

Welcome to the March edition of **Beverley Highlife**. I hope that you enjoy reading about what happened at Beverley High School in the first part of this month.

Sharon Japp, Headteacher

Message from the Headteacher

We are living through unprecedented times and I thought long and hard about whether to publish this month's edition of Beverley Highlife, however I decided that I did not want the positive achievements of our pupils in the first half of March to go publicly unacknowledged and, for a few minutes, it may take our minds off the COVID-19 pandemic with which we are all, of necessity, so preoccupied.

As I said to the staff in our final staff briefing on Friday 20 March when school closed, I feel blessed to lead this school. It takes something like this to test the very essence of us as human beings and in the most challenging times, the staff of this school have shown themselves to be an amazing group of people. So many are contributing to the staff rota in order that we can provide childcare to those who are eligible and the school has done this every day since Monday 23 March. We have had small numbers of children in school every day of the lockdown and I am extremely grateful to the skeleton staff who have enabled this to happen. I am also very proud of the staff who over the last week have become NHS Volunteers.

Thank you to the many many parents who have contacted school with messages of support and gratitude, these do help to maintain staff morale. As well as the small number of staff in school each day, all teachers are working remotely every school day giving priority to Years 10 and 12. Many support staff are also working from home, supporting the functions that we need to continue and I am grateful to them for the part they are playing.

With less than a day's notice staff whipped up leaving assemblies for Year 11 and Year 13 and from the cards and boxes of chocolates from students and the emails from parents I know that you and they were extremely grateful that staff went the extra mile to ensure that students had a memorable last day at school.

Parents have also been very supportive of the super-curriculum, there are hundreds of tasks to access and I am very grateful to Miss Butlin, who designed it last summer and to Beverley Grammar School who generously offered their super-curriculum also. On Monday morning our Year 8 and 9 girls temporarily crashed the Grammar School website in their enthusiasm to log on and complete tasks! In addition to the hundreds of super-curriculum tasks, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has put together a list of activities for children, which can be accessed at: <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities>

For now, let's celebrate life before lockdown - early March 2020...



Iceland Trip

The Geography Department led a visit to Iceland on 4 March for 4 days for 30 GCSE Geography students. We left for Manchester Airport at 3am, each girl armed to the teeth with hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes... there's never been a cleaner EasyJet plane than the one our girls spruced up to avoid coronavirus!

On arrival at Keflavik airport we were greeted by a beautifully snowy landscape - a real winter wonderland. The first day saw us visit some boiling mud pools, the bridge over 2 continents where a snowball fight revived anyone who was flagging from the early morning start, and finally a visit to a windy, wild coastal area. This was a good introduction to our amazing driver, Robert, who managed to get the coach down icy, snowy, remote roads in conditions we in the UK wouldn't even attempt on foot!



Luckily this was the worst of the weather and the rest of the trip was very cold but beautifully sunny. Day 2 involved a trip to the hot springs at the Secret Lagoon, and a trip around the famous 'Golden Circle', visiting Iceland's most famous attractions - Geysir, Gulfoss waterfall and Thingvellir National Park, where tectonic plates are pulling apart leaving a 7km chasm between North America and Europe. This is also the site of the world's first parliament and we heard how Iceland's ancient laws were made and enforced (for example in the creepy 'drowning pool'). An evening walk out in search of the elusive Northern Lights was sadly unsuccessful.

Day 3 saw a visit to the awesome 'Lava Centre' close to the famous Eyjafjallajokull volcano where we found out loads about Iceland's volcanoes and travelled along the main road in Iceland which was wiped out by a glacial flood caused by the same volcanic eruption. The same road took us east to Vik and the famous black basalt beach there. After this, there was a refreshment stop at a family run dairy farm and ice-cream shop where we ate our ice-creams right next door to the cows that helped produce it. Our final stop of the day was the impressive Skogafoss waterfall where we were treated to blue skies and a rainbow right over the falls.

Our final day involved an eagerly awaited morning souvenir shopping trip into Reykjavik, where the girls represented Beverley very impressively in the spending stakes! Our final stop was to the Perlan centre, where we enjoyed finding out about Iceland's history, walked inside a man-made glacier, and finally saw the 'Northern Lights', albeit in a specially made exhibition.



After this it was time to say goodbye to our tour guide, Anthony, who had done an excellent job of showing us the best of what Iceland has to offer, and our driver Robert who had kept us safe on tricky roads.

