

WEEK 38 - Friday 15 July 2022

This week ended with a Year Group Assembly about two of our school values, 'Respect' and 'Kindness'. Towards the end of a very long term, people are tired and the very hot days seem to affect a few students' actions. We reiterated the importance of maintaining self-control and discipline and treating each other with kindness at all times.

There is still a week to go but, at the end of next week, I will take a moment to reflect on the events of the last year. It has been a great pleasure to be Head of Year 8 and to watch our young students settle into a full year of school. After the upheaval of Covid, it feels that some normality has returned and I was reminded of this as I saw the Year 8 Geography students leaving for a school trip this morning.

One of my highlights is to be outside as much as possible, mixing with the students at lunch time. Even when it's not my duty, I'm out there watching - and occasionally participating in - the football matches, playing referee and flashing my yellow and red cards! I get the impression they quite like it as I step outside in the morning to shouts of 'Miss, Are you reffing today?'

I must be honest, I'm looking forward to the break so I can recharge my batteries and come back ready for a great start to Year 9.

Enjoy the summer holidays.

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 36 - Friday 1 July 2022

We are fast approaching the end of the year and, with only three weeks to go, the word 'Resilience' springs to mind.

This means that we are determined to keep going to the end, we will not give up if things get tough; and we will persevere with our behaviour and learning right up until the last day.

I often think that this is one of the hardest terms of the year as students and staff are flagging and looking forward to the break but we need to dig deep and keep going. There will be fun to be had during Sports Day and other events, but there are still lots of lessons to take place and reflections on everything that we have learned to date. Resilience is key.

We thank you for your support in ensuring that your child continues to attend school consistently and wearing the right uniform.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 34 - Friday 17 June 2022

Following on from our 'Getting to Know You' assembly, we have started a Cultural Committee this week in Year 8, led by the Chairman Ranim R and Vice Chairman Tasneem D. The aim of this is to develop a greater understanding of the different cultures represented within our year group. This week they took the first steps of meeting one student from each tutor group voted for by their peers and held a discussion about the way forward with this group asking themselves 'what do we want to achieve?'

I look forward to them building the committee and sharing their ideas. As I write this, I am proud to say that Year 8 students have coped really well as the heat has increased slowly this week. Today is going to end on a high. The sun should be shining as the students leave school so I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 32 - Friday 27 May 2022



Who are we?

We are diverse group of fantastic people who together form an amazing year group.

Different cultures religions, languages should be acknowledged and celebrated.

Take a look at the diversity of our tutor groups



This week our students entered into the assembly to the song 'Getting to know you' and those of us that are old enough to remember this song will know it comes from the musical 'King and I'.

One of the lines from this song says

'As a teacher I've been learning,

forgive me if I boast,

but I've now become an expert,

on the subject I like most,

'Getting to know you'

I'm definitely not an expert on all of year 8 but I'm trying to get to know each one of the students. As you can imagine it's a big task trying to get to know all 250 students. To help us do this, Miss Staveley and I meet and greet every morning and one of us is always out at break and lunch.

Each tutor group put together a slide for our assembly this week to show how diverse their tutor group is; from different languages, cultures, religions, foods that they like, their pets or countries they have visited. As we stay together over the next three years no doubt there will be changes to these groups but for most of us, myself included, have begun a journey where we are getting to know a little about each other as time passes by.

We hope you enjoy the half term and the Jubilee celebrations and look forward to seeing our students back for the final half term of year 8.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 30 - Friday 13 May 2022

Year 8 students have had a quiet couple of weeks. Alongside working hard in the classroom, they are out and about at lunchtimes and break making the most of the sunshine.

The week's Assembly was led by Mr Groak who spoke about his combined passion for rugby and writing that led to him writing a book. All Year 8 students listened intently and hopefully took away the message that, no matter what your passion might be, you should nurture it and cherish it.

I hope that Year 8 students will learn that all dreams are achievable and they just need to work hard for it. Sometimes the route is a short and straight road to achieve our dreams; for others, it is a bit more bumpy with a few hills and roundabouts thrown in.

Miss Staveley and I are here to ensure that all our students reach the end of their time at our school with success and a pathway to follow their dreams.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 28 - Friday 29 April 2022

It was a welcome return to school this week after the Easter holidays and clearly the sun had been shining as there are a lot of sun-kissed faces in Year 8. I am hoping for a continuation in dry weather as this enables the students to access the school field and use up some energy at lunch time.

