners qualify to the next East Yorkshire Round!



**Friday 10th
December will be a
Christmas Jumper
Day for Team
Headlands**