Each and every one of the 30 girls on the trip were brilliant. They behaved impeccably, got involved with everything enthusiastically, and were kind and thoughtful towards each other whilst having what looked like the time of their lives! What a pleasure to take such lovely young people to such a special country. We staff enjoyed it as much as they did - thank you girls, Ms Hancock, Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Chastney.

Year 9 Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 14 March, 17 Year 9 students took part in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial competition, held at Beverley Magistrates' Court. This involved taking on the role of key figures in court, including solicitors, witnesses and the legal advisor, and fighting a case against other local schools.

Although the students didn't win, they did an absolutely fantastic job and the competition was so close that the points needed to be recounted! The standard across the board was extremely high and the district judge commented that many of the participants from across the schools were equally as good as the figures they represented (solicitors etc.). Both Graham Stuart, MP for Beverley and the High Sheriff of East Yorkshire (who brought her famous sword) were present at the prize giving, as shown in the picture below.

Everyone who watched the students from Beverley High School fight their cases praised their confidence, knowledge of court procedure and attitude – they were a real credit to themselves and the school. We are very proud of all those who took part and would like to say a particular well done to Ruby Haylock, who was voted by the judges as the winning student from Beverley High School.



Year 7 Rhapsode Workshop

On Thursday 27 February, thirty one Year 7s unleashed their inner epic poet at a special Rhapsode Workshop, focusing on their storytelling and performance skills. With the help of Dr Maria Haley from the University of Leeds, students honed their retellings of the most famous trials faced by that giant of Greek myth, Hercules. Their descriptions of monstrous battles ranged from the tense and vivid to the truly bloodcurdling! Special mention to Natalia Ivan and Izzy Denton for delivering their pieces to the class with aplomb.

Spring Term Wellbeing Day

On Wednesday 11 March we had our Wellbeing Day for all year groups 7 to 11. We welcomed many visitors to our school to work with pupils. Year 7 had a workshop with the Humberside Fire and Rescue team regarding road safety. The team commented on how enthusiastic and intelligent the pupils were and it was an hour well spent to keep our pupils safe on the roads. Year 8 welcomed a very special guest, the Olympian high jumper David Smith. This afternoon was in conjunction with Sports For Heroes and it involved pupils completing circuits with the athlete and contributing in an aspirations workshop. Year 9 received sex and relationship education with our own specialised staff. The pupils had a mature attitude towards the subjects and we provided vital information on how to keep safe when in a sexual relationship. Year 10 welcomed the Fire and Rescue team and contributed in a workshop on how to be a safe passenger. It highlighted the dangers of getting into vehicles with a driver who was intoxicated. The pupils had many questions for the guests and this proved that the workshop was something that was needed at this stage of their lives. Year 10 also had the Domestic Violence Awareness team to talk to them about the signs of both physical and mental abuse within relationships and families. This was a hard-hitting workshop and the feedback from the pupils was fantastic. Year 11 had a workshop with SEED, who discussed the signs and effects of eating disorders. This is a vital workshop, we want to arm our pupils with all the information they need if they require help and support.

Along with the visitors that we welcomed, the day was jam packed with other lessons taught by our committed staff. The Year 7 dance competition was Ms Evans' personal favourite. It showcased the talents within our school and how exercise and performance can heighten mood and self-esteem. It was a pleasure to watch. It was great to see Year 11s showcasing their dance skills to inspire the younger years.

We all know the importance of these days in ensuring your child is educated in how to progress with their lives in a safe and happy manner. Knowledge is power. Thank you to all staff, visitors and pupils involved and to Ms Evans for organising the day.



CSE Assembly

Our CSE ambassadors gave a presentation to Year 12. This assembly was to raise awareness, and help students understand what CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) may look like and how to identify those who may be being exploited, alongside what they can do to support friends in school and the local community. This ran in conjunction with 'Not in Our Community' an organisation based in Hull who work with other organisations

to protect victims of exploitation and uses social media and work in schools to help raise awareness of these issues. The ambassadors did a fantastic job, it's not easy for them to stand up in front of their older peers and undertake such a presentation but they did it fabulously, under difficult circumstances.

Year 9 Academic Taster Sessions

Year 9 students from Beverley High School and Beverley Grammar School had the opportunity to take part in academic taster sessions delivered by visiting speakers from local Universities on a wide range of subjects that they may not have had the opportunity to study as part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Students could choose from an Arabic taster session, a Philosophy lecture on Transhumanism/Posthumanism, a creative writing workshop, a lecture on women in Victorian fiction, a History session on Native American Empires and a Criminology talk on the politics of new surveillance technologies. Feedback from students was extremely positive: they loved the chance to expand their thinking, knowledge and understanding beyond what they study in school and valued this chance to develop their own academic interests. We are really grateful to the academics who took time from their busy teaching schedules to enable this to happen.

