

12th December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to share a number of updates at the end of another very successful and productive term.

In November we welcomed back the class of 2019 to celebrate their achievements and contributions to Pleckgate High School. Students were awarded with certificates of recognition and a number of students also received special awards to mark their outstanding academic achievements. Our new Chair of Governors, Andrea Hepplestone, was in attendance as well as representatives from the Education Partnership Trust who were all able to hear our guest speaker, Sarfraz Manzoor, a well-known journalist, broadcaster and screenwriter.



We are very proud of the achievements of our 2019 students and wish them success as they journey on to the next stage of their lives. We continue to be a successful school both locally and nationally as we significantly add value to the progress of all students at Pleckgate. We are working hard to support our new Year 11 students who are currently studying for their mock examinations and who have made an excellent start to the term.



Life at Pleckgate is always busy and there are many school events for students to participate in and enjoy. These range from student poetry reading during National Poetry Day; Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions; trips to the theatre, universities and local employers as well as forthcoming visits to Belgium and Paris for History and Modern Foreign Languages. We also offer many extra-curricular activities including school teams and clubs that run after school. A special mention should be given to our Year 7 and Year 8 boy's football teams that have both won their local leagues and have now secured promotion to the Premiership. Other important aspects of Pleckgate is for students to take a wider role in both charity and community events. Charity week in October involved cake bakes, sponge the teacher and a staff versus student football match raising funds for a national charity. Representatives from Pleckgate also attended the Remembrance Day service at Blackburn Cathedral and laid a wreath at the war memorial in Blackburn.

I am very pleased with how our Year 7 students have settled into school life at Pleckgate. The number of parents choosing Pleckgate has yet again significantly increased. Initial projections from admissions suggest the demand in the community has grown again, a sign that Pleckgate is the school of choice for our community. As an outstanding school, we are always keen to receive your feedback. I would value parents logging on to the Ofsted Parent View website at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> to share your views and experiences of the school.

As always, I am thankful for your support in guiding your children to show respect for our school ethos of Aspire & Believe, Act & Succeed. I would be grateful if you would ensure that your children arrive in school on time, wearing the correct uniform and school shoes, not trainers. Through assemblies we stress the importance of regular school attendance and punctuality, exploring the strong relationship between regular attendance and excellent results and would value your support in re-enforcing this message with your children in the New Year.

A reminder that our last day in school will be Friday 20th December when school will close at 12:10pm. All students are expected to be in **full school uniform**. School will re-open to students on Monday 6th January at 8:20am.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mark Cocker

Headteacher



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