



21st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of the first term of this academic year, I have the pleasure of sharing with you some of the highlights the students have been involved in.

This term has seen our students step up and take on a range of leadership opportunities in school. We talk to the students about working with staff and each other to promote an environment in the school community, that is one where all can be successful. By taking on leadership roles in school and moving from being passengers in the school community to being part of the crew, students have an important role to play. Some students have been undertaking training to be an Assistant Coach for their coaching group. Well done to them for leading coaching discussions and whole coaching sessions. We also have students taking on the role of House Captains. They have planned and organised a range of house competitions. The competitive spirit is as strong as ever with students taking part in dodgeball, tug of war and the weekly Venture competitions. The pinnacle of the house competitions this term has been the school talent show. It was wonderful to see the acts perform their talents while being so warmly supported by their peers watching. Congratulations to Trueman House for the winning performance.

We have also had students stepping up to be part of the crew when we welcomed educators from schools in Ireland and Belgium who came to learn from our relationship focused and restorative based practice at Wetherby High School. It was a privilege to hear how well students spoke of the unique school community we have here and the support and opportunities they receive.

Students have had the opportunity to be involved in a range of enrichment experiences this term. The Performing Arts department worked with students to put on an excellent Winter Showcase where students sang and acted. There was significant practice that went into this, and it was lovely to be able to invite residents from the local community and parents/carers to watch the performance. Drama students have also been to watch a theatre production of Oliver Twist at the Playhouse in Leeds. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and showed them what they can aspire to.

Last academic year we introduced a weekly Endeavour session to the timetable. In this session all students take part in an activity of their choice, that they either want to try for the first time or develop their skills further in. Through this we have had children represent the school in the Yorkshire Dance Festival. This involved them choreographing and rehearsing a dance piece to perform in front of other schools. We also have over 80 children taking part in the Duke Edinburgh award and they have completed their practice expedition this term.

Our sporting teams have had a successful start to the year with teams competing in the Schools Sports Association competition for Football, Netball and Rugby and national competitions for girls and boys football. Alongside this it has been great to see so many students taking part in our FLP sports activities.

In lessons students have, as always, been meeting our high standards. Challenging themselves and each other to be the best learners they can be and engage in each aspect of the learning line. More information can be found about our approach to teaching and learning and about the curriculum the children follow on our website at the following link <https://wetherbyhigh.org.uk/curriculum-information/>

Well done to Year 11 and Year 10 who sat their mock exams this term. These can be intensive weeks but a good opportunity to learn how to manage that formal exam setting. It was pleasing to see the mature attitude students approached these exams with and the work they did outside of school to prepare. In order to support your child with their learning, please ensure they are restocked with the right equipment needed for lessons in the new year. This includes a black/blue pen, green pen, white board pen, ruler, pencil, rubber and calculator.

Year 11 have been completing their applications for Post 16 destinations. They have received support with this through their PSHCE lessons and from their coach. Some Year 11 students met with an independent careers advisor this week to ensure they had the guidance they need with their choices. If any parents/carers feel they would like more information to support their child in securing a placement, please contact Mrs McCartney or Mr Bradshaw.

One of the highlights of the term has been welcoming back last year's Year 11 students for their reunion. It was wonderful to find out how they have settled into their Post 16 placements, we are very proud of them. They received their GCSE certificates and had a chance to catch up with each other.

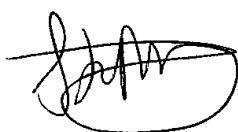
The plans for the new building are progressing well. We are working closely with the Department for Education to ensure the process and timescales stay on track. It is an exciting process learning about the range of new purpose-built facilities that will be available for children.

Wetherby and District Foodbank have asked us to let you know they are here for anyone in need or hardship. They do not means test or judge. All information shared is private and strictly confidential. If you need support over Christmas or into the New Year they ask you not to hesitate to get in touch. The foodbank will not only provide food and a listening ear but can also arrange free face to face local appointments with Moneybuddies who can help with debt advice and budgeting support.

Their number is 07840 455725 ([01937 830524](tel:01937830524) for Tadcaster).

I hope you have a wonderful break over the next two weeks, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Jefferson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Samantha Jefferson  
Headteacher