



Corbridge Middle School

Newsletter January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

I hope that 2020 will be a great year for you and your families. The Autumn term was a fantastic start to the academic year but we are *determined* that 2020 will be the best year ever for Corbridge Middle School. Just as you may have made some new year's resolutions, we have too! Our main priorities for this half term are to:

- Continue to reinforce our values of respect, care, resilience and responsibility. We are going to concentrate on everyone demonstrating good manners this half term!
- Ensure that we do our best to encourage everyone to read for pleasure. We know how important reading is in enabling us to access all aspects of our curriculum! We are continuing to promote the use of our library; inspiring our pupils and staff through author visits and storytellers; and taking the time to discuss reading with your child.



- Encourage all pupils to talk more in lessons - in a good way! All our teachers have been finding out more about oracy and how talk clarifies our thinking and we will be trialling some new and exciting ways of encouraging structured talk and debate in lessons.

Prober Digs deeper into the argument, asks for evidence or justification of views. Will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you think would be the effect of...?• Why do you think ...?• Can you provide an example to support what you are saying?	Clarifier Simplifies and makes things clearer by asking questions. Will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you mean when you say ...?• Can you explain a bit more about ...?• Does that mean...?• Please can you clarify what you meant by ...?	Challenger Gives reasons to disagree or presents an alternative argument. Will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I disagree with you because you mentioned X but what about ...• To challenge you X, I think ...• I understand your point of view, but have you thought about ...?
Instigator Starts the discussion or spins up a new topic for other roles. Will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would like to start by saying ...• I think we should consider ...• We haven't yet talked about ...• Let's also think about ...	Summariser Identifies the main ideas from the discussion. This might be during the discussion, to help move the conversation forward, or at the end of the discussion. Will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall, the main points were ...• The main ideas raised today were...• Our discussion focused on ...• The three main things we talked about were...	Builder Develops, adds to or runs with an idea. Will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I agree, and would like to add...• Building on that idea, I think...• Linking to what X said, I think...

With the support of our governors, we are also considering how we can continue to improve the facilities available for our pupils and the wider community.



Corbridge Middle School

Parental Questionnaire

Thank you so much to all of you who took the time to complete our parental questionnaire before Christmas. Here is a summary of the results and a selection of the comments:

"I applaud the vision that this school has about helping each child to really achieve their potential as a person and I respect and value the efforts that staff put in to make this happen. "

"I have a very high opinion of this school and would recommended it strongly to other parents."

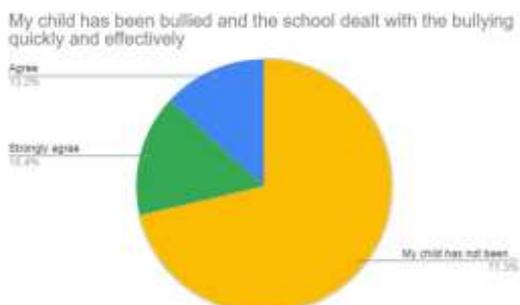
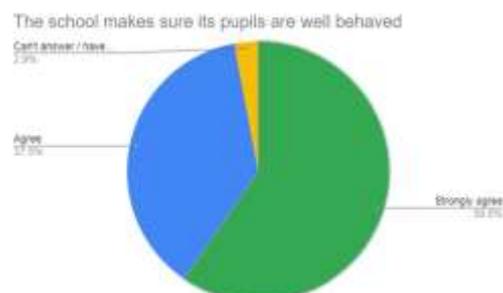
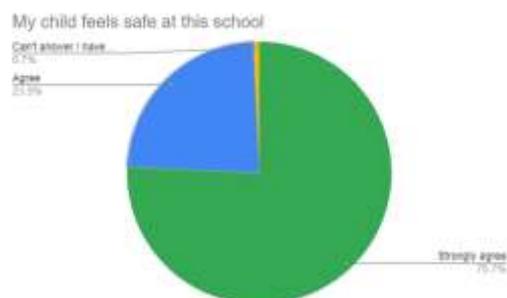
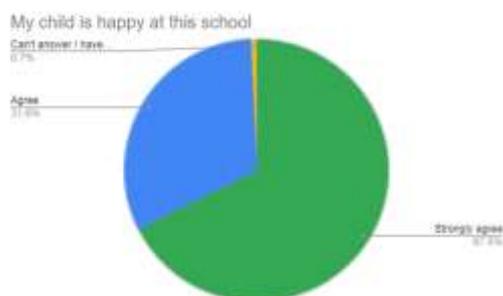
"My child has developed and grown as a whole person at this school. The holistic nature of the care and lessons she has received is excellent. She had been truly inspired."

"There are many strong teachers within this brilliant establishment who are unanimously approachable and keen to do their best for the pupils."

"CMS is an absolutely fantastic school, we are thrilled with everything. Our son loves coming to school every day and is thriving!"

"Our son has developed in maturity, in confidence and in empathy in this first term and we're sure it is due to the environment and culture you all work so hard to generate."

