

9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

In general students have returned from the half term break with the energy and determination to work hard this half term. Please find news of key achievements and upcoming events below.

### **Ounsdale's got talent**

This event showed what amazing talents students at Ounsdale have. We enjoyed musical performances, dance, and even a comedy sketch based on The Bake Off. The winner, Amelie Taylor (Year 8), gave an awe inspiring vocal performance.

### **Sporting success**

#### **Cross Country**

Freddie Murphy (Y8) and Noah Sandland (Y9) took place in the Staffs Schools Cross Country Event at Rowley Park in October. Freddie finished 27<sup>th</sup> (which was excellent considering he was competing against students in the Year above him) and Noah finished 6<sup>th</sup>! Due to Noah's outstanding performance he now has a place in the Staffordshire Schools team, he will be competing at an inter county event in December.

#### **Table tennis**

Well done to Tyler Simms, Harry Clifton, Jack Bradley and Ryan Bolton in Year 11. The lads came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Wolverhampton Schools Competition – well done.

#### **Football**

Year 9 boys beat St Edmunds (3-1) and qualify for the next round of the Wolverhampton cup, a particularly impressive score considering they were down to 10 men. Fingers crossed for success in the next round. Unfortunately, Year 10 were defeated by Heath Park in a closely fought match and are now out of the cup for this year.

#### **Sailing**

Niamh Carrothers, Milly Germyen and Will Legge in Y9 represented Ounsdale at the Invictus Sailing day before half term – a great time was had by all, one student from this cohort has now joined a local sailing club.

### **Upcoming sporting events**

On 9<sup>th</sup> November Ounsdale will be entering teams into the School games event at Ellowes Hall School, and on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November a tournament will take place at Leasowes School.

### **Additional upcoming events**

#### **Shakespeare in schools**

Year 8 and 9 students are performing The Merchant of Venice at the Shakespeare Schools Festival held at The Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton on Monday night (12<sup>th</sup> November). Tickets are available from the box office. This is a fantastic opportunity to perform on a professional stage in front of an audience – we wish our actors and actresses well.

#### **Humanities film evening**

To commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One, the broadcaster Peter Jackson has added colour to film footage and put together a moving film about the war. This film has been

available to schools (certificate 15) and we will be giving specific students the opportunity to watch this in the school theatre after school in the near future, date to follow.

### **Year 7 Residential - PGL**

In the summer term Year 7 will be invited to attend a residential trip to Boreatton Park with the organisation PGL. This is an amazing opportunity to try out new activities, such as giant swings, zip wires and raft building. It is an opportunity for Year 7 to grow in confidence and enjoy time with friends they have made this year, and to build new friendships. Details to follow.

### **Shoebox appeal**

The chaplaincy team visited assemblies in October and described the value in sending shoeboxes to children in parts of the world where underprivileged children do not receive Christmas presents. We have been really impressed by the kindness our students have shown in making up shoe-boxes, some students have done this as a tutor group, others individually. We will finalise the total for the next newsletter, but for the moment can I say a big thank-you to parents that have supported this. The final deadline is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Kindness in action, fantastic.

### **Year 11 Support evening and mock exams**

This is a very important time for Year 11 students and most students are rising to the challenge. To support students and families we will be holding an important information evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Information will be provided on how to support students with revision and time management, in addition to information on the structure of the year. It is imperative that all Year 11 families attend this event. If you are unable to make the date stated please contact the school and alternative arrangements will be made.

Mock examinations will take place for Year 11 from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. The timetable is available on the web-site and hard copies are available from reception.

Teachers are going out of their way to support Year 11 students as they progress towards examinations. Any student requiring extra revision material or help should speak in the first instance to their class teacher. However, additional revision classes and support sessions have been timetabled and these will be available to view on the web-site in the next few days.

### **Choosing Invictus VI**

We were very pleased to welcome Year 11 students and their parents to the open evening for Invictus VI at Himley Hall last night (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November). We hope you were given a flavour of what the sixth form stands for, and we hope you were provided with lots of information about courses available. We know students have some difficult decisions to make, but we hope they value the help and support of their teachers at Ounsdale, and therefore seriously consider staying within Invictus for post-16 education. For more information do contact Miss Kendrick (Head of Invictus VI), Mrs Stokes (Head of Ounsdale 6<sup>th</sup> form) or Year 11 tutors.

### **6<sup>th</sup> form mock exams**

Mock exams for any 6<sup>th</sup> form students sitting external exams in the summer will take place in January (14<sup>th</sup> January onwards). Timetables for these mock examinations will be available shortly.

## **Progress data and reports**

Towards the end of this half term you will receive a formal report on how well your son/daughter is progressing (Years 7 to 11). This year Invictus schools are using a system of a 1-4 progress grade for all students. We will release more information about the system when reports are published, but to help you understand information on WISE please see below for what the progress grades mean.

Progress grade 1 – The student is not meeting target grades and significant intervention is needed to help them progress.

Progress grade 2 – The student is making progress. To make fantastic progress the teacher may sometimes give additional work.

Progress grade 3 – The student is making progress and is likely to meet highly aspirational grades set for them. This is a really good achievement.

Progress grade 4 – The student is making progress above what is expected to meet highly aspirational target grades. This is outstanding. For some students that have very high aspirational target grades (grade 8/9) it is not possible to go above them at GCSE level, however in such cases teachers will stretch students by broadening the curriculum.

## **Building work**

We are pleased to see progress being made on updating the school building. A new student entrance is now in operation and a visitor entrance at the very front of the school may be open just after Christmas. Work will begin on the 9 classroom new build very shortly, this will be built behind the main teaching block. We are very much looking forward the positives the new and updated buildings will bring.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr G Smith

Headteacher