We held our first assembly on Tuesday and I played a little snippet of Aretha Franklin's R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Music often engages the students instantly. We talked about respecting each other, staff, school equipment, uniforms and ourselves. I know our young people understand the word 'respect'; however we all need to be reminded at times that respect should be mutual and helps to make the world a nicer place.

Unfortunately there have been some issues on social media, namely TIK TOK where some students have not been very nice about others. We talked about how this makes people feel and the lack of respect that is shown to their peers. We also discussed how things can escalate and then have consequences that involve parents and the police. I am sure our young people in Year 8 will not be posting inappropriate comments on social media but please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns.

There were some sporting events happening this week for Year 8.

On Tuesday, the Boys' Rugby League team were in action against Sirius Academy and, in the words of Mr Compton, "The boys smashed it!" winning 40-16. This victory means that they have made it through to the competition final and we will soon discover who they will be playing. All of the boys did fantastically well but special mention should go to Billy B and Ben W, who won the Man of the Match award for his three tries.

Wednesday saw the Final of the East Yorkshire boys football competition with our boys pitted against the South Hunsley team. In an amazing, close game, our lads came out on top with a 2-1 victory. Alfie M and Harvey N were the goal scorers and it was fantastic to see them return to school with their medals and trophy. Special mention to Mr Griffiths who coached the team and to Mr Adams and Mr Read for their support and 'well done' to everyone.

And finally, I had a short but informative conversation on the way to a lesson with another one of our Year 8 boys. He did not want me to mention his name but was happy for me to share the fact that he will be having his third boxing fight this Saturday, having already won his first two fights. It goes without saying we wish him good luck and will be looking out for him on Monday morning to find out the result.

As they say 'every day is a school day' and even in a quick five minute change of lessons I can learn something new and there is always something to celebrate.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 26 - Friday 1 April 2022

It has been a very strange two weeks in more ways than one. Firstly, I succumbed to the dreaded Covid and unfortunately was absent from school for a full week. It was a strange feeling not to be here when the students are but I rested at home, assured that Miss Staveley was doing a brilliant job with the support of the rest of the team.

Meanwhile, the students finally got to go back on the school field and enjoy the glorious sunshine that appeared, albeit briefly, as we are now back with the cold wet weather as I write this.

Congratulations all round to our Year 8 football boys who won their quarter final, 6-1, and to both of our Year 8 girls' netball teams, who both won 5-2.

A thank you to all of our parents for reminding students to bring their equipment to school. We need to encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and that starts with having the right equipment to start their lessons. I have seen a marked improvement since this was last mentioned.

As we approach the Easter holidays it feels strange to think we will only have one term left before the summer holidays and we will be heading towards Year 9. I don't want to wish our lives away but it still amazes me how time goes so fast and those little Year 7s have been here nearly two years.

I hope you get to enjoy the Easter weekend and let's keep our fingers crossed for the return of the sunshine.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 24 - Friday 18 March 2022

This week, our year group shared an assembly with Mrs Davison. The subject was 'Resilience' and Mrs Davison chose to describe her own experiences of how she began life living in Poland. The students listened in awe as she related to them the many things that she had had to overcome and the resilience she needed to follow her dreams. It gave our young people an insight into the struggles that some people endure and showed them that anything is possible if you put your mind to it, work hard and keep trying. When we fail at something we need to find the resilience to give it another go



On Wednesday, Miss Pinkney and I watched the Year 7 and 8 girls playing football and I can definitely confirm that it was the worst weather in which I have ever watched a football match - my fingers were blue! However I was really impressed with the resilience the girls showed; they never gave up and kept going right to the last minute when they scored. I'm sure with a few more minutes they would have scored again but the whistle beat them to it. Excellent performance

Congratulations also to the Year 8 boys who beat South Hunsley school, 4-1, on Wednesday.

Finally, I have noticed recently that some of our students seem to have lost their pens. Please can I ask parents to remind their young people to bring their equipment to school. We need to encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and that starts with having the right equipment to start their lessons. Thank you for supporting the school with this.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 22 - Friday 4 March 2022

This week we have returned to some sunshine and the promise of Spring. I'm not ready to give up my woolly hat yet though, as it allows me to spend time outside at break and lunch enjoying my time chatting and catching up with our Year 8 students and finding out what they have been up to over half term.

