

SEDGEHILL

weekly

2 FEBRUARY 2018

MESSAGE FROM MS CASSIDY

The highlight of my week was on Monday after school when I dropped in on the Drama Department to see the Year 11 Showcase.

I watched one of the three GCSE Year 11 Drama groups perform their piece called 'Find Me'. Each student performs two extracts from their script, which is from a very challenging play looking at a girl's mental illness and the challenges that that brings to her family.

The students are graded on the sophistication of their characterisation and I was amazed to see how well they have risen to the challenge - with skill, passion and great empathy. It was wonderful to see Year 11 performing at such a high standard and it was such a shame that I couldn't stay to see the other groups.

Their exam is next Thursday, when a visiting examiner will come into school to assess them formally. Good luck to all.

We are now rapidly moving towards exam season. Year 11 only have 50 school days before the first written GCSE exams. We have a countdown board up in the Atrium to remind students and we are also busy organising half term revision sessions. If your child is in Year 11, then you will hear next week if we require him or her to attend.

Year 11 students will also have received their 'Golden Envelopes' by the time you read this. These contain the grades they achieved in the mock exams that they sat in January and advice on what these grades, if they were to get them in their actual exams, would enable them to do next year in Sixth Form.

Some students will no doubt be disappointed by their mock exam results and the choices these would enable. If that is the case with your child, I would strongly encourage them not to despair. My experience of many years tells me that it is possible for students to make big improvements between mocks and final exams. With the support we are putting in place, I am very confident that that will be the case at Sedgehill also, for those students who put in the work.

ATTENDANCE

From this week on, we will be attaching the school's attendance procedures to the back of this newsletter for your reference.

It sets out:

- our expectations of students and parents;
- the protocol if your child is absent;
- the protocol if your child is late to school;
- late detentions;
- authorised absences;
- our monitoring procedure.

Please remember that all students are expected to have attendance **above 95%** and anything below this will be monitored closely by our attendance team.

PERFECT STUDENTS

Perfect Student is presented to the student from each year group who has, in that week:

- 100% attendance;
- 100% punctuality;
- gained the most achievement points.

This week's Perfect Students are:

Year 7	Zacaria Sabih
Year 8	AJ Hussain / Bajram Hoskaj / Maria Binzaru
Year 9	Nikola Bryk
Year 10	Zakiya Simpson-Finch
Year 11	Cassandra Basilio

Well done to all of the above students.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

February is LGBT History Month, and this year, students are being asked to think. Around the school are a number of posters posing questions to help students think about some of the most common issues LGBT people face.

We're also holding lunchtime discussion groups in the library every Wednesday in February. Students are invited to come along to discuss a different LGBT-themed topic each week:

Wednesday 7th: *Is homophobia even a problem anymore?*

Wednesday 14th: *Are LGBT people properly represented in the public eye?*

Wednesday 21st: *Are religion and homosexuality compatible?*



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



On Thursday Sedgehill School students took part in Holocaust Memorial Ceremony 2018. This year's ceremony was attended by politicians Sadiq Khan and Jeremy Corbyn and the actors Derek Jacobi, Celia Imrie and Charles Dance, among others.

Coda - made up of students from years 11-13 - sang 'The Peat Bog Soldiers': one of Europe's best known protest songs. The song was first performed in a Nazi concentration camp.

Our students sang a brilliant rendition of the song and received praise from those in attendance. The CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Trust said that Coda's performance was her highlight of the ceremony. We also received a namecheck in the Guardian's report of the event (see <http://bit.ly/2GCe4dq>).

FRANTIC ASSEMBLY

We are lucky enough to be involved in a United Learning Drama project with Frantic Assembly, one of the country's leading physical theatre companies. The workshops will culminate in a performance on the theme of 'Home' which will be performed to other United Learning schools and then to Sedgehill students at a later date.

Georgina Nash and Brydie Gregory (Year 12) write:

Last week, we had our first workshop with Krista from Frantic Assembly. During the workshop we got to explore the different techniques they use such as "Round Shift Through", "Push Hands", "Quads" as well as "Lifts and Balances". The workshop helped with everyone becoming a team ahead of us performing a Frantic Assembly-style piece in the United Learning showcase. We all enjoyed working with each other and building trust between one another. Everyone is excited about going to the upcoming rehearsals so we can all collaboratively create our performance piece.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 8 February Year 9 Parents' Evening, 5-7pm

Monday 12 - Friday 16 February Half Term

Monday 19 February Staff INSET Day (school closed to students)

Sedgehill School

Attendance Procedures



Students are EXPECTED to:

- Attend school regularly
- Arrive at school on time.
- Be punctual to lessons
- Bring notes to school to explain any absence

Parents are EXPECTED to:

- Ensure that their children attend school whenever possible.
- Ensure that their child leaves for school with enough time to be punctual.
- Informs the school of any absence.
- Book medical appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.
- Not book any holidays during term time. These will be marked as unauthorised and are likely to be subject to a fine.
- Support the school sanctions if students are late.

If your Child is Absent from School

1. Contact the school on 020 8698 8911 and follow instructions to connect the Attendance Voicemail Service.
2. Leave a message stating your child's name, form, reason for absence and expected return date to school.
3. If your child is absent for longer than 2 days, please contact the Attendance Team with an update.

If your Child's Attendance is 95% and Below

Absences below 95% WILL NOT be authorised unless you provide any of the following:

1. Letter from hospital/doctors confirming an appointment.
2. Copy of prescription or prescription label on medication.
3. Letter from a professional body stating the reason for absence.

If your Child is Late to School

1. Contact the school on 020 8698 8911 and follow instructions to connect the Attendance Voicemail Service.
2. Leave a message stating your child's name, form, reason for late and expected time of arrival to school.

Late Detentions

1. If your child is late to school he/she will receive a 1 hour detention that day.
2. Persistent lateness will result in further actions including, but not limited to:
 - Punctuality Report
 - Punctuality Mentoring
 - School and Parent Meeting

We will ONLY accept reasons/notes relating to lateness from parents which are of exceptional circumstances.

Monitoring Process

The Attendance Team will closely monitor students and may take the following actions:

- Send letters home
- Invite parents for attendance meetings
- Parenting Contract
- Fixed Penalty Notices
- Panel Meetings
- Refer to the Local Authority for Persistent Absence.