

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

It has been a busy couple of weeks since our last Nidd News.

As Covid restrictions lift, we have returned to year group assemblies, staff have been undertaking training and delivering training and support to other schools and more sports fixtures have taken place. As news of our NiddVenture curriculum and Flourish programme has spread further we have been having lots of interesting conversations about where we may go next to provide more support to our students and the community.

We have continued to face challenges with higher than usual absence rates for our staff and students. We have had to dig deep into our reserves of resilience to ensure that we keep providing high quality education, care and support as well as developing new opportunities for our students.

Our Year 9 Geology students have already benefited from their NiddVenture outdoor learning opportunities and after the half term break, Team Maths will be deepening their understanding of their classroom studies with some outdoor learning including hill walking and orienteering.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

Key Stage 4 News

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week, please follow the link to read a letter from the DfE. Alex Burghart, Minister for Skills, has written to parents about the opportunities and benefits apprenticeships can bring to young people. Click [here](#) to read his letter.

On 7th February exam boards will be releasing further information about GCSE exams in May / June 2022 and making the 'early release' information and materials available. Staff in school will share the relevant information with students and will use the updates to plan revision and further preparation activities for students in Year 11. We will provide further information to parents when we have it.

Year 9 students have begun their preparation for transition to Key Stage 4 by starting the options process. All parents have had the opportunity to speak to subject teachers at Parents' Evening this week. Students will have individual meetings to discuss their option choices before the end of this half term. The option choice form will be made available in week commencing 14th February and will need to be returned after half term.

Reminders

Energy drinks are not allowed in school at any time. There is a lot of evidence pointing to a range of health concerns for children consuming energy drinks. It is not advisable for young people to start their day with these drinks. Breakfast club is available in school every day, serving hot and cold drinks and breakfast food items.

Aerosols are not allowed in school at any time. Please ensure that your child has roll on deodorant for use after PE, if this is required. Aerosols are not permitted in school as they can cause issues for students and staff with asthma and other breathing difficulties. Aerosol spray in enclosed spaces can affect the sensors in the fire alarm system.

Uniform - students are permitted to wear a plain black jumper with their blazer. Hoodies should not be worn in school. Please contact school if you have difficulty purchasing any uniform items and we can give support. The school has a supply of nearly new uniform items for sale or loan.

NiddVenture News

Year 10 Niddventure students spent a sunny day in Hackfall Woods this week honing their Bushcraft skills. These skills have really progressed in the four months we have been working with this group and they are now proficient in preparing, setting & lighting their own fires. They have also developed the knowledge of how to use a Kelly Kettle to make hot drinks and how to safely cook over a fire. We have really noticed the impact the development of these skills has had on some students confidence and hopefully this new found self-belief will now transfer into other aspects of school life.

Our school bikes continue to be used heavily for Niddventure mountain biking sessions, Flourish and as an environmentally friendly mode of transport for our community delivery service. The Spar Friday grocery delivery to the elderly and vulnerable is now done entirely by bike. This involves a significant physical effort from the students involved and their determination & resilience to get up those hills continues to impress me!

A core of students have consistently been attending our after school bike skills club and are really progressing in their bike maintenance skills due to their willingness to listen, have a go and the way they help & support each other. Your hard work maintaining our school bikes, as well as your own, is much appreciated. Thank you & you are a pleasure to teach!

Miss Tuffs



February Half Term Break

Half term break is w/c 21 February to 25 February.

All other Term Dates can be found on the school website

<http://nidderdale.n-yorks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Academic-Year-term-dates-and-INSET-1.pdf>

Year 8 – Native Americans

Mrs Witherwick's year 8 class have been working hard learning about the Native Americans. As part of their study, they were challenged to create a tribute to the Native Americans for homework. Please see some of their fantastic creations which exemplify the empathy, understanding and commitment they have demonstrated in completing their projects.

