

Brilliance Club Launch – You are awesome.



On Wednesday we launched our Brilliance Club with pupils and parents. New this year for pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 identified by staff as able, gifted or talented its intent is to encourage and develop the characteristics of 'outstanding individuals'.

Over the year pupils will have visits from guest speakers sharing their collective wisdom and 'hopefully' inspiring pupils to greatness. The programme focuses on **Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative** and **Communication** and includes presentations from visiting professionals. I shall be looking forward to my input on leadership in the Spring.

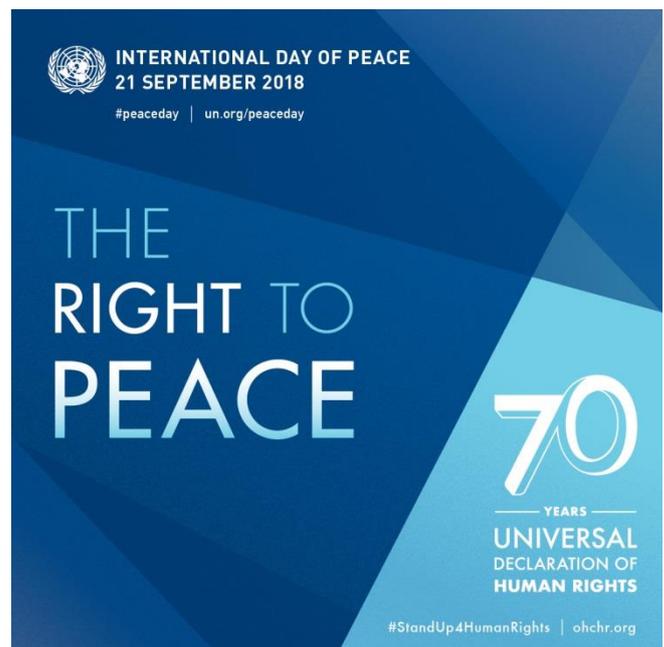
Thanks to Mrs Middlehurst-Jones for a wonderful presentation and to Millie and Sophie in the Sixth Form for their contributions. More information will follow as a regular feature of this Newsletter. We hope to share what we are doing across the academy for all children.

DofE - Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Well done to those of you already signed up for 2018-19. And thanks to Abby Perry in the Sixth Form for speaking to pupils in assembly.



Collective Worship - International Day of Peace



"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Romans 12:18

This week's theme for the week is Peace as we mark international day of peace today (Friday 21st September 2018) and the 70th Anniversary of the

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. In assembly this week we looked at the life of one young person caught up in a war zone and the extent of war and conflict in the world. Thank you to Mrs Moore for the assembly and a confident presentation from Hope Rivers and Olivia Hatchett-Parsons in Year 11.

Next week our theme is a Sense of Hope. Reverend Steve Hawkes will be joining us for our assembly on Tuesday. We look forward to it!

Year 6 Day

A fabulous 'buzzing' day of Science and Technology with pupils from across Salisbury in Year 6. We hope you enjoyed the day, learnt something and had fun.



Charity – In the service of others

Please support Spire FM's 'Bring a pound to work day' - Friday 28th September 2018. Non- school uniform day across the MAGNA Learning Partnership.



Attendance Matters

It is almost a year since our OfSTED inspection and our one development point was to further improve school attendance. Well we did last year and I want to ask for your support in continuing this trend as **we cannot do this on our own.** With this in mind I have included some attendance information you might find interesting and useful.

Good Attendance = Exam Success

You will not be surprised to hear that your child's chances of exam success are absolutely linked to their attendance to school. Many parents believe that attendance of 90% is good, surely getting 90% in anything is high, a test maybe, but if you look at 90% attendance spread over 10 years – **that's 1 year of schooling missed up until the age of 16.**

Attendance (%)	Number of days absent from school
98	4 days
95	10 days = 2 weeks
90	20 days = 4 weeks
85	30 days = 6 weeks
80	40 days = 8 weeks

We have analysed the impact of attendance on pupils chances of exam success.

Your child's chance of achieving a Grade 4 or better at GCSE:

- With 95% attendance = 80% chance
- With 94% attendance = 76% chance
- With 93% attendance = 65% chance
- With 92% attendance = 53% chance
- With 91% attendance = 44% chance



The average attendance at Secondary schools nationally is about 95%. 95% is deemed by many schools, including ours, to be good attendance. Approximately 60% of our pupils fall into the above 95% attendance bracket and will statistically have the best chance at acing their exam results.

Do you know your child's attendance?

You can call Mrs Leyland our Attendance Officer at any time to get this information. You can also find your child's most recent attendance published in their last school report. It is often a surprise to parents to find their child's attendance is below 90%. Our SAM Meetings (School Attendance Meetings) are opportunities to discuss poor attendance and how we can work together to 'fix' the problem.

Persistently Absent

The government highlights any pupil with attendance below 90% as a **persistent absent pupil**, rightly so if you consider:

- 90% attendance = $\frac{1}{2}$ a day missed every week.
- 90% attendance over 1 year = 4 missed weeks.
- 90% attendance over 5 years = $\frac{1}{2}$ a year missed.

This information is collected annually by the government. When I download pupil's information from the school's information data

base, these concerns are flagged for pupils at risk of underperforming in their GCSE examinations.

One day's absence here and there may not appear to be much, but if you look at this in hours that's 5 hours of learning time lost per day. These hours can quickly add up and before you know it that are big gaps in your child's learning.

Attendance Tips For Parents

Let children know that good attendance is important:

1. Attendance is a parent and pupil responsibility. Let your child know that attending school daily is important.
2. Do not provide inappropriate excuses for your child to miss school. Do not let them take time off from school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
3. Make a contract with your child to improve his/her attendance. Reward positive improvements.
4. Do not let your child persuade you into making an excuse for him/her. Don't give up. Reward good attendance.

Establish a Routine:

1. Set a regular bedtime schedule. Age should be a factor. Teenagers need at least 8-10 hours of sleep a night.
2. Avoid computers, computer games or phones late into the evening which can over-stimulate the brain. **(FORTNITE is not for every night)**
3. Make sure homework is done on time. Children can be apprehensive if homework is due in and has not been completed or if they are worried about missing deadlines.

Take care of their physical and emotional wellbeing:

1. Think carefully about your child's diet. Fruit and vegetables are the best way to maintain good physical health and therefore attendance to school.
2. Drink lots of water, avoid fizzy drinks.
3. Exercise is vital for both physical and mental wellbeing. Pupils who are more physically active attend better.