5 April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another half term, it’s hard to believe that we are now two thirds through your son/daughter’s Year 7 here at Rickmansworth School.

This half term has been an action packed one with students having the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of activities.

**House Sport Morning**
Thank you to everyone who attended this fantastic event organised and run by the PE Department. The competition was fierce and the standard of play on both the basketball and netball courts was excellent. Congratulations to Inns who won the basketball competition and Bury who won the netball.

The morning also saw each Form design and run a stall. Well done to everyone, the total raised by all the staff was £315 with Miss Hughes’ Form raising an amazing £117 and also gaining 1000 house points for their efforts.

**Non-Uniform Day**
Thank you to all of Year 7 who brought in your chocolate and healthy cake donations for the tombola at House Sport Morning. I am pleased to announce that the tombola raised over £300 and a total of £977 was collected on the gate.

**Spring Concert**
It was a real privilege to watch the musical talent on show from Year 7 at the Concert. The standard of the performances was outstanding and I would urge people to go to the Summer Concert and witness the music and singing live. Well done to everyone involved.

**Drama Club**
Every Wednesday lunchtime at 1.15pm, the Prefects have been running a Drama club for Year 7 students. The sessions have involved playing lots of Games and Drama based activities. The club is still running and looking for new members.

**Fundraising – “Because our Students Deserve the Best”**
The School are having a big push on fundraising in order to continue with or redevelopment of the School site and buildings. We are currently raising money for two different projects, with different ways in which you can support the causes:

1. **The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) - The Ricky Playhouse.** We are looking to raise £100,000 to fully equip the new Ricky Playhouse with state of the art facilities such as surround sound, lighting and seating.
**Buy-a-Brick**
See your name on the wall of our brand new facility by purchasing a brick. Details of the project and how to donate can be found by following the link below:

**Various Fundraising Events**
The PTA hold a number of fundraising events throughout the year. Details of these and all of the excellent support that they give the School can be found by clicking on the link below:
[https://www.facebook.com/RickmansworthSchoolPTA/](https://www.facebook.com/RickmansworthSchoolPTA/)

The PTA is made up of parents just like yourselves. They are on the hunt for new members with new enthusiasm and a brand new set of ideas. If you feel that you are able to give some time to joining this fun group, please contact Danae Green - [danaegreen@outlook.com](mailto:danaegreen@outlook.com) or Gill Crawford - [Gill.Crawford@phr.co.uk](mailto:Gill.Crawford@phr.co.uk)

2. **The Rickmansworth Foundation – The Library and Resources Centre.** We are hoping to achieve our goal of raising £60,000 to convert the old Sixth Form Block into a fantastic new Library and Resources Centre for all members of the School community to benefit from.

**Monthly Donations**
You can set up a monthly donation to the Foundation, even better, gift aid your donation so that it is worth 25% more. Details of how this can be done and also information about The Foundation are attached to this email.

**The Grand Prize Draw**
By now, I hope you have all heard of The Prize Grand Draw. Our target is to raise in excess of £20,000. Each student has been given two books worth of tickets to bring home (please check pockets and bags for these) and sell in between now and the start of July. They have come home before the Easter holidays so that if you are seeing family and friends over the break, you can twist their arm to buy some. There are a number of amazing prizes that can be won including a Surface Pro Laptop (worth £1200), a Phillips 55” Ultra HD TV (worth over £600) and a Garmin Trailfinder GPS Watch (worth £350) to name but a few.

With this in mind, we are still looking for donations for the draw. Items of any size and value all the way from top end gifts to bottles of wine, chocolates etc. (that can be put together to make great hampers) are all greatly received. Donations can be made by emailing either myself [swhite@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk](mailto:swhite@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk) or Helen McLellan [hmclellan@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hmclellan@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk) or by dropping off anything smaller into the School Reception.

There is an individual prize for the student who sells the most tickets and therefore raises the most money. This is yet to be confirmed but will be announced in assembly shortly. There is also a Form prize for the fore who collectively sell the most tickets. This will be a day trip to Thorpe Park in September. Full details can be found on the letter that came home with the tickets. Monies and ticket stubs should be returned to the School Reception. Extra tickets can also be picked up from there.

**Easyfundraising**
Please sign up to #easyfundraising and help us raise FREE funds for Rickmansworth School - and the Resources Centre Project when you're doing your everyday shopping online. THIS IS FREE MONEY FOR US! Plus, when you raise your first £5, easyfundraising will match it!! This short video explains how simple it is and it doesn't cost you anything – [http://efraising.org/cv1Wj5Bman](http://efraising.org/cv1Wj5Bman).