On Wednesday, I had the great pleasure sharing lunch with some of our students who were out of school for the day on an educational visit. They didn't know I was visiting, as I turned up out of the blue, so it was a pleasure to see their faces when I walked in and sat down to share the lunch that one of our parents had cooked. As teachers we don't always get an opportunity to talk to our students out of school unfortunately, so we certainly take it when we can. It is a lovely way to build relationships and see our students in a different environment.

As a year group we have all shared some tutor time this week to discuss what is going on in the world, especially in Ukraine. The tragic situation going on there is something that our students are very interested in and we have had some very mature and sympathetic conversations with them. I hope our students feel that they can approach us to discuss any further concerns they may have.

As always, Miss Staveley and I are available for them and yourselves. Please feel free to contact us and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 20 - Friday 11 February 2022

Hello Everyone

It has been a busy week..

Our assembly this week revolved around how proud I am to lead our Year 8 students. They are maturing slowly into wonderful young people who are learning to take responsibility for their actions and understanding that there are consequences for the things we do. They are now half way through year 8 and I'm always amazed at how fast the time goes.

Year 8 also sat in on a STEM Roadshow this week. This was delivered by an outside agency that showed a presentation looking at careers within STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) along with the RAF and the Royal Navy, and supported by BAE Systems. It was a great opportunity for them to see where their future could be.

Half term is approaching and the sun seems to be shining a little bit more; it is so nice to go home in the daylight and our students to enjoy lighter nights as they approach.

To finish on a high, Year 8 attendance this week hit the magic number of 96%. In these difficult times, that is a great achievement. To achieve such high attendance takes support from all sides, especially parents, so thank you for ensuring that students get to school. Let us now hope that we can maintain this attendance figure.

Have a lovely weekend.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 18 - Friday 28 January 2022

This week we looked at Memorial Holocaust Day and I am always moved to watch our students take on this lesson about history and being made aware of how love must conquer all and we must not allow prejudice and hate to overcome us.

As a school, we endeavour to instill in our young people the belief that inclusivity is key. I am lucky to teach PSCE to some of our young students and we make a class agreement that we will value and respect each other even if we don't agree with each other. It helps us to learn new things about the world and about the people around us.

On another note, as we approach the end of January, I am firmly looking forward to Spring. The nights are already beginning to lengthen and, as I left work this week, it wasn't even dark! Spring is on its way, a sign of new life is appearing.

Finally, a huge congratulations goes out to the Year 8 Girls' football team who won their most recent match, 3-1. The goals came from Izzie Cox and Indy Sherwood including a screamer from Izzie which looked at first like it was going over the bar but landed hard in the bottom right corner....Absolute class! The girls involved were;

Year 8 students

Tasneam D

Izzie C

Eliza F

Eirin A

Lilly D

Isabella B

Evie M

Ranim R

We hope you have a relaxing weekend

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 16 - Friday 14 January 2022

Happy New Year Everyone

As I write this, the sun is shining and we have now all settled into the new term after the excitement of Christmas. It has been a very smooth start for year 8 and our students have returned looking smart and ready to learn. Being prepared for lessons is really important and I would really appreciate your support in helping your child to come to school with the correct equipment each day. Not only does this help them on a daily basis but it also gets them into good habits about taking responsibility rather than expecting a teacher to provide it for them.

This week, we have spoken about 'Resilience'. It is really important we teach our people about this school value; not only is it an important skill for school but also for life. Learning about resilience teaches the students that it is okay to fail because this gives an opportunity to learn, so that we can bounce back and not give up. If we teach our young people this valuable life skill they can achieve their full potential and have a positive outlook on life.

As always Miss Staveley and I are here to support you and your young person so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 14 - Friday 17 December 2021

We've made it! We have reached the end of term more or less in one piece and with an attendance for the year of 92.8% which is a fantastic achievement taking all things into account. The national figure for attendance is below 90% so we are very pleased that our Year 8 students have achieved such a figure and a huge 'thank you' to you as parents for encouraging your young people to turn up for school everyday. As we continually say, students who have good attendance achieve the best grades at the end of their school life. That seems like a long way off but, believe me, time flies so fast and we are already nearly half way through Year 8!

