

Dear Parent/Carer

With the Autumn term coming to a close and Christmas fast approaching it is a perfect time to share all the good tidings from our academy and keep you up to date with the array of fantastic things that have been happening.

Site: The huge building works that have been ongoing since June are nearly completed. The hoardings in the hall have finally come down and structural work is continuing apace so that we will see the main hall back in operation next term. There are plans for the hall's redecoration but these will be later in the year. Our design technology rooms are back in action and it is fantastic to see the developments in this area. Two of the technology rooms have been repurposed to create a superb facility for music and drama. We are also in the process of creating a new classroom for art. This will ensure creative arts have an improved space within the school. The Technology area also houses a new toilet block that should be open to students next term. This will allow us to close another toilet block and refurbish more toilets. Something that has long been needed in the school.

Examinations: Our mock examinations are already underway and continue after the holidays. Assemblies on revision techniques will support students but your guidance is as ever, greatly appreciated.

Charity: Working with Student Voice, Mr Neary has led the drive on charity fundraising this year. Our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14th December was not only greatly enjoyed, along with the Christmas lunch, but also raised a magnificent £473 for Save the Children! Thank you to our great catering team for a delicious meal and to our senior leaders who helped serve the festive fayre to our students. A special mention goes to Sabih Mahmood, in Y12, who led the Movember campaign keeping a moustache for the whole month to raise funds for the Movember Foundation, which promotes awareness of men's health issues including male cancers and mental health.

Pledges & Duke of Edinburgh: Students continue to be inspired by the pledges programme and more Gold Pledges have been achieved this term by S. Normanton, J. Harrop, S. Marriot, L. Robson, L. Brown, E. Adinall, J. Gorst, M. McCormick, A. Patchett-McCrea, I. Caglar and A. Woolnough. Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards have been achieved by 29 students. Well Done!

Sixth Form News: We have welcomed lots of former students back to 6th form as they approach the end of their first term at University. Our alumni students have attended our guidance programme to share their experiences and explain how the support they received at Easingwold helped them on their University journey. They have inspired our students to aim high and apply. Our 6th Form Open Evening and Taster Day offered Y11 students the chance to sample lots of new subjects experiencing A-level style lessons, listening to careers talks and much more.

Sporting news: Our Y7 girls and Y7 boys 5 aside football tournament at Northallerton on Tuesday 18th December saw great performances from J. Ingram who scored 2 goals and received player of the tournament. R Walker-Pickard our goal keeper saved 3 penalties and received player of the tournament. Both teams played exceptionally well. On Thursday 6th December we attended the Hambleton and Richmond area cross country trials at Northallerton. The following students qualified to represent Hambleton and Richmond at the North Yorkshire championships in Whitby: Y7 E. Harker, Y7 R. Walker Pickard, Y9 L. Courtney, Y9 J. Bratley and Y9 W. Duffield. On Monday 10th December our Y7 boys won the Hambleton and Richmond area basketball rally at Thirsk with a standout performance from L. Rawston. They now progress to the North Yorkshire finals on the 18th of March. Miss Robson selected 7 students to attend the area netball trials at Stokesley School, despite the large numbers and extremely high standard, L. Brown Y9 and K. Darley Y9 were selected to form part of the Hambleton and Richmond area netball team. We had a team of 3 compete at the equestrian championships in Keysoe in November and C. York, K. Cooper and H. Clayden won their class! A. Holmes-Elleker was

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A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

selected in October to train and compete for the England Karate squad. Currently a Brown Double-White Belt she will compete all over the world. What an achievement! Well done to all students who are engaged in sport both inside and out of the academy and enjoying the increasing number of sporting opportunities the academy is providing. This is an area we wish to continue to enhance in the coming months.

Creative Arts: Our choir have been very busy taking part in community events including Light up A Life Service and the Crib Service in Easingwold Market Place, the Galtres Centre Christmas Fair, and will still be singing on Saturday at Ampleforth Christmas Market! Our hardworking and talented Y13 A-Level Drama students shared their performances which were very well received by the audience of friends and family members. Our Winter Concert will take place on 7th February in the reopened main hall – tickets will be on sale after Christmas £3/£2 - all welcome!

Staff: This term we say farewell to Mr Goodwin in science, Mr Nicholson in design technology and Mrs Thacker in ICT. We also say goodbye to our lead science technician Mrs Dickens we wish her well in her retirement and hope to see her back offering training to science technicians across our Trust. Thank you to all for their service and best wishes for the future. In January we welcome Mr Price, our new Head of Design Technology and to Mr Smith, our new Head of Computer Science. This half term we also welcomed Mr Wilkinson our new DT Technician and Ms Eaglen and Ms James our new teaching assistants. We wish Mr Willan, in maths, a speedy recovery – you are much missed!

Careers: Y10 students have enjoyed 2 sessions on the careers education Build My Skills Programme. We have received great feedback from students on the work of our Careers Inc. careers officer.

Significant Events: The 100 Year Armistice Day was commemorated with a poignant observance of the two minutes silence on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday. H. Butcher played the last post and students made poppies in their VMG time which were displayed around the memorial to Matthew Hatton, former Easingwold School student who was killed in action in 2002. Y12 students attended Outwood Academy Valley's peer mentoring training, a scheme that has been introduced at Easingwold this week. Our new Student Voice Committee has been formed with R. Hall as Prime Minister and all cabinet positions filled.

Friends of Easingwold School: We would like to offer special thanks to FOES who have gifted £40,000 towards the development of the all-weather football pitch. This is a very generous donation that will support the development of the sporting facilities that can benefit all students and the Easingwold community. It will bring new facilities for Easingwold Town Football club and activities like walking football to the community. Thank you it is very much appreciated!

We hope this gives a flavour of Easingwold life. Thanks to our fantastic staff, who show huge commitment in driving change and continued improvement across the school. They have recently run a competition on the best learning displays, resulting in a wealth of superb learning resources springing up across every department. Well done Mrs Amess, who took the prize for best display with her Christmas Carol interactive learning display. Well done to our students whose curiosity and engagement fills the school.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support. It is greatly appreciated. We wish you all a relaxing and safe festive season and look forward to welcoming our students back to 2019 on Monday 7th January.



Lynn James
Executive Principal



Will Pratt
Associate Principal