



### Well done & Thankyou

The senior Students organised a Valentines Bake Sale on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February and £150 was raised for school's chosen charities.

Thankyou to everyone who sent baking in and all those that bought the delicious items!



### Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

Throughout this newsletter you will see examples of some of our core values of respect and kindness being lived out within and beyond our school community.

Staff have worked incredibly hard this half term in challenging circumstances, covering additional lessons for each other, taking on additional planning and supporting each other to ensure that we can continue to support our students to be the best they can possibly be. It was such a wonderful surprise for every member of staff this week to receive a personal message of thanks or gratitude from at least one student. They are heartfelt and sometimes hilarious messages. They have been a fantastic reminder of why we are all so lucky to be part of such a fantastic whole school team.

The messages have been collated in a book called 'You Are The One' and this will serve as a permanent reminder of the kindness of our community. Many thanks to Ms Walker for working with students to organise this wonderful act of kindness. Ms Walker says: 'We can choose to be anything and we have chosen to be kind. Thank you to every student who chose kindness in writing these special words.'

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

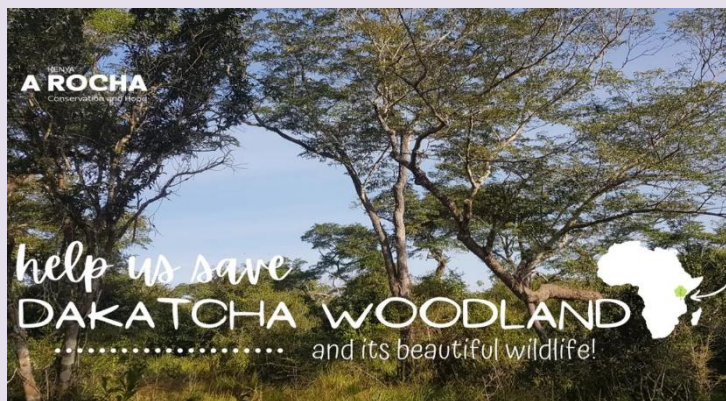
**Wherever there  
is a human  
being, there is an  
opportunity for a  
kindness.**

—LUCIUS ANNAEUS SENECA

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Sam for his fund raising and kindness. On his 13th birthday he chose to donate his hair to The Princess Trust charity which makes wigs for child cancer patients. He raised nearly £400. His family are very proud of him. Well done Sam.





Dakatcha Woodland is an internationally recognised Important Bird Area (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) with many endangered species in urgent need of protection. This leafy wilderness is threatened by illegal charcoal production, uncontrolled farming and other unsustainable development. Without protection it is just a matter of time before it goes up in smoke. Please see the following link for more information.

<https://www.arochoa.or.ke/projects/dakatcha-woodland/>

As a part of our school tree planting project, you may also recall that many parents and students donated £5 to sponsor each tree that they planted. The accumulated funds from this were combined with funds collected by Rossett Acre Primary School to give a total value of £1158.48. The funds were used to purchase around 4 acres of Dakatcha Woodland. This package of land was then added to other land that had been purchased in order to establish a nature reserve where the Woodland will be protected and local communities taught how to exploit its resources in a sustainable manner. By purchasing this woodland, we feel that the two school communities have again contributed to the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity.

We received the following message from the charity organising the purchase of woodland:

*"Thank you so much for Nidderdale High School's recent gift of £1158.48 to support the conservation and purchase of land in Dakatcha Woodlands. With COVID-19 hitting the local economy hard and people losing their jobs, the pace of forest destruction has picked up, making the situation now quite urgent. Your support will help AROCHA Kenya expand the existing reserve, providing further protection for the Sokoke Scops Owl and so many other precious inhabitants of the forest. I do hope you are able to visit soon and see this amazing work for yourselves. In the meantime, thank you again for your help in enabling it to happen."*

North Yorkshire Healthy Schools Programme have asked us to share this leaflet with you regarding Packed Lunches. [Click here.](#)

## Ready Respectful and Safe

The vast majority of our school community continue to be ready, respectful and safe in school every single day. So far this half term we have awarded 26 746 positive points on Classcharts and since the start of the academic year, 94% of all points of Classcharts have been positive. 80% of our students have been specifically recognised for their kindness.

After half term we will be working with all students through form time, assemblies and other activities to reflect on what more we can do to embed a culture of respect: for ourselves, for each other and for our environment.