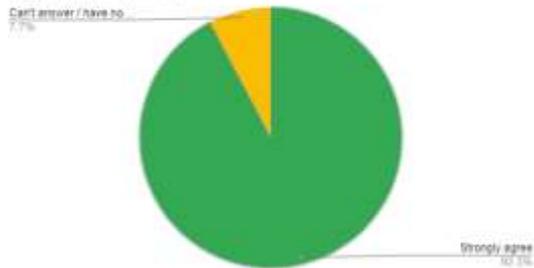
"Teachers really care, so they listen to you and your child to help with any situation."



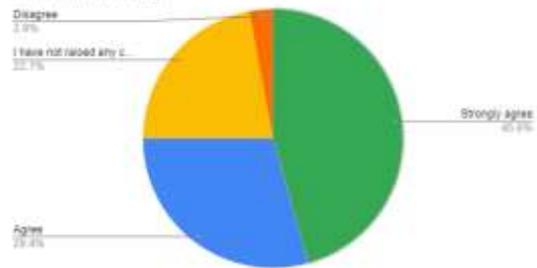
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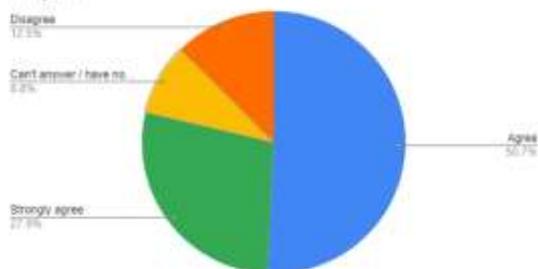
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



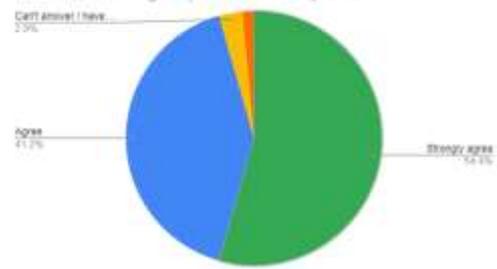
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly



The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year



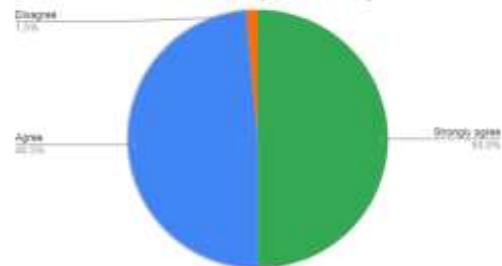
The school has high expectations for my child



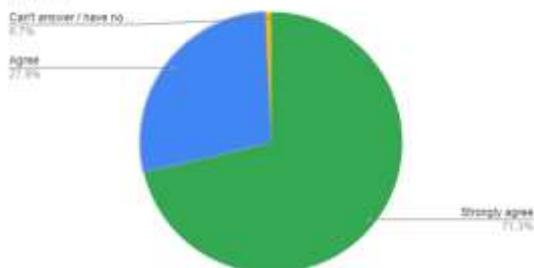
My child does well at this school



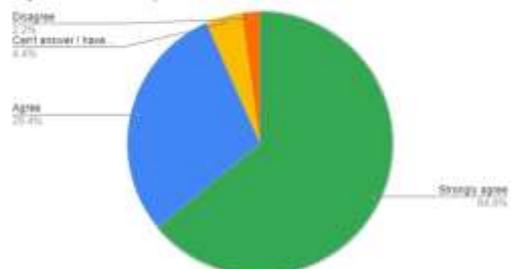
The school lets me know how my child is doing



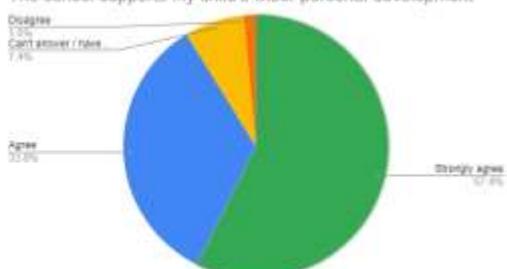
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school



My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school



The school supports my child's wider personal development



I Would recommend this school to another parent





Corbridge Middle School

Parental Questionnaire - Feedback

Two things that we would like to improve are:

1. 'The school makes me aware of what my child will learn through the year' was a statement on the parental questionnaire. 17% of you disagreed with this! So we would love to encourage you to follow [this link](#) to the curriculum part of our website. Here you will find details of what as a whole school we are trying to achieve with our curriculum, the intent of every subject and then a detailed breakdown of the skills and knowledge for every subject for every year group.



In addition to this would like to offer you a paper booklet of this information about their curriculum this term too. Keep an eye out for a message in your child's planner where you can indicate if you would like a booklet and we will send it home with your child. We hope this helps.

