

Dear Parents

General Letter Number 14

29th April 2016

Date for your Diary

Thursday 5th May	- Year 8 Choices Evening
Monday 16th May	- GCSE and AS Level external exams begin
Thursday 26th May	- Sixth Form Prom
Monday 13th June	- Friends of Lightcliffe Meeting 6pm
Tuesday 14th June	- Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 22nd June	- New Intake Parents Evening
School Closed	- Bank Holiday Monday 2 nd May and Tuesday 3 rd May Training Day

Incident in school

As some of you may be aware following an article in the press, we have had to deal with an incident where a pupil brought a bladed implement into school. I want to reassure parents that this is an isolated incident that was dealt with in an appropriate manner. The Police are involved and there was no injury to any member of the school community. I also wish to emphasise we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously.

Year 12 Chester Zoo Trip

On Friday 19th April, the year 12 Business Studies students embarked upon a trip to Chester Zoo! The trip is an essential visit for their marketing project. Whilst on the visit, the students found the talk on marketing at Chester Zoo very stimulating and did a great job of carrying out market research and collating relevant marketing material. The day was an amazing experience, as we saw the amount of conservation and research that Chester Zoo have been doing over so many years, and "you've got to look up at the giraffes, the facts and figures are extraordinary! Chester Zoo's Rothschild Giraffes are the world's second rarest kind of giraffe, with only a few hundred left in the wild". It was great seeing the new islands at the Zoo, with 60,000m² to explore of amazing tropical environments of six South East Asian islands! Finally, as always the students were a credit to our school and we are proud of them.

Rugby

MASSIVE well done to our Year 7 Rugby league team on Thursday who beat Ryburn Valley High School 22-10 to reach the Calderdale Cup final!!! [#GoldenBoys](#).



Year 8 Girls Rugby

Congratulations to our Year 8 girls who finished 3rd out of 10 in the Yorkshire Girls Rugby Cup Final on Thursday; an absolutely fantastic effort.



Football

Well done to Y12&13 football team who won 3-2 against North Halifax Grammar School in the Calderdale Cup semi final!! A nail biting game! [#trophyhunt](#).



Far from the Madding Crowds...

About a month ago me, and a few of my friends were able to go to Dorset with school. I enjoyed the trip a lot and am glad we got a head start with learning about Thomas Hardy's 'Tess', which we will study for A level. It was nice to see all of the scenery and learn about the book in a little more depth.

We learned such a lot on the trip, covering things like Hardy's younger life, where he got his first inspirations from and how he connected it to the town itself. We visited a lot of important places and learnt how they linked in with the story and the reasons behind Hardy's choices. I'm happy that we were able to have this opportunity and to be given an advantage when it comes to studying Tess as a future A level topic. Understanding the choices novelists make for the setting of their stories is at the heart of understanding their purpose and Hardy clearly wanted the landscape to reflect the mood and fortunes of his characters and so made careful choices in order to place them in suitable locations. A much deeper appreciation of the author's purpose can result from visiting the settings, particularly for Hardy's work, because he was so particular about their detail and what they stood for in emotional and symbolic terms. As a result, to gain experience of the author crafting his work can also be a very interesting process. Our enthusiastic group of Year 10 and Y12 Lightcliffe students arrived in Dorset on a beautiful warm spring afternoon and immediately set off on the trail of Hardy's fictional character, Tess Durbeyfield. At Shaftesbury we began with a panoramic view of the spectacular Vale of Blakemoor, where the story begins and where Hardy placed the Durbeyfield family home. Our luck was in as we were invited into the cottage in Marnhull where Hardy imagined the Durbeyfield family to live in by its current occupants and after a very informative talk about the history of the cottage, they shared contact details in case we should decide to visit again! I really liked visiting the cottage where Thomas Hardy set Tess's house and it was so nice that the current owners gave us a personal tour even though we were tested on our knowledge. After discovering the field where Tess dances with the 'Cerelia' group we then found the 'abandoned' spot in the churchyard nearby where she buried her infant 'Sorrow'. Then we relaxed in the family room of Pure Drop Inn nearby, with a very 21st century diet coke (never available in Hardy's time!).

The visit was packed with many other close-up experiences of Hardy and the environment which inspired his works, including poetry and prose.

Visiting Stonehenge was definitely one of my favourite parts of the trip, even though it was very cold. This was where Thomas Hardy set his last scene when Tess and Angel were hiding from the police. This was a freezing day but I still managed to learn and understand why Hardy decided to set the last scene in such a peaceful place. Before actually visiting the stones we went to the museum and we all learnt a lot more about Stonehenge, how it got there and all the things they found on the land.

I really enjoyed the trip and I learnt a lot about the story of Tess of the d'Urbervilles and look forward to studying it more in Year 12 and maybe having a chance of repeating the trip and learning even more. We definitely would go again, but hopefully when the weather is a bit warmer!

-Abigail Holmes, Jessica Johnson Y10





The Friends of Lightcliffe

The Friends of Lightcliffe (PTA) met again on Monday 18th April. The meeting was very well attended with 6 new members joining the group. Items open for discussion were the up-coming bag-pack at Tesco's in Brighouse, proposed for Saturday 11th June (more details to follow closer to the date) and a Treasure hunt for families in their cars. The date for this was set for Friday 15th July at 7pm. All parents and friends are invited and the cost is £10 per car of 4 and will include a 'Pie 'n' Pea' supper. Parents wishing to enter please contact Mr Bemrose via the school email address: admin@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Regards



Thomas Rothwell

Principal

