



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 195 – 11th January 2019

Working with Families to Maintain Attendance

I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. It has been good to see students return well and make a good start to the new term. We know that at this time of year, when mornings are cold and dark, it can often seem a bit harder to get going in the morning and illnesses and ailments can sometimes linger and sap energy. Experience tells us that these are the weeks when attendance can dip a little. However, we also know just how important regular attendance is. There is a huge amount of evidence that shows the direct link between attendance and student outcomes – it is among the most important factors in determining a student's success or failure at school.

Our schools have a very positive record of attendance, and I am sure that this has contributed to the rising attainment we have seen here. Last year, both schools recorded overall attendance figures of over 95%, (95.8 at AW, 95.5 at BC) above the national average of 94.8%, and this has been the case for some time now.

A 2016 Department of Education study found that 'pupils with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent and 2.8 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics than pupils missing 15-20% of KS4 lessons'. Since this time, the increase in the amount of content studied in GCSE courses has only strengthened the link between good attendance and good achievement.

In the past, anything below 85% attendance was classed as persistent absence. In recent years, this has changed and anything below 90% is now considered to be persistent absence. As a Trust, we strongly support this move – by the end of their school career from Year 1 to Year 11, a student who consistently averages 90% attendance will have missed more than a year of school, compared to a student who has an excellent attendance record. It is little wonder that there is such a direct link between good attendance and good outcomes.

It is not just the total amount of time missed that matters. Missing the start of a topic or a couple of lessons in the middle of a programme of work can be hugely disruptive to learning, and make it very difficult to catch up with the rest of the class. Although teachers will always try and help students get back up to speed, there will inevitably be an impact, and sometimes it can have a detrimental impact on others in the class if work needs to be repeated.

There are simple things that can help – making sure that appointments, such as dentists or opticians, are arranged outside school time, never taking holidays in term time, making sure that children and young people are eating healthily and getting enough sleep, for example. We will always do our best to stress to students the importance of time at school, and also to make the time at school as positive and worthwhile as possible.

Of course, there are times when people fall ill, or are unable to come into school for perfectly legitimate reasons. There are also times when things become difficult in families, and routines are harder to maintain. I hope you know that we always want to work in partnership with parents and carers, and we are here as a source of support and help. Our attendance officers, Mrs Bosley at Bramcote College, and Mrs Philpott at Alderman White, are very experienced and knowledgeable, and have worked with countless families to help students attend well. Although we occasionally have to use enforcement powers, such as issuing fixed-penalty notices, our first preference is to work with families to help sort the problem, in the interests of the student.

Our attendance policy is available on each school's website, and I would encourage parents to use Go 4 Schools to keep track of attendance. This is updated continually and gives lots of useful information about your child's attendance over time.

Paul Heery
Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

| January | TRUST | AWS | BC | BC6F |
|------------|---|-----|----|------|
| 10th -25th | Year 13 Mock Exams | | | |
| 14th | School Production Auditions | | | |
| 16th | Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening 16:00 - 19:00 | | | |
| 16th | School Production Auditions Years 5 and 6 17:00 - 18:30 | | | |
| 17th | Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening 16:00 - 19:00 | | | |
| 23rd | Year 11 Reports Published | | | |
| 23rd | PTA Meeting 18:30 - 19:30 | | | |
| 24th | Year 11 BC6F Interviews | | | |
| 24th | Year 9 Options Taster Morning | | | |
| 29th | Year 9 Options Taster Morning | | | |

Please see the My Ed app or our websites for a full calendar of upcoming events and important dates.

Well done to Abi, Danni and Adam

We would like to thank both Abi Burton and Danni MacRae, students from Bramcote College, who over the Christmas Holidays have been donating time to help Stapleford Community Group.

Firstly they helped with donations of Sweets at a Christmas Meal with the Chayah Development Project in St Ann's which fed homeless and lonely residents over the festive period.

Secondly one cold evening they both helped to hand out Sweets to homeless people in Nottingham City Centre. For many of those it would have been the only gift they received over Christmas.

The third thing they both helped with was the distribution of Surplus Food Donations which had been given to us by Lidl, Tesco and Aldi. Both Abi and Danni helped with unloading the massive amounts of food and helped people gather what they could make use of.

This week, Adam Burton joined the girls as they helped members of Stapleford Community Group and Sparkle Day Care to hand out Sleeping Bags to the Homeless in Nottingham City Centre. Very kind of all three of them to help out on a very cold evening.

It just goes to show what great students are coming from Bramcote College and the kindness they have for the wider community by giving up their own time over the festive period.

If anyone else would like to help with future events then keep an eye on the Stapleford Community Group social media pages for details and requests for help and support.

Donna MacRae

Secretary, Stapleford Community Group



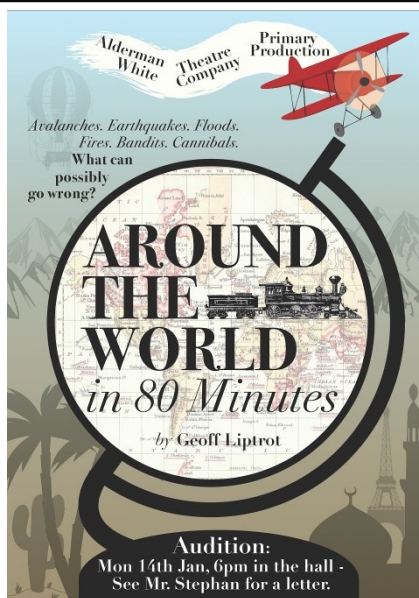
Around the World in 80 Minutes (or thereabouts!)

Auditions for our Spring Production, Around the World in 80 Minutes are on Monday 14th January at 6pm for Alderman White Students.

As usual in the Spring Term Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be joining in the fun in this fast-moving musical show inspired by Jules Verne's epic tale as our Edwardian travellers try to circumnavigate the world in 80 days, or in our version 80 minutes (or thereabouts!), encountering a whole series of mad-cap adventures on the way. Obstacles include avalanches, fires, earthquakes, floods, bandits and the odd cannibal – what could possibly go wrong? A live band will be providing all the right notes as our intrepid heroes negotiate their way across the globe.

Auditions for Year 5 & 6 pupils are on Wednesday 16th January at 5pm.

Mr K Stephan



Alderman White & Bramcote College
Trip to Paris and Disneyland Paris 24th-27th April 2019

See the magic of Paris/Disneyland £ 260

- 2 nights B & B in 3* hotel
- Entrance to both Disney Parks
- Lunch at Disney
- Tour of Paris (including Eiffel Tower)

Letters from Mr. Stephan/Reception from Monday 14th February

Application Deadline:
Wednesday 30th January