Sign-up using our unique link and search for Rickmansworth School - Herts: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/24HM2Z/DAFA5Z](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/24HM2Z/DAFA5Z)
Please remember that every last penny raised by the PTA and The Foundation goes straight back into the School, towards providing your son/daughter with the best facilities possible. I hope that you all feel that you are able to support us in some way shape or form, “Because our Students Deserve the Best”.

**School Facebook Page**
The School has recently resurrected its Facebook page. Please follow us and see what the School community gets up to on a day to day basis. There will also be lots of interesting information and details of events that are coming up. Follow the link below to have a look: www.facebook.com/rickmansworthschool

**Emotional Health and Mental Health Parent Workshop – Monday 29 April 7.00pm School Hall**
Growing levels of mental health problems among children and young people are a very real concern. This session explores the sources of pressure on children and identifies core strategies to build into daily life to help build and retain positive mental health in the face of life’s ups and downs. Strategies will include ensuring that young people know how and when to get help. This workshop is open to the whole School and the local community. If you would like to attend, please book your place by clicking on the Trybooking link below: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/book/event?eid=3460&fbclid=IwAR2Nvua0gbBk5_j-HHtG1sBectHiy4a9hGKAqgObeV5L-speRunykXGLw

If you or your son/daughter need any advice and guidance around these problems, please click on the link below which will take you to a number of agencies which offer online help and support.
http://www.rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk/777/students

**Ski Trip and Football Tour**
Information regarding two of the residential trips available next year will be released shortly. The Ski Trip will be going to Piancavalo in Italy and the Football Tour is going to Inter Milan.

**Summer School**
We are pleased to announce that Rickmansworth School will be hosting a Summer School during the first week of the holidays. The fun and action packed week, based around The Lion King will be open to all students from Year 7, along with Year 6 students who will be joining us in September and also selected Able and Ambitious students from our local feeder Schools. Full details of the School are attached, please book early to avoid disappointment by selecting this link https://www.trybooking.co.uk/JQI

**Form of the Half Term**
This half term has been hotly contested, with all Forms receiving plenty of rewards and not (too) many consequences.

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Overall Standings

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House Points
The House points are a total combination of house competitions and rewards minus consequences across the whole School. The current standings are as follows:

1st Place – Springwell 79054 points
2nd Place – Stockers 76488 points
3rd Place – Inns 75365 points
4th Place – Bury 73521 points

Come on Bury, Inns and Stockers........ Springwell need to be caught!!!

Rock UK
Our end of year residential to Rock UK is fast approaching. Information will be released soon regarding T-Shirts, rooming and groupings along with final arrangement details. We will also be holding a Parent Information Evening where you will have the opportunity to ask any further questions.

If for any reason, your son/daughter has not booked on the trip it is not too late. Please contact Ms Sprenger amsprenger@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk and she will be able to add you to the trip.

Year 7 Exams
At the end of the year, all students will sit their end of year exams. In a change to previous years, students will only sit exams in the core subjects, Maths, Science, English and MFL. These will be done in the Hall, in order to start getting students used to exam conditions as early as possible. Other subjects may do in class assessments around this time. A full timetable and guidance will be sent out in due course.

During L3 lessons from now until the exams, Year 7 will be having a series of workshops based around exam technique and how to revise in each of the core subjects. Please ask your son/daughter after each session (Tuesdays) to see if you are able to offer any extra support at home.

Random Acts of Kindness
I have spoken to Year 7 in assembly on Thursday about random acts of kindness and doing things for others for no special reason other than to be nice. We spoke about “ways to well-being” and how doing things for others makes us feel good about ourselves and will also have a positive effect on the person that you are kind to.

I have set an Easter challenge. I have asked all the Year 7 students to go home over the break and attempt to perform at least one random act of kindness. I have then asked them to email me and tell me how that made them feel. What I ask from you is; if you are lucky enough to be on the receiving end of something nice, please can you also email me at swhite@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk and tell me what the act of kindness was and how it made you feel and brightened up your day.
The students do not know that I am asking you to email in. Please do not tell them about this part as I will be doing an assembly after Easter based around the well-being topic.

**Important Dates Next Half Term**

Wednesday 24 April – Term starts for students *(Week B)*
Monday 29 April – Emotional Health and Well-being Parent Workshop 7pm
Tuesday 30 April - PTA Uniform Shop 7pm
Friday 24 May – Break up for half term.

It only remains for me to wish you all an egg-cellent (sorry), restful, safe and fun Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mr S White
Director of Learning Year 7