



### **Message from the Head of School**

Dear parents and carers

It has been a busy half term with Maths mastery classes, a Literacy and Numeracy evening for parents and fundraising events for good causes. I am delighted to have been appointed recently as the permanent Head of School and look forward to meeting you and working with you to ensure that your children have a happy and successful time at Bradford Forster Academy. Thank you all so much for supporting us in the various ways that you do – this is very much appreciated.



May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

**Wendy Adeniji**

### **Literacy and Numeracy Evening**

On Tuesday, 6th December we held a Literacy and Numeracy Parent's evening.

Mr Schack, the Curriculum Leader for English, spoke to attendees about the importance of reading and how parents can support their children with reading at home. Guests were reminded that all students should have a 'Reading Record' with them and that they should read for at least 30 minutes per week as part of their extended learning. Parents and students then worked together on using different sentence structures to improve their writing. Parents were encouraged to support their children's learning by helping them to proof-read their work.



Miss Easton, the Curriculum Leader for Mathematics, spoke about the Times Tables work that students do in Maths lessons. Parents were challenged to compete with their children over who could answer times table questions correctly in the shortest time - in the majority of cases the students were the winners. Miss Easton also explained the Mastery vision for Maths and then parents and children worked together to answer a range of questions that showed how the level of challenge was increased in Maths.



Thank you to parents who attended.

### **Fundraising**

On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November students and staff supported this fundraising event by having an 'accessory day' and wearing something spotty.



People taking part made a minimum donation of £1.00 for Children in Need and raised a total of £114.04.

### **Term Dates**

A reminder of the holiday dates for next term are:

#### **Christmas and New Year**

Close Friday, 16th December 2016, reopening Wednesday, 4th January 2017.

#### **Half Term**

Close Friday, 17th February 2017, reopening Monday, 27th February 2017.





### **Collective Worship**

On Thursday, 1st December 2016, we were fortunate to meet Mr Trevor Milner and Mrs Daphne Keighley who came, as part of our Collective Worship, to talk to both year 7 and 8 about the Gideon Testaments.

This talk culminated in Gideon Testaments being left for all students to use as part of their Religious Education lessons.

It was a lovely introduction to the Gideon's International and we look forward to working with them again.

### **Maths Mastery Sessions**

On 13th December new colleagues who join the Academy in January undertook some Maths mastery training, provided by the current Curriculum Leader of Mathematics at BFA. Miss Easton demonstrated how the new Ofsted framework and national curriculum have a strong focus on students mastering Maths at all levels and there was a great discussion about what that means at BFA.

### **Sports Update**

In PE we have had table tennis, bench ball and dodgeball at break times. After school our students have taken part in gymnastics, football, kickboxing, handball, netball and badminton. After Christmas our students will have the opportunity to take part in football, basketball, dance, rugby, handball, netball and hockey. We have also entered a team in the year 7 and year 8 South Bradford indoor athletics competition.

### **Performing Arts**

On Wednesday, 7th December, four secondary schools within BDAT presented a Performing Arts Showcase which was held at Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College. 20 Students from Bradford Forster Academy took part and performed extracts from the Wizard of Oz. Students were a credit to us and enjoyed the experience of performing within such an exciting event! The day involved dress and technical rehearsals followed by a matinee and then an evening performance.



### **Christian Values**

During this half term our community has taken on the task of choosing four Christian values that encompass everything that we strive to be at BFA. These have been chosen by our students as part of their RE lessons this term and we are looking forward to unveiling these in our Christmas service! We have thought about and explored the value of forgiveness during our Collective Worship and in November we marked Remembrance Day with a 2 minute silence and we acknowledged the sacrifices made by those who were killed and injured in the Battle of the Somme. John Froud, from the Zephaniah Trust, visited us and led Collective Worship where he sang songs and told stories to our children. We welcome Erik and Lydia, two youth workers from the USA and Germany, who will be working with us until the end of this year. As we see the end of Advent and look forward to Christmas we hope that the joy and love of Christ's birth will be with you and your families this Christmas.

### **Prayer**

Go joyfully to celebrate this day.



Love, laugh, and live life to the full.

Share the one love that comes from God, born among us this day; he is the unseen guest in our homes.

Amen.

