



# Pinetree Matters

RESPECT

HONESTY

TRUST

KINDNESS

## Message from our Head of School.

This term has been shorter and although this often sounds good in principle it means that you have the same number of tasks to do but in a smaller timeframe. With this in mind I'm sure a break will both be well deserved but also important for pupils and staff to recharge the batteries.

This term has continued to see the same array of trips, events and activities as ever. It is real credit to ALL members of staff that do work tirelessly to ensure pupils have the best offer possible. The hectic nature of schooling can sometimes be difficult for many of our pupils, and many find the daily routine of school itself to be difficult. With this in mind I have been really impressed by the number of pupils who have made progress with both their learning and behaviour this term and I want to congratulate those doing well. The first step on that ladder is attendance and it has been great to see so many pupils improving their attendance from when they started.

Like all terms, it has been great to see our pupils make progress both academically and socially and some of progress being made is impressive. Likewise, it has been great to meet our new students, all of whom have fitted in well into the school. This term one of my highlights is when I see the pupils either playing nicely together or laughing with each other as this should be encouraged especially in a world where conflicts seem to be more prevalent.

Summer term also marks the start of exams, with the Year 11 already having started their practical exams. So far, these pupils have achieved brilliantly, and it has been great to see them cherish their own success. Likewise, I have been pleased to see other pupils take an interest in exam pieces and congratulate the pupils too.

The great joy about the Easter Holidays is the sun (hopefully) starts to shine again and we are more able to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. So often we take our family and friends for granted, so I hope we all spend some quality time with them over the festive period whilst remembering to go easy on the chocolate and egg hunting.

From everyone at the Pinetree School, a very Happy Easter

## Staff News

As we approach the end term, I want to personally thank all the staff for their ongoing efforts. We have said goodbye to Miss Phillips and Miss Langley this term. But we have said hello to some new additions. Miss Hurst, Miss Coote and Mr Henry have all joined us this term, and we thank them for their commitment already shown.

## School Community News

You may be aware that we recently set up a school ASC (Academy Stakeholder committee). This is used to support the school in making school an enjoyable environment for pupils and ensure they make progress. This has already had impact on the school community, talking to pupils and staff and supporting the school to achieve its wider outcomes. We are always looking for new members to join. If this is something you are interested in please get in touch.

## Dates for the Diary

### Term Dates:

School opens: 21 April

4<sup>th</sup> May – School Closed – May Day Holiday

School closes 22 May

Half term: 25-29 May

School opens: 1 June

Schools Closes: 17 July

Summer Holidays: 20 July – 3<sup>rd</sup> September

### School Events:

23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April DofE residential trip

13<sup>th</sup> May – Year 9 Option Evening

15<sup>th</sup> May Theme Day: Build an Enterprise

19<sup>th</sup> June: Pinetree Summer Fayre

24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June: Norfolk Show

27<sup>th</sup> June Theme Day: Using technology

29<sup>th</sup> June – Yr 10 Mock Exams

30<sup>th</sup> June Celebration Event

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Sport Day

10<sup>th</sup> July Careers Day

## Attendance

Our school attendance target is 95%. The overall attendance so far this year is 76.40% with 12.81% authorised absences. This makes a total of 89.21%.

Thank you to all those families who are working with us to prioritise their child's learning. We appreciate your working with us to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

Well, done to Year 8, which has the highest attendance this term at 90.09%!

## HOUSE POINTS SYSTEM

This term we have made a big change to the house point system to make it more achievable for all houses to have a chance of winning the end of term trip. Pupils voiced during school council meetings that it wasn't always fair as some house groups had more members than others. For this reason we are now working out the winning house using the average of points earned to the number of pupils in the group. This results in a fairer chance of achieving the big trip at the end of the term. This is to encourage our pupils to not only follow our school values but to also work as a team to earn bigger rewards. It's been really pleasing to see how invested the pupils have been, with them all trying to earn as many house points as they can each week. The cheering and support from the whole school as each weekly winner is announced has been phenomenal with everyone being genuinely pleased for the winner.

Our Termly winners are:

### Spring Term Winners:

Winning House with 665 points and an average of 128 points is Red House

Highest Earning Boy with 220 points is Noah H For Yellow House

Highest Earning Girl with 202 Points is Renesme B for Red House!



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## THEME BASED LEARNING DAYS

Our latest theme day has focused on healthy lifestyles and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Pupils looked into different types of health including physical and mental wellbeing. Pupils learned about all different parts of a healthy lifestyle from staying active in PE to knowing how to make healthy alternatives in the kitchen. The other parts of focus for healthy lifestyle were understanding the sugar content in certain drinks especially in those that are aimed at children. In the kitchen pupils learned alternatives to keep things healthier using different ingredients and making healthy choices to everyday meals. Pupils really enjoyed learning about the ingredients of some of their favourite foods and swaps they could make. In PE pupils learned and participated in different activities which would keep them participating in sport beyond school. Pupils also learned about the importance of mental wellbeing and strategies to support their mental wellbeing with reading linked to stress. Pupils completed a quiz to see who had the best knowledge of healthy lifestyles.



