



The Phoenix

Newsletter for Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Part of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust

Issue 3



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

As the school approaches the Easter break, I write to you with a summary of the last term.

- Year 7 pupils on Monday 28th January, took part in the Ryman Business Challenge at Thomas Alleyne's High School
- Kinetic Theatre, a touring theatre company, delivered a musical play geared to the National Curriculum for Science to all Key Stage 2 pupils on 1st February.
- Also in February, Year 8 pupils were invited to attend the Theatre to watch a performance of 'Noughts and Crosses'. This gave pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of the text they are studying as part of their English curriculum.
- On the 4th March, we had the privilege of welcoming Jamie Gane, a 24 year old adaptive athlete with a below-knee amputation to work with our pupils for the day. Through sharing his own story of perseverance, Jamie's visit was truly inspirational and thought provoking. The key message of the day was for all pupils is to believe that they can **overcome challenges** and see the opportunities open to them in both the world of work and sport.
- On Thursday 7th March, pupils and staff took part in World Book Day. The majority of pupils wore a favourite book inspired T-shirt. I was amazed by the thought, and artistic talent, that had gone into the designs.
- Thursday 14th March was a Truck Child Safety Day sponsored by DHL
- Friday 15th March, all Key Stage 3 pupils visited the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. We consider this opportunity to be an invaluable experience for our Year 7 and 8 pupils who hopefully come away with a fresh, new perspective on where their school subjects can lead them.
- On Friday 29th March, FORM held their annual Chocolate Bingo. This event, as previous years, was very well attended. Thank you to the organisers, helpers and to all for your generous donations.
- During the last week of this term I will be having the pleasure in accompanying, Miss Starkey, Mr Johnson, Miss Haddock and 53 KS3 pupils on a week's skiing school visit to France. We have all been working extremely hard in perfecting our skiing style and I am sure we will have some interesting stories to share upon our return!

As ever, this is only a small reflection on what has been happening during yet another busy term in school and I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents for their support. The Summer term sees another wide range of activities taking place for the pupils including: sporting events and activities for all year groups; residential outdoor education visits for Year 7 and Year 6; Year 6 end of SATs visit to Alton Towers; Year 8 pupils spending an interactive and educational day in Lichfield Cathedral; Bikeability training for Year 5 and Year 7 pupils and the Year 8 London visit.

And finally, I would like to thank Year 6 who have been working extremely hard in preparation for their SATs in May and I would urge Year 6 parents to support them in their revision over the holidays by asking them to do regular, short and focused revision slots

Have a very happy and restful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Although the majority of our pupils follow the school regulations around uniform, make-up and jewellery, we have noticed that at present there are a number of pupils who continually do not adhere to the rules.

Uniforms help to create a shared sense of identity and pride in a school and they engender a sense of discipline, purpose and self-respect. Research shows that schools with a strict uniform code often achieve better results as a consequence of the culture this creates.

I would like to remind you of our regulations and would very much appreciate your support in ensuring pupils come to school correctly dressed.

School Uniform

Trousers - for girls should be black, straight-legged with waistband (not hipsters, slouch or 'fashion style'. Skirts should be navy blue or black, knee length but NOT lycra.

Jumpers - should be navy and V necked – jumpers with the school's name embroidered can be purchased from our uniform provider

Footwear – Girls – Low heeled shoes – black or navy – NOT trainers or boots
Boys- black or navy shoes – NOT trainers or boots.

Make-up

Make-up is NOT to be worn by any pupil. If pupils arrive at school wearing any they will be instructed to wash it off immediately. This includes the wearing of nail varnish and false nails.

Jewellery

The wearing of jewellery is inappropriate in the school environment and, indeed can be dangerous in some circumstances. Pupils are requested not to wear rings or necklaces due to inherent dangers to the wearers and others. Pupils are permitted to wear studs or small sleepers but these must be removed during their Physical Education lessons. Other forms of body piercings are not permitted under any circumstances.

Hair

For practical lessons all pupils with long hair must have it tied back.

In order to ensure pupils are adhering to these rules, any pupil wearing the incorrect uniform, wearing their uniform incorrectly or wearing make-up/inappropriate jewellery, will be issued with a sanction in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

I hope you will support us with this increased focus on uniform

The Vision of Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Embracing a culture where no child is left behind, we value and respect all the children that God has out in our care.

We enrich the lives of our children and ensure that Ryecroft is a safe, happy and inspiring place, embodying the Christian values of trust, humility and perseverance.



CODE OF CONDUCT

We promote the Christian values of respect, honesty, and care for others.

Therefore one rule for all of us in school is: *“Everyone will act with courtesy and consideration to others at all times, treating them with respect and remembering that our common purpose is to learn”*

Our staff thoroughly enjoy their job and have a right to do so without fear of being threatened with verbal abuse, threats and even physical violence. This type of behaviour is unacceptable and we will not tolerate it.

Unacceptable behaviour is any behaviour which you would not like yourself. It includes shouting, swearing, banging fists and threatened or actual violence. This kind of behaviour upsets not only the staff but also our pupils and other visitors.

Thanking you for your understanding and co-operation



Phase one on the garden project is underway!

We could not have done this without the incredible generous support from JCB in helping us to move this project from concept to reality.



From design, supplying resources, use of machinery and provision of a 'ground force', we thank you.

However, this could not have been accomplished without the invaluable input of Lucy and her team of apprentices. Their perseverance and resilience throughout all of what the British weather could throw at them is commendable.

On behalf of the staff we would like to sincerely thank the FORM Committee for their commitment to the school and also thank the students, parents and school community who support their fundraising efforts. Without the organisation from the Committee and obviously the physical and monetary support from the community FORM would not exist.

FORM
Friends of Ryecroft Middle

By supporting these amazing events you have helped raise important funds for the school. Monies raised at these events helps to pay for enrichments opportunities such as Shakespeare workshops and Kinetic Theatre, of which pupils otherwise would not have access to. Additional to this there will also be a number of landscape projects around the school.

Thank You



Catering News

Ryecroft Middle School is proud to announce a new partnership with Aspens Services Limited. Aspens will join our school as the new catering provider effective from 29th April 2019.

We are all delighted by the new partnership and very excited with the range of food our students will be offered. The new caterers will be holding themed events throughout the year and all students will be informed of these prior to the events. Aspens will cater at Ryecroft Middle School events and functions so parents and carers will have the opportunity to sample the quality and diversity of food our students will receive.

Unrelated to this move but due to the increase to the national minimum wage and support staff wages, there will be a slight increase in the price of a 'traditional' school meal to **£2.30**. From Monday 29th April, all catering cheques are to be made payable to **Aspens Services Ltd** (not Staffordshire County Council).

However, in response to our request to offer a menu which is more age appropriate for our pupils, in addition to the 'traditional' school meal Aspens will be offering a range of lighter bites and products with lower price points for both mid-morning and lunch. They will also offer the option to have smaller portions i.e. half a Panini or half a portion of pasta or jacket potato. They will also offer larger portions, which often suit the older students.

A range of Lighter Bites products to purchase at **99p**, will include items such as loaded jacket potatoes; Piri-Piri chicken; and fish finger sandwiches.

To help students with limited funds a **55p** specials range has been developed. This range will include dishes such as, Tuna mayo pasta pot; Chinese chicken pot and Roasted vegetable cous-cous pot.

We will be distributing the menus as soon as they are made available.



HAPPY
EASTER

School re-opens for the Summer Term on Monday 29th April 2019