This week, we had an assembly in which we celebrated students' success in a variety of subjects. It was great to see their peers cheering and clapping when names appeared on the screen in the hall. They received a certificate and an Amazon voucher for their achievements, award booklets will be sent out in the New Year for you to keep as a memento.

We will end the week with a tutor party and then the annual football match between Year 11 students and staff will take place. It's always an exciting match to watch and the buzz around the school suggests that it will be very competitive.

As staff we will then say 'goodbye' to one another and head home. At which point, I will pour myself a Xmas Baileys and put my feet up. I am looking forward to my Christmas break and hoping Santa brings me something nice. Thank you for the cards and gifts that Miss Staveley and I have received - they are greatly appreciated.

Miss Staveley and I wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing our Year 8 students safe and well in the New Year.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 12 - Friday 3 December 2021

It's snowing and, as I write this on Thursday morning, my feet are wet. I arrived at school before the snow and clearly didn't wear the correct footwear! To keep the students dry and warm, today we opened up the sports centre and, as they arrived, I was greeted with "I'm freezing. Miss". I know from my experience as the parent of a teenage boy that getting them to wear a coat is near impossible but gloves and a hat can be stuffed into pockets or a bag. They can make a difference.

Our assembly this week covered a very important topic this week - "Run, Hide, Tell". It is a sad reflection on the world we live in that we have to teach students what they should do in the event of an intruder attack on our school but, rest assured, we explain that these events are incredibly rare and the matter is handled very sensitively. As with many events that may never happen, we have a plan of how we will keep the children safe, just in case. If your child has asked questions at home please contact us so we can support your young person.

Our communications system, SIMS Parent, is a great way of keeping in touch with how your child is doing - either via the App or the desktop version. It has lots of information regarding your child's attendance, achievement points, timetable, reports and data collection information. All parents received an email to activate the system; however if you have not received this, please contact us and we'll send new activation details to you.

Most people are on countdown to Christmas now and that includes both my household and Miss Staveley's and this weekend the tree and decorations will be going up. Enjoy your weekend and stay safe.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 10 - Friday 19 November 2021

It has been a busy two weeks since I last wrote my blog. On Thursday last week, we paid our respects with 2 minutes silence to honour those who gave so much during times of war, and we had poppies for sale in school.

Also last week, I held an assembly for the students on the subject of kindness and in particular the little things we can do to show kindness to others. We all know the importance of this, but the challenge is to remember it every day. We all know how easy it is to let our stresses take control of our actions, and we still see students resorting to name-calling or making inappropriate comments towards their peers without a thought about the impact this can have on someone. This is part of growing up and we continue to teach them and remind them of the reciprocal nature of kindness.

This week has been Anti-Bullying Week and Mr Scott led our assembly on his own experience as a teenager at school in Newcastle. It clearly wasn't a happy experience for him. He talked about bullying and the lack of support he felt he had not been given. It was sad to listen to what should have been a happy time growing up. It is not unusual to hear staff have similar experiences, myself included. Thankfully, these experiences are rare and Miss Staveley and I take any bullying situations very seriously and will always do our best to bring it to an end. Our door is open and we need students and parents to work with us and tell us what is happening straight away if they feel they are not happy in school. Communication is key.

Now that Halloween and Bonfire night are out of the way we will all start looking forward to Christmas. I'm not sure I should be mentioning it yet, but I can feel a slight air of excitement starting to build and I have spotted lights on my way home. I am so looking forward to it this year.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 8 - Friday 5 November 2021

Let's Celebrate!

This was the theme in our assembly this week.

It's been the week of 'Stars' in Year 8 whereby our tutors chose a star student from each tutor group. This could be for any reason - making someone smile, being polite, being respectful. Something that made them stand out. Lots of attributes maketh a great person and we know that character is much more important than academic success.

On that note, we also celebrated 100% attendees. It is a well known fact that students who have 100% attendance make the most progress and they also build friendships that see them through their school life. One day of absence here and there can make it difficult for them in lessons if they missed a key point from the last lesson, or they sometimes feel they miss out as friends have been chatting about the latest thing going on in their lives.

