

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 5, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025



Dear Parents

I write to you today at the end of a genuinely jam-packed week having just enjoyed Headmaster's Assembly. As usual, it was wonderful to reflect on achievements and successes from the week, but equally it was great to be able to link my assembly with two separate themes that we have supported; Children's Mental Health Week and Storytelling Week. The theme of Children's Mental Health Week this year has been 'know yourself to grow yourself' and my assembly this morning focused on how, in many of our most well-known stories, the main character often goes on a journey that helps build them into the best version of themselves. We talked about this being like adding blocks to an ever growing tower and how we can each play a role in adding blocks to the towers of those around us with kind words and positive actions - an important part of The Town Close Way; 'Support others to be their best'.

My highlight of the week very much demonstrated this value in action as Year 4 all supported each other to put on an incredible performance of Cinderella and Rockerfeller to a sold out Read Hall. Each and every child delivered a brilliant performance when it came to their moment to shine, but moreover it has been heartwarming to see just how much the cast have been willing each other to do their best. Well done to all in Year 4 and a big thank you to all involved in the production. Aside from the production, Storytelling week has brought with it a number of exciting activities, with highlights including an inspiring morning for our Year 7 and 8 pupils participating in a poetry masterclass with novelist, poet, literary critic and professor of Creative Writing, Dr. Ashley Hickson-Lovence. Speaking about his latest book 'Wild East' as well as a diverse range of other poetic works, Ashley led an energetic & inspiring workshop, encouraging our pupils to find and trust their own creative voice by drawing on their own authentic experiences and feelings. As I type, Dave Tonge, a renowned Norfolk storyteller, is in today working with Year 3 – Year 8 in the library and I look forward to popping in later with a special visitor; Dominic Norrish the CEO of the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS), who has come to visit us to see first-hand just how vibrant life at Town Close is as a superb example of preparatory education.

Pre Prep enjoyed two exciting assemblies this week linked to their 'Frozen North' topic with Arctic Operations Manager, Iain Rudkin, from British Antarctic Survey joining them remotely. Iain is about to embark on another expedition to the NERC Arctic Research Station in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard. He spoke to them about how he is preparing for the expedition before revealing how a project at school on the 'Arctic' inspired him to pursue a career in 'The Frozen North'. Our Head of Science, Mr Chapman, also led a fun and engaging assembly, explaining the science behind the Northern Lights before going on to demonstrate why the sky is blue. Year 8 also enjoyed careers talks this week with Dr Lawerance-Douglas, a software developer, and Alice Ward-Smith, a Financial Advisor. Finally, it has been a very busy week in terms of sport and we wish all of those competing in a variety of tournaments and competitions today the very best of luck.

Mr Nick Tiley-Nunn

