

News flash

Issue 47 18 November 2016



“Firstly, thank you to Parys for updating my Newsflash picture. I think this has been the most bizarre week I have had to date since taken over as your head teacher.”

It ended up with us going viral and global including being on the front page of the BBC Online Web Page (with our improved grades statement emblazoned for all too see). For a while we were trending #1 on Twitter.

So I guess I had better start with a full explanation of the facts behind the nonsense. The staff and I are as keen for the students to have fun as they are, and so the Bottle Flip Challenge was tolerated for some weeks.

However, children being children soon got bored with the standard challenge and started to devise their own, newer and more dangerous versions. The sizes of the bottles changed (to larger ones) with more liquid in them.

The dining room would see dozens of children taking part on all the tables when others were trying to eat, which was spoiling students' lunch, and causing a mess for our cleaners to have to deal with.

The more ambitious started to throw bottles across great distances indoors and outdoors, trying to flip bottles onto window ledges two floors up or onto the ground floor from the top of stairs or any other great height.

Not only was this disrupting learning and causing annoyance and inconvenience, it started to interfere with the safety of students and staff. Following two (fortunately) minor injuries, the senior team decided to ban the activity. This was

communicated to all students and to all staff.

As a banned activity, any student who continues to take part in it is eligible for a consequence, as they would be for breaking any clear rule such as swearing, chewing gum or using homophobic or racist language.

I believe we should err on the side of over-communication with parents, we put the information on our website and on Facebook. Disappointingly, some of our ex-students - and sadly some parents - saw this as a chance to be abusive and offensive, leading to us having to monitor and ban some members of the group from Facebook. Because of the foul language used in some posts, we removed the post from Facebook, although it remains on our website.

I have repeatedly stated that everyone can have my personal number; I will call them back for a personal call within 24 hours and give them an appointment within 72 hours. If people feel so passionately about this issue it would make perfect sense for them to engage directly with me rather than using social media.

Quite rightly parents are quick to complain when their children receive abuse on Facebook but a minority seem to think it's OK for them to do the same themselves. It does make it very hard to stamp out bullying and misuse of social media when we see

the very same thing being done by adults.

As I say, this is thankfully only a minority, and I am grateful to the hundreds of parents who have been supportive of the ban and to all the support we have received from noted educationalists and supportive parents across the country. We are not the only school in Norfolk which has rules which we ask students to adhere to and that we enforce. But perhaps we may be more brave in communicating everything with you.

Now onto the real reason we are here. This week we welcomed back the class of 2016 to celebrate the amazing achievements they gained last academic year. Supported by staff and parents, the evening was a truly great celebration of young people and their achievements and we look forward to this story receiving an equal amount of media attention in the coming days.

Two students had 100% attendance for all five years and some students won four and five awards for progress and attainment. It truly was a wonderful evening. I hope that those who have voiced their opinions about trivial matters will be as quick to speak up in praise of the great achievements of the students, staff and school.

When you look behind the sensationalist headlines you generally tend to find that the truth is normally a 'storm in a water bottle'.

Neil

Diary dates

Not to miss

8 December Sports Awards Evening

14 December Carol Concert (St Nick's Church) 7pm

Exams

5 & 6 December GCSE Mock Art Exam

12 December GCSE Mock Photography Exam

Study

Study Support/ Revision

GCSE Art & Photography
Mondays 3 - 4pm A1 & A3

GCSE Food & Nutrition Tuesdays
3 - 4pm Food Suite

GCSE Design & Technology
Tuesdays 3 - 4pm C2

Year 11 FSMQ Tuesdays 3 - 4pm

Year 9 FSMQ Thursdays 3 - 4pm

BTEC Sport Fridays 3 - 4pm C2

Homework Club - all welcome

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 3 - 4pm, C2

Sports

PE Fixtures

Wednesday 23 November North Norfolk Badminton Comp @ Aylsham 2.30 - 5.30pm

Tuesday 29 November U14 Girls Football 5 a side v Various (A) 3 - 6pm

Extra Curricular

After School Clubs

Music Tech Club Mondays 3 - 4pm

Netball Club Mondays 3 - 4pm

Year 7 Football sessions Mondays 3 - 4pm

Art Club Tuesdays 3 - 4pm, A1

War Hammer Club Tuesdays 3 - 4.30pm, A1

Dance Club Tuesdays 3 - 4pm

Badminton Club Wednesdays 3 - 4pm

Gardening Club Wednesdays 3 - 4.30pm

Prom Cake Sale
Thursday 1st December
Outside the Library, break &
Lunch time.
Students will need money as
this will not be available through
Wisepay.

Sky Sports Gifted & Talented Day

On Wednesday we hosted the third North Walsham High School Sky Academy day. It was a great success for our Gifted and Talented pupils in Years 8 and 9 with the Year 8s learning about the importance on teamwork, and our Year 9s learning about nutrition, psychology and careers in Sport.



Our Year 10 BTEC pupils learnt about leadership from our Sky Mentor Paralympian, World Champion and World Record holder Fran Williamson. She retold the story of her success within swimming and how she broke down the many barriers of disability and injury to reach her dreams. A key phrase that came out of the day was "I would rather have a life full of 'oh wells' than 'what ifs'". A quote from one of our students was "She is an inspirational person who has taught us all a lot about succeeding in our goals".

New Reward System

Rewarding students at NWHS is an important aspect of School life, therefore, we have improved our reward system. Pupils' attitude to learning is now graded from Master Student, Excellent Student, Secure Student to Foundation Student.

This represents the students' effort and engagement within School as well as their ability to work independently. These grades can be seen on ePortal.

We are also rewarding students on the attainment against their target grades. Based on their success, students will be awarded status as Expert Learners, Advanced Learners, Developing Learners to Potential Learners

North Walsham's Class of 2016 return to school for glamorous Awards ceremony

A total of 46 of last year's Year 11 students at North Walsham High School were awarded prizes at the annual Prizegiving ceremony held at the school's Atrium, in front of parents and families. Prize-winners received certificates to mark excellence and outstanding progress in individual subjects, awards from the head teacher and the Governors, and cups and trophies for a variety of achievements.

The most prolific prize-winners were Howard Rooke, who carried off five separate prizes, and Henry Dobbie, Callum Hoy and Jodie Weller, who each won four awards.

The former students also heard from guest speaker Nick Phillips, founder of innovative East Anglian-based outside catering company Funnells. He shared experiences from a working life that saw him work in Los Angeles and Australia before taking the plunge and setting up his own business from scratch. Addressing the whole of the class of 2016, Mr Phillips urged them to be go out and create their own adventures.

"In my world of business, it's the ones you least expect who are going to do great things," he told the audience, as he urged them to seize every opportunity.

North Walsham High School head teacher Neil Powell told the former students and their families, "We often read frivolous news stories in the media and online, but the real story is the achievements that you have accomplished. You are the year group which delivered a 13 per cent improvement in GCSE results this year, and that should be what is in the headlines."

Mr Powell also thanked the staff at the school for the hard work they put in to helping the class of 2016, as well as the students' parents for their support.

You can read more about the evening on our website.



**North
Walsham
High School**

Stay in touch

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Email: office@northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

Visit: www.northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

 Like us on Facebook:
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