Our latest theme day was the same day as Red Nose Day, so we themed it around this. The pupils all looked excellent in their non-school uniform and a special shout out for those sporting a mighty Manchester United top. Pupils had different fun activities to take part in around Red Nose Day. Pupils in the kitchen made rice crispy cakes and some of these were sold at break and lunch to support the fundraising efforts.

Pupils had a taskmaster activity around working together. Pupils had to complete certain tasks, including collecting different items and working as a team to complete the challenges. The pupils really got into the game and were having a lot of controlled fun but most pleasing of all was seeing them all work together.

There was a Red Nose Day quiz that needed to be completed and pupils had to figure out an array of different questions, riddles and challenges. The one that seemed to stump most was 'what has a Bottom at the Top'? The quiz winner was TJ in Yr 9. The final task was a pin the nose on the donkey activity. We have some pupils who are very talented at finding this blindfolded. The overall Winner was ON in Yr 7.





## Events and trips

As part of both our pathway PE programme and continuing to find ways to improve our pupil's wellbeing, pupils were invited to visit a local gym. This was both give a participation experience but also to show a different career avenue from studying PE further. Pupils in Yr 10 and Yr 11 alongside a couple of others got shown around the gym before making the most of the different pieces of equipment. Pupils completed various tasks on both endurance machines and strength apparatus. The pupils behaved wonderfully and really enjoyed to the experience and are keen to go again.



As part of our resilience unit in lifeskills pupils had a chance again this term to attend the Playground. The playground is an obstacle course and has an array of different obstacles and challenges for the pupils to get over. The pupils often have to work as part of a team to support each other. After the success of the last group pupils were really looking forward to going although there was some who were unsure. Despite this the pupils soon got stuck in and with some team spirit and encouragement from others everyone completed the course, although there were a few falls and trips into the water along the way. Generally the pupils had a brilliant time and returned to school extremely tired after having put so much into their day. The pupils gave a brilliant account of the school and were all a real credit to themselves as well. As you'll see from the pictures, the pupils had lots of fun!!



As part of the future aspirational, all pupils in KS4 have the chance to experience colleges, careers and plan for their post 16 destination. Part of this has involved a trip to the Norfolk Skills Fayre. Pupils attended alongside other schools to see what they could do when they leave school. Pupils met with prospective colleges, employers and careers advisors to discuss plans. Pupils approached colleges to identify courses and see what might interest them. Likewise, they had the chance to complete some of the activities both employers and colleges were offering such as bricklaying challenges, science experiments and problem-solving tasks. Overall the pupils had a great time and represented the school really well.



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## Learning in Focus

World Book Day is now celebrated annually by pupils across the country to learn about a variety of books and to promote reading across the school. All week in the lead up to world book day different members of staff brought in some of their favourite books. These were then shared with the pupils during the schools reading lesson. A variety of genres and books were read to pupils from Black Beauty to a story about boxing. The pupils enjoyed broadening their horizons in reading and the chance to sample different books. On World Book Day itself pupils had the chance to take part in a book themed scavenger hunt and earned points by answering the clues to figure out the famous book. All tried really hard with the winner being TJ and YS in Yr 9

We have seen an array of different trips go out this term ranging from curriculum trips, life skills activities and reward trips. After much deliberation Yellow house decided upon a trip to High Lodge for being the top house last term. In life skills pupils have been to Cherry Tree Farm to see an array of animals and were excellent despite the weather not being kind. In communication life skills group pupils went to Norwich Market to experience buying items and trying to get the best possible price. Pupils also went hiking around Barnham common in preparation for The Duke of Edinburgh award which takes place after Easter. There was also a trip into Thetford Town for those pupils who hit 75% credits for the half termly reward trip this time to McDonalds. This week there has also been a trip as part of the FT survival theme to Bidwell Centre to make a campfire, hot dogs and smores.



Although next term officially marks the start of the exam season, pupils in Yr 10 and 11 have been starting and completing practical exams. This has included food Technology where 7 pupils completed BTEC Home Cooking, 4 completing Level and 2 with level 1. Below are some of these meals. Well, Done to those pupils.

The return after Easter will mark the start of the exam season. As the Yr 11s approach the end of their time in school, they are beginning to prepare themselves for the upcoming exams. As you can imagine they are worried about these and thinking about life after school. When we return, we ask all parents to prepare pupils for changes to accommodate the exams and I'm sure you'll all join us in wishing the year 11s the best of luck.