We appreciate that sometimes illness dictates our attendance, and I include myself in that, as this term I did not achieve 100% due to a sickness bug. However we must try and aim for 100% and set ourselves weekly and even daily targets. We cannot do anything about the days we have already missed but we can do our best to maintain 100% of each and every week to come. Let's give that a shot. This week Year 8 achieved 94.1% so we are steadily moving up towards that magic 100%

Those of you who read my blog will know the weather plays a big part in my daily life. It is cold now and Autumn is well and truly here. Please remind your young people that, if they don't bring a coat, at least put a pair of gloves and a hat in their bag. Warm hands and a warm head can make a big difference.

Enjoy the fireworks tonight and stay safe.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

Week 6 - Friday 15 October 2021

During tutor time this week, Year 8 students have been learning about E-safety and the importance of staying safe. Students discussed the impact of using the Internet and how it is connected to their well being. It is always important to revisit this subject in every year group as technology advances.

Football has also been a hot topic in Year 8 this week. On Monday night, our Year 8 Girls had a home draw, 2-2, and I was there to watch. It was my first ever football game believe it or not and it was very exciting to watch as they played a great game. There is still room in the squad for more players and so please join up if you are interested.

On Tuesday night, our Year 8 boys were away at South Holderness. I never travelled with them but I know that they won 4-1 and were a very happy group of lads returning back on the coach. It is great to watch the students growing in confidence and developing new friendships through the sports on offer in our school.

This week the weather has been good to us as it often rains during Hull Fair week; however it is cold on the tennis courts in the mornings. I am strongly encouraging the students to bring a coat and, if not, maybe a hat and gloves which would at least keep them a little bit warmer.

Next Thursday, will be the Portia Charity fair. This will involve the selling of cakes and sweets so all students will be able to bring money into school that day if they wish to purchase any of these sweet treats. In the afternoon there will be a colour celebration which I am told will involve the throwing of coloured powder paints. I wait in anticipation to see what is going to happen but think I may need to bring a shower cap!

I hope you have an enjoyable half term

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 4 - Friday 1 October 2021

Hello Everyone

We are now over half way through the first half term and the weather has definitely changed. However, our Year 8 students continue to arrive looking smart although a little shivery first thing in the morning. I have already found my gloves and scarf and would recommend that our young people do the same. As we spend our breaks and lunchtimes outside in the fresh air they need to bring a coat, preferably one they can get in their bags as they often don't want to carry it or lose it.

Our assembly this week revolved around celebrating European Languages Day. We are very fortunate to have a great language department in our school, as well as some bilingual staff.

Mrs Groak spoke to the students in Spanish - her second language - and Mrs Davison spoke to them in Polish, her first language. I spoke in some very limited French that I learned from school although one phrase (Bonjour mon Amies) may have come from 'Only Fools And Horses!

The aim of the assembly was to encourage our students to value languages and the importance of being able to communicate (even with a word or phrase) when they visit another country. Respect is one of our key values and there is no better way to show respect than to appreciate someone else's language and culture.

In Year 8 we expect our students to complete all their homework. This is so important as it teaches them the importance of recapping what they have learnt in the classroom. If there are any issues with completing homework they can come and see me and I can provide them with a space after school to support them with this, including the use of computers if they need them.

Miss Staveley and myself are enjoying our lunchtimes out on the school field getting to know our Year 8 students; however, this is where the hat, coat and scarf become invaluable. I do not like the cold and soon I will be looking for my thermal vest!

I am looking forward to a great year watching our young people grow and mature.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8

WEEK 2 - Friday 17 September 2021

It has been a great start for Year 8 students and a pleasure for Miss Staveley and I to meet and greet them every morning on the tennis courts along with their tutors. They all look incredibly smart in their uniforms and we have spoken to them about maintaining these very high standards throughout the whole year and beyond.

It has been a challenging two weeks for them with testing in school and settling into new routines. They have all received their new timetables and are getting to grips with increasing movement around the school very quickly.

We held our first assembly this week which revolved around all tutors saying a little bit about themselves in order that the students realise that each of their tutors - although dedicated to their profession - are also people who have a life away from teaching. It also revealed that most Year 8 tutors are dog lovers!

It is going to take Miss Staveley and myself a little while to get to know all the students in our charge; however, they know where to find us if they need us.

I am looking forward to a great year watching our young people grow and mature.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 8

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 8