



24 November 2017

Dear Parents

World Titles for Charlie

Charlie Lynch Spence, Year 10, won two titles at the recent world kickboxing association championships in Tuscany. Charlie is now holder of *Boys Under-15 Minus 62 kg* and *Boys' Light Middleweight* world titles, after winning bouts against opponents from England, France, Denmark, The Czech Republic and Poland. Congratulations to Charlie on a most impressive achievement.



Harrier Award for Ceara

Year 8 pupil Ceara Sexton was presented with the *Under 13 Harrier Award* by Leeds City Athletics Club this week. Being named the best Under 13 athlete at one of Britain's prestige athletics clubs is a most creditable achievement. Ceara's award follows a series of stunning performances throughout the cross country season. We will be hearing more about this athlete in the years ahead!



Guest Speakers

Two guest speakers will address assemblies for pupils in Years 10 and 11 on Thursday 30 November, as part of the school's ongoing drive to promote wellbeing. The first speaker is from an organisation which supports young carers. A young carer is someone aged under 18 who looks after a parent, grandparent or sibling who may have a disability, serious illness, a mental health issue or be dealing with an alcohol, drug or substance problem. Caring for someone can be demanding at times. There is less time for school work, friends, hobbies, interests or part-time work. Young carers may take on extra household chores, administer medications or help someone to wash, to name but a few tasks. The second speaker, Sergeant Ottih Emmanuel, will tell pupils about his involvement in the British Stammering Association. Ottih will describe how he has overcome many personal obstacles to get to where he is today. He currently serves in the British Army.

School Council

Results of elections to the School Council are coming in as I write. The names of elected members to date are listed below.

School Council - Year 7: Mason Vila, Niamh Birks; Year 8: Alex Franz, Bronte McCann;

Executive School Council - Year 10: Dion Dube, Dominic Laverty, Jessica Hamilton, Jack Burke; Year 11:

Christian Tchokogoue, Molly Innes, Molly McWilliams, Lidya Berha.

Kate McDermott, Head Girl, Joseph Grindrod, Head Boy, and their deputies Ruby Joseph and Benjamin Boam are automatically part of the executive team. Results of the Year 9 count are awaited!



Safety in Issuing Medications

A number of pupils are coming to the year managers asking for paracetamol. It is school policy that staff will give out paracetamol only if the parent has previously brought it into school and we are holding it on the parent's behalf. In the interests of safety, unless the parent has brought the medication to school and given express permission for it to be issued, such requests from pupils will be refused.

Book Fair

This term's book fair is now on. It runs until Thursday 30 November, as part of our continuing drive to encourage pupils to read for pleasure. Over 200 titles are available including fantasy, thrillers, non-fiction, comedy and lots more. Prices start from £2.99. There will be opportunities for parents of Year 7 pupils to buy new books at the Tutor Evening on Tuesday 28 November. Every pupil who purchases a book will be entered into a prize draw for free books and asked to nominate books they would like to see in the library. Please support the initiative and encourage your child to read a book for pleasure.

Bus Passes

All pupils using school buses must show a *Young Person's Photocard* (half fare pass) to the driver on boarding the bus. This blue card entitles the traveller to pay half the normal fare. Service operators have informed the school that pupils without this pass will be charged full fare of £2.40 instead of the £1.20 half fare. Pupils may pay in cash or with a pre-paid *School Plus* ticket. All those travelling on a special school bus service are also required to produce a yellow boarding pass and to travel only on the school bus indicated on this pass. Failure to show the correct blue and yellow passes to drivers and inspectors may result in a refusal of access to travel on school buses. Please remind your children of the rules in order to avoid distress. It is likely that inspectors will board buses in the coming weeks to check compliance with the rules.

Shoe Box Appeal

This year's Christmas shoe box appeal is now underway in school. Pupils are being invited to support a vulnerable child, teenager or adult in Leeds this Christmas by donating either individual items or even a whole shoebox. Suggestions for inclusion are toiletry sets, hats, gloves, scarf and toys. The boxes will be given to vulnerable children, teenagers or adults in Leeds who lack some of the most basic necessities. Contents requested are toys and items to satisfy basic needs. Items of school equipment such as pens, pencils, exercise books, paper, sharpeners, erasers and solar calculators are welcome. Hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, facecloths, hairbrushes and combs are needed. The boxes may also contain clothing such as scarves, gloves, socks and underwear. Distribution will be undertaken by the St Vincent de Paul Society. Please bring items to school before Friday 15 December

Training Day

Please remember that next Monday, 27 November, is a staff training day when there will be no school for pupils. School begins again the following day at 8.55am.

Yours sincerely



P Whelan
Headteacher