Sports Report

Badminton - Regional Finals

We were so pleased that the girls this year not only became the Humberside champions in the Key Stage 3 schools' badminton competition but also came third at the Yorkshire regional round; second year in a row! The girls came up against some very tough competitors at the Yorkshire round but never gave up, they showed amazing attitude throughout all the games. Well done to the five students involved:

M Stapleton, Sophie M, Angelina H (Year 8) Jasmine G and Ebony L (Year 9)

Netball - East Riding End of Season Tournaments:

Before school closed we managed to attend two of the end of season tournaments.

Our Year 11 team got to play their last matches as a team; together they have accomplished a lot in their five years at Beverley High. Many of these girls have gone on to represent regional squads and play at high performance academies; we are sure they will never lose their love of the game and continue to play after leaving school.

The team came second in the East Riding competition, losing only one match to their main rivals - South Hunsley!

Also, well done to Lily A who has passed her first netball coaching award and is on the pathway to becoming a brilliant coach!

Year 10 - Our Year 10 team, who are showing lots of potential also came second to South Hunsley school. We look forward to them competing in the Top schools national competition next year and seeing how far they can progress.

Sport Relief

This year we did something a little different to our usual staff v sixth form sports match. The Year 10 sports captains helped to organise and run a variety of activities in which students could challenge teachers! We had everything from hula hooping to netball shooting! It was a great atmosphere and everyone enjoyed themselves, we also managed to raise lots of money for a good cause. Thanks to all the teachers who gave up their time to come down; special mentions go to Mr Smith, who we have discovered is a very skilful badminton player and Miss Shum who was unbeaten in the table tennis competition.

7W's Fundraising Bun Sale

7W used our last Wellbeing Day to hold a bun sale. Our form had considered raising £250 for a wheelchair to be constructed for a school for the physically disabled in Kenya but when we discussed this, we were concerned that that this was too big a commitment. After some discussion we decided to hold the bun sale to sponsor an Orang-utan for a year through WWF at the cost of £45 as we felt this was more achievable. We worked hard to organise the bun sale which also included the naming of a large 'Dulux' dog that had been donated to the form for fundraising. The result was amazing, we raised just over £170 on the day and so have decided to go back to plan A and to raise the final amount needed to provide the wheelchair for Kenya through The Kenya Trust supported by the Salvation Army. The wheelchair will be constructed in Kenya, providing employment for local people.

Although we all worked together on this, we were led by the particular hard work of our form captain and deputy, Poppy Cunningham and Lily Myers. The dog was named Lily and was won by a Year 9 student.

Here is a link which tells you more about the school in Kenya.

<https://magazine.thewarcry.org/stories/kenya-part-ii>

Well done 7W.



International Women's Day 2020

International Women's Day was celebrated at Beverley High School on Friday 6 March. It is a well anticipated day on the school calendar and we raise awareness on the day but also throughout the year about the global gender imbalance and also the achievement of women around the world. On the day, all lessons used the first 5-10 minutes to celebrate the success of women in that particular subject field. This way, teachers were able to inspire them about what is possible in each subject and inspire students about their own future. In addition, during the 15 minute tutor time at the start of the day, they were shown a presentation on the global gender imbalance and encouraged to share their views as part of the weekly discussion activity, Ms Gardiner also delivered assemblies on International Women's Day. We will continue to do all we can as a school to raise the necessary awareness to give our students the best possible chances in life.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for moving towards gender parity."

- International Women's Day website



FOR OVER 100 YEARS

Held every year, International Women's Day (IWD) has taken place on March 8 for over 100 years.

In 1975, IWD was adopted by the United Nations as an official world-wide celebration of women's rights and world peace.

While IWD celebrates inspirational contemporary and historical women, the day also aims to start conversations about gender equity issues.

THE MAIN AIMS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ARE:



to celebrate the achievements of women around the world



to encourage action on issues of gender equality



to empower women and girls around the world

Did you know?

