



FEVERSHAM COLLEGE

February 2015



In this issue:

- First Story Success!
- Year 8 Workshop
- Holiday Schedule 2015/2016

I write at the end of an extremely busy half term at Feversham College.

A personal thank you to all for your patience and assistance during the recent bad weather. Fortunately we managed to keep the school open for the majority of the winter weather. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly but the weather conditions on Thursday the 29 January left me with no alternative but to close given Health and Safety risks caused by the extreme weather conditions. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to ensure we have your correct contact details. Text messages are by far the quickest way for us to get in touch with you. Please pass on any changes in details to your daughters House Leader.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a peaceful and restful half term.

Yours sincerely
Miss C Skelding
Headteacher

Parents Evening

We had very good attendance at our recent year 9 and year 11 parents' evenings. These evenings are critical points in your daughters learning journey, both evenings required thought and decisions about next phases of learning and option choices. Thank you for your support at such a critical stage.

Mock Examinations

As you are aware, your daughters have recently sat a series of mock examinations. Whilst there have been many successes a key feature of this examination series is the difficulty revising for many examinations at the same time. We are helping students plan revision times and schedules and I urge you to encourage your daughters to do the same whilst at home. Gone are the days when revision could be 'crammed' into a few days prior to the exams. With careful planning outcomes in the March mock examinations will improve giving confidence going into the final exams in May/June.

Higher Education Student Conference

Forty five year 12 students have attended a Higher Education conference at Bradford College this week. The day consisted of many workshops including prioritisation, UCAS applications, a tour and subject specific taster sessions. Now the girls have a real focus for their studies.

First Story

Feversham students have attended *First Story* sessions after school each Tuesday for over a year. In January, ten students took part in a creative writing afternoon at the University of Huddersfield. As well as having a tour of the campus, they enjoyed a writing workshop with our writer-in-residence, **Kate Fox**, and heard words of inspiration and encouragement from the poet Lemm Sissay. A BBC Radio 4 reporter shadowed our students and produced an eight minute feature which was heard on *Woman's Hour* on January 30th.

Many Feversham students took part, along with 3,000 others, in *First Story's* 2014-15 National Writing Competition, on the theme 'Home'. Our writer-in-residence selected three stories by Misbah Shaheen in KS3, Barirah Ashfaq and Safeerah Mughal in KS4, to enter the competition. All three students reached the 'long-list' of 100; Misbah and Barirah were two of 15 students in the 'short-list' and eventually Barirah went on to **WIN** the KS4 section. She has been invited to take her family to the prize giving ceremony at LSE in London on March 9th to celebrate her achievement. All the short-listed pieces will be published in professional anthology to be launched at the prize giving.

Still more success... Fatimah Aziz in KS3 is a **winner** in the 100 Word Competition with a piece of writing about dyslexia which will be printed on a postcard and used as publicity for *First Story*.

Mash Allah to them all!

Year 9 Workshop

Year 9 who have recently experienced a concentrated approach to choosing their Key Stage 4 subjects will take part in a workshop day to help in the process - "Action Stations" will take place in March.

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 Netball team played their first match against Immanuel College on Wednesday 11 February. The girls played with great enthusiasm and were so excited to win the very close match 5-4.

Mash Allah

Year 8 Workshop

Year 8 attended a workshop day - "Momentum", this was presented by Live N Learn. All students participated in a "hands on" educational experience to encourage them to be pro-active and resilient, the workshop included teamwork activities, film clips and antidotes to make them think and be aware of opportunities for shaping their future. The workshops were enjoyed by all students who gave very positive feedback and set challenging targets for themselves.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 13 February - School closes for half term
- Monday 23 February - School reopens
- Monday 2 March - Year 12 and 13 mock exams - all week
- Thursday 5 March - World Book Day
- Monday 9 March - Year 11 Mock Exams commence
- Tuesday 10 March - Year 8 Consultation Evening
- Monday 16 March - National Science Week
- Friday 27 March - School closes for Spring holidays
- Monday 13 April - School reopens



Feversham College updates

We were informed by the National College for Teaching and Leadership last week that we were successful in our application to become a National Support School. This is a tremendous achievement for the College.

The performance tables have generated lots of interest since their release at the beginning of the month. I am delighted to inform you that Feversham College remains in the top one per cent of schools in the Country for value added. (We ranked 11th in the whole Country out of 6,260 schools). This is a remarkable achievement one we should all feel immensely proud of. Locally we ranked first for value added overall and value added in Mathematics and English. Our headline figure of 5A*-CEM of 74% ranked us third in the whole of Bradford. These outcomes continue to demonstrate that our work together as a school, governors, pupils and parents is having significant impact on improving outcomes and life chances for your daughters, our futures. InshaAllah 2015 will be just as positive.

As always we are seeking feedback from parents/carers on our school and how we can further improve. I would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed questionnaire and ask your daughter to return to Student Services by Friday the 27 February 2015.

Teaching School update

As you are aware Feversham College is a designated Teaching School. We have been extremely busy this half term providing professional development opportunities for teachers and leaders and supporting our trainee teachers in their placements schools. I am pleased to inform you we have been successful in securing funding from the school to school support fund to enable us to work with targeted schools to help improve outcomes for children in Bradford. We have also been designated as a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training Centre) and are currently recruiting for those interested in teaching in the following subjects: English, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography and History in September 2015. The training is at Post Graduate level and lasts a year. If you are interested or know anyone who would be interested please visit northernlightstsa.org for more information.

As you will be aware, the College was challenged by the DfE in relation to our staffing and access policies last year. A large number of you attended the consultation evening in March 2014 and overwhelmingly provided your views in terms of your religious beliefs and the ethos that the College should follow. Eventually the DfE conceded that our policy of an all-female teaching staff (and staff in learning areas) was appropriate and lawful. Our staff remains entirely female, however where positions arise in areas where there is no requirement to enter classrooms during school hours we would consider on a case by case basis whether it was appropriate to allow men to apply for these roles.

In relation to access to the College site - as a public authority the College is required by law to allow equal access. Please be assured that the safety of our students is our number one priority. There will be no relaxation of our safeguarding rules. We will also continue to remind all visitors to the College site, during the school day, that we are a school with an Islamic ethos and ask all visitors to respect that. In particular we shall ask that all visitors give advanced notice of visits and that they allow the opportunity for children (or staff) to adorn a niqab or other clothing that they believe to be appropriate, before any man enters a classroom. However, going forward, where necessary and appropriate, male visitors will be permitted onto the College's site during working hours. The College's Visitors Policy is available on the website at www.fevershamcollege.com. However, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2015/2016

2015

Summer (including Eid-ul-Fitr)	Close	Wednesday 15 th July
Staff Training Day	Open for Year 7 Students	Tuesday 1 st September
	Open for all students	Wednesday 2 nd September
Eid-ul-Adha	Closed To be confirmed Re-open	Monday 21st September Thursday 24th September
Half term	Closed Re-open	Monday 26 th October Monday 2 nd November
Winter Holidays	Closed	Monday 21 st December
2016	Re-open	Monday 4 th January
Half Term	Closed Re-open	Monday 15 th February Monday 22 nd February
Spring	Closed Re-open	Friday 25 th March Monday 11 th April
May Day	Closed	Monday 2 nd May
Half Term	Closed Re-open	Monday 30 th May Monday 6 th June
Eid-ul-Fitr	Closed Re-open	Monday 4 th July Monday 11 th July
Summer	Close	Tuesday 26 th July