WILLIAM HOWARD SCHOOL

20 October 2023

SPOTLIGHT on YEAR 8

Dear Parents

Mrs Jones and I have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the Year 8 students back to William Howard School. It has been great to once again see the corridors filled with smiling students and hear the buzz of conversations fill the Common Room each break.

Year 8 have made a positive start to the new academic year taking every opportunity provided by the school. The uptake within the year group for extracurricular activities is fantastic with engagement growing day by day. Mrs Jones and I are proud to lead the Year 8 students and look forward to another positive academic year.

I would like to take this time to share with you some outstanding achievements and opportunities we have had in the year group during this term.

Academic Excellence

English

Students have been working hard this term studying various novels, learning how to interpret writers' hidden messages along with learning how to use creative writing techniques.

The following students have made a fantastic start to English in Year 8. The students below demonstrate many of the school's core values in each and every lesson: **Ava Mair – Will Jones – Dan Shepard – Bryony Wilson**

Maths

In Maths students have been focussing on various different topics such as ratios, scales, proportions, and multiplications. The following students have shown dedication, commitment and a real desire to improve key mathematic skills: **Heidi Benson – Riley Morley**

History

All things Tudor in History for Year 8. Students have been learning all about the power balance within the Tudor period along with the conflict and tensions that existed during the Tudors' reign. The students below have impressed on many different levels, engaging in work and displaying many of the school's core values: **Jessica Ostle – Keli Smith – Heidi Benson – Rose Elizabeth Armstrong – Oliver Bridges – Jake Beattie**

Drama

Working on devising using a stimulus of a door. Creating freeze frames, thought tracks and improvisation to create a piece of theatre. The students named below have gone above and beyond in the application of their learning and have seriously impressed the Drama department: **Ralph Hogg – Millie Hamilton – Penny Hodgson - Cerys Mason Heymann – Georgia Beattie**

PE

Students have been exposed to various different sports this half term, focusing on the cognitive aspects of sport, the application of technique in competitive situations and the benefits of exercise as a whole. The following students have shown great responsibility when learning and are a real asset to the PE department:
Tom Armstrong – Luke Dodd – Max Holden – Frankie Nelson – Kuba Rozalski – Paloma O'Connor – Hattie Wheatcroft – Ameera Hussain

Drama workshop

Year 8 students were thrilled to be part of an amazing workshop with ex-students and now professional directors/writers Maya and Rae. Students were challenged throughout the session learning about ways to create different characters! Well done to those who took part – a great example of one of the many opportunities offered to WHS students.

Birdoswald Trip

Year 8 students who have shown a keen interest in history and archaeology were able to visit the Roman fort of Birdoswald. Pupils took part in various learning walks, interactive activities and even managed to get their hands on a few Roman artefacts! A professional photographer was present, so look out for a feature on national heritage social media pages!!

BAE Systems Roadshow

Year 8 were lucky enough to be part of the BAE systems roadshow which captivated the year group. During this presentation, students were exposed to a variety of topics and information, 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space' and exploring how engineering and science has provided solutions to huge environmental problems.

Panathalon Bowling Challenge

The Year 8 team consisted of twelve eager and confident Year 8 students ahead of the challenge which was held at Hollywood Bowl in Carlisle. Twenty teams took over the venue for a ten-pin show down! The Year 8 team showed fantastic communication, resilience and commitment. Unfortunately, the team narrowly missed out on a top spot. However; each player walked away with their heads held high and a medal for their efforts.

Football

The football season is well and truly under way. The Year 8 boys football team competed in the city cup which was held at the Sheepmount towards the end of September. The boys kicked off in similar fashion to last year, beating every team in the draw. The boys made it through to the final against Caldew. A close game which saw extra time and penalties. Unfortunately, the boys lost on penalties only to finish second in the tournament. Well done to all those involved and thank you to all parents for their support.

Girls football at WHS in growing faster than ever with fixtures coming thick and fast. Paloma Hope who has helped fly the flag for Year 8 and girls' football since joining WHS helped the team to an emphatic 5-0 victory against Ullswater on 11 October. Fantastic effort girls; I look forward to hearing all about your upcoming fixtures and performances.

Thank you

Year 8 have made a very positive start to the year - part of that success can be attributed to all of the support from parents and guardians, so thank you. The support we have received regarding uniform, communication and wider school enquiries has been fantastic. Please can I ask that this continues throughout our time working together at WHS.

Mrs Jones and I wish you all a fantastic October break. We look forward to welcoming Year 8 back in November.

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