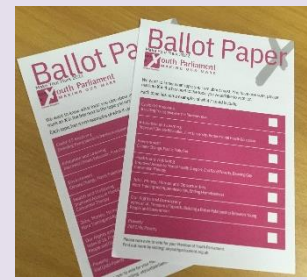
Being ready means arriving on time, wearing full uniform and remembering all equipment and homework. Again, after half term we will have some focused reviews of the different aspects of readiness. To ensure that all students are able to meet this expectation, we would really appreciate parental support. Please review uniform and stationery and purchase any items requiring replacement over half term. As the weather (hopefully) continues to improve, we will need to insist that hooded tops are not worn in school. Students will continue to be permitted to wear a plain black jumper under their blazer **not instead** of a blazer.

Keeping safe is not just about being physically safe, it also about staying safe online. Please take the opportunity over half term to review your child's mobile devices with them - check messages, camera roll and suitability of apps to make sure your child is making safe and respectful choices.

## Youth Parliament Elections

On Thursday all students had the opportunity to be involved in the democratic process of voting in the Youth Parliament UK elections.

Students were able to read statements from the each of the North Yorkshire candidates before casting their votes at the ballot box in our Polling Station. Many thanks to Mrs Ashton and the senior student team for organising this event and counting the votes cast.





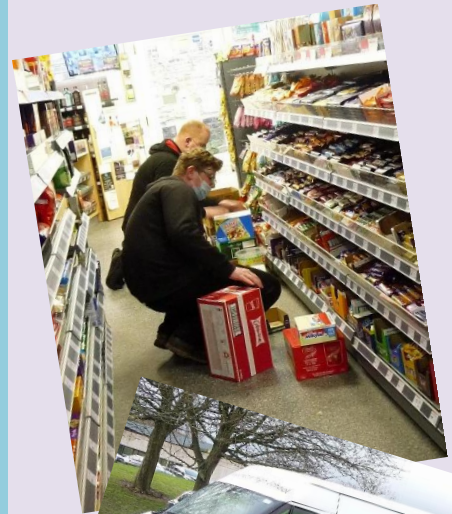
## NiddVenture News

One very exciting bit of NiddVenture news we have to report from the last fortnight is the launching of our Primary School Outdoor Education Project. For the last two Thursdays we have taken St Cuthbert's year 5 pupils on some outdoor adventures to Brimham Rocks and Fishpond Woods. I have been very ably assisted on these days by a Year 10 NiddVenture student who has demonstrated great empathy, respect, kindness, patience and willingness to step outside of his comfort zone. Well done and thank you Ryan!

The purpose of the primary school project is to build stronger relationships between Nidd High and our local primary schools and provide quality outdoor education for all the young people who've missed out on such opportunities over the last few Covid interrupted years. Hopefully this results in increased confidence, social skills, resilience, appreciation of the natural environment and greater physical & mental wellbeing for all participants. It is also hoped that it gives the Nidd High students who accompany me the opportunity to have some real responsibility, build their own confidence & people skills and experience the role of a trainee outdoor instructor. Hopefully this will continue to be a winning situation for all involved.

We are very keen on instilling a culture of respect and appreciation for what we have amongst our Niddventure students and are continually emphasising how fortunate we are as a school to have the resources that we do. Students have been involved in maintenance & cleaning tasks around school in the last fortnight to help teach respect for our equipment and the value of taking pride in completing jobs to a high standard.

We are continuing to help Spar Pateley Bridge which is enabling NiddVenture students to gain confidence & experience of the work place in an incredibly supportive and tolerant environment. I can't speak highly enough of the Chandler family's continuing kindness and understanding of what we're trying to achieve through NiddVenture. Thank you all!



## Tree planting Project

You may recall that students at Nidderdale High School planted 105 trees on the school grounds during the academic year 2020-2021. The trees were planted on the bank behind the school sports fields and seem to be flourishing. The tree package was supplied by the Woodland Trust and is a mix of trees designed to encourage and sustain wildlife. The tree mix included Oak, Rowan, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel and Silver Birch. The idea was that the planting represented direct action by the school and students in the fight against climate change and loss of biodiversity.

In order to take further action against climate change, we are planning a new tree planting session at Low Riggs Farm near Middlesmoor. The Hattans, who run the farm, are hoping to create a woodland with 3000 trees at Low Riggs. They have invited us to be involved in the planting and we would like to extend that invitation to parents, students and other interested members of the Nidderdale Community. We hope that the planting session will be a fun activity in a beautiful part of Nidderdale. Further details can be found on the poster attached. If you plan to join us please let us know by calling the school 01423 711246.

Dr Matt Binding