- Globally, women make up just **23%** of people in national parliaments worldwide.¹
- Women, on average, earn **25-40%** less than men who do the same job.²
- Across the world, over **60%** of the people who cannot read are women.³

The International Women's Day website says that the day "belongs to all groups". People of all genders, cultures, ages, languages and religions can take part in International Women's Day. Some of the important topics that are thought about on International Women's Day are:



gender equality



girls and women in leadership



personal and family safety



poverty



access to education



empowerment

Thursday Lectures

Thursday lectures continued this half term with Professor Brad Gibson from Hull University speaking to a packed room on the subject of "Are we alone in the universe? The Search for Extra-terrestrial Life". We also heard from Dr Mark Loach who spoke about Building Nature's Robots – the biology, chemistry and physics of proteins.

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge Masterclasses

We were delighted that some of our Year 12 students were accepted onto the above masterclasses which will now be run remotely. Congratulations to the students involved.

Year 12 Tutor Time

We were pleased to welcome some guest speakers into assembly over the last few weeks. It was a pleasure to hear Anna Bennett, former 6th form student, talk about her gap year and her involvement with Voluntary Service Overseas through International Citizenship Service. We also heard from Councillor Ian Gow and Councillor Chloe Hopkins about their work on Beverley Town Council.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to former Beverley High School and Joint Sixth student Rebecca Hull who has passed her medical degree and is now officially Dr Rebecca Hull. She will begin working on wards in the Newcastle area soon as an interim resident. Well done Rebecca, you are now one of our NHS Heroes.

Now back to our current reality...

Curriculum Message from the Deputy Head

We are in unprecedented times and we have had to respond quickly to a situation which we have obviously never dealt with before. For Key Stage 3 we have taken a pragmatic approach by selecting the super curriculum as our work for the students. Our reasoning was that we know that our priority has to be Year 10 and Year 12 on a day to day basis because they have to cover work which is going to be examined in 2021. Missing potentially a term of work would have a significant effect on their grades which at the moment we assume will be awarded with no special consideration applied.

Firstly, the super curriculum provides a knowledge rich body of work which is linked to what students would cover or need to know. Having this kind of knowledge base will provide an incredible basis on which we can swiftly catch up the National Curriculum. The two booklets for Year 7 and Year 10 have around 100 hours of activities/tasks in each of them for students. In the Year 7 booklet there are 126 individual activities – some are short such as a Youtube clip of around 6-10 mins whilst others are vast such as in Art there is a video series about the world's artists that last for 40 hours or Geography where there are 11 podcasts to listen to each of 30 minutes duration. This is an ideal time for students to build a depth of knowledge that we can never cover in school time. We know that we can help our students achieve fantastic GCSE grades but we also know that when it comes to applying to top universities and employers

privately educated students sometimes seem to have a greater depth of wider knowledge that comes from this type of super-curriculum learning. Having the depth of knowledge that these tasks provide will give your child a real advantage as they move through school and beyond into the wider world.

Secondly, we are following advice from the Department of Education and other education experts about being realistic with work and this is taken from one such source:

“Maintaining 'academic standards' is not remotely possible and should not be anybody's goal. This will be an academic year of unprecedented disruption and adjustment for children and young people – but also one of huge possibilities. The learning which children should, and can, be supported to do at home is different but can be rich, rewarding and motivating. Not all learning can, or should, be done online and young people should be able to work on a range of activities, and to use their own initiative. Reading, exploring, playing and creating will need to move to the centre. Reading, staying active and creative activities are important because they are therapeutic and help young people make sense of the anxiety they feel and the adjustments they are facing”

We believe the Super Curriculum brings the variety needed as identified above.

Thirdly, we also are mindful about being realistic, with families changed circumstances including our own staff. Expecting students to complete 5 hours of school work each day and have that looked at by staff is simply not feasible. Just having enough screens in a household can be one barrier as an example. Equally, expecting teachers to set work daily is not sustainable – some are already ill or have family members who are ill – being able to deal with that is an ever-changing circumstance for which we would not be able to plan.

However, we are also mindful that the amount of work in the super curriculum is finite and around 4-8 weeks' worth. (depending on how much is done each day) we are looking ahead and planning work that will keep students going through a longer period of time in May/June/July should it be needed. Work would not be marked but would be provided to further build knowledge. One absolute piece of advice we can give – you can never read or listen to enough books. Research from across the world has one consistent message – having a wide-ranging vocabulary is a key to academic success. Please encourage your child to read or listen to books on Audible – it will literally be life changing if they can build their vocabulary. A more detailed letter and discussion about which books to read can be found on our website - <https://www.beverleyhigh.net/parents/tutor-led-reading-in-form-time>

Finally, take care and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you when this is all over. In the mean-time please continue to follow the government advice