2. Communication. Thank you to those of you who were able to come along to the recent coffee morning and afternoon. The feedback was really helpful. Communication seems to be something that should continue to try and improve. By reintroducing the newsletter we hope to be able to make you aware of upcoming events, the dates of which are also on the calendar on the website. We will also endeavour to give you as much notice as possible and, whilst we are trying to improve the children's independence, we do understand that not all the information that is given verbally to your child necessarily gets back to you and so will communicate important information through schoolcomms too!



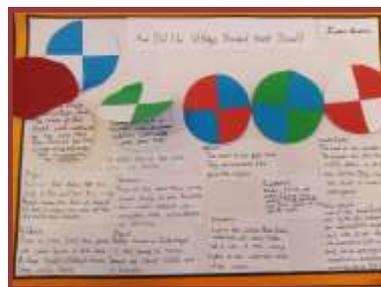
Enrichment Homework

As you will be aware, our homework policy is different to many other schools. Your child should have weekly literacy and numeracy homework which will help to consolidate, reinforce and extend their skills and understanding.

They then have the opportunity to choose one or more pieces of 'Enrichment Homework' each half term. The thinking behind this is that we genuinely want our pupils to take some responsibility for their learning.

In the future they will need to be able to motivate themselves, plan their work and meet deadlines. We want them to be curious, to want to find out more and learn more about an aspect of the curriculum that they enjoy; or to take the opportunity to practice and develop new skills. We aim to make sure that the success criteria are clear and that completion dates are both clear and reasonable. We really appreciate your support in reinforcing the need for the pupils to meet their deadlines.

We have some amazing examples of homework of which the pupils are rightly very proud.





Corbridge Middle School

Green Plan It 2019

A huge well done to both of our teams who made it through to the Green Plan It Finals at Sunderland Winter Gardens!

Both teams have been absolutely fantastic and the boy's won the 'Most Innovative Project' award!



German TV Filming

Last half term we were visited by a German TV crew! They were filming for a programme called ZDF Heute as part of an article exploring environmental education in the UK.

They were particularly interested in our school as we are linking the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the curriculum.

They interviewed a couple of the children on their concerns about climate change and talked with Dr Batchelor regarding the initiative by the North of Tyne combined authority to get a UN accredited Climate Change Teacher into every state school across Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside.





Ethiopian Visit

At the end of November we welcomed a group of visitors from Ethiopia to the school!

We were awarded a Connecting Classrooms grant by the British Council and, after an incredible amount of planning, six of our partner teachers from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, arrived.

We took them shopping, presented them with gifts of warm Northumbrian tartan scarves, showed them around Hexham and took them to see Hadrian's Wall!

We spent the week sharing teaching practices with staff and meeting students in the six partner schools in Tynedale: Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham Middle School, St Joseph's Middle School, Whitley Chapel First School and Chollerton First School.

The programme focus is on STEM, encouraging our pupils to think creatively on projects for wind power and clean water. This links in with our work on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will also promote a feeling of global citizenship and increase our understanding of different cultures and countries





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PSHE Enrichment

It was great to welcome back David Burn from 'Be Safe' into school before Christmas. Be Safe was established in 2010 and works in partnership with the HOME OFFICE to deliver workshops all over the UK in schools and colleges. The workshops form part of a national strategy which aims to reduce the number of young people that are placing themselves in dangerous situations while they are out in the community.

These workshops have been used to great effect in areas of London since 1998 and have now been taken on by other major cities and towns around the UK. The eventual aim is to deliver the Be Safe workshops to all school-age children.

David tailored his workshops to suit our different year groups. Year 5 looked at anti-bullying; Year 6 were reminded about safety whilst gaming online; the Year 7 session raised awareness of Cannabis; and Year 8 learnt about County Lines.





Christmas Fayre

A huge thank you to everyone that joined us for our PTA Christmas Fayre at the end of last term!

There were all manner of stalls to browse, raffle prizes to be won and things to do!

We were even treated to a wonderful performance by our school choir who, despite Mrs. Kennedy's conducting skills, sang beautifully!

Congratulations to Quinn in Year 6 who won the teddy bear raffle!

The fayre was incredibly well attended and the grand total raised this year was an incredible £5000!

The PTA helps and supports a wide range of activities and resources within the school which would not be possible without your support.





Corbridge Middle School

Kinder Transport Refugee Visits Year 7

What an absolute honour and privilege it was to meet Gabriele Keenaghan, a refugee from Austria who was brought to England in 1939 on the kinder transport.

Her experiences were awe inspiring to listen to with such amazing questioning by class 7B after her talk.

She spoke of Kristallnacht (night of broken glass) and her experiences which certainly brought a tear to the eye!

Gabriele spoke of the importance of tolerance and how we should treat and respect others which we all related to our school values.

The visit ties very well with the context of our novel in Year 7 English and our work in RE about Holocaust saviours.

An incredible experience - truly inspiring to all! A big thank you to Reverend Marie Beard for arranging the visit.





Pen Pals

Pupils at CMS continue to correspond with their French penpals from a school in Chatou, 10 km to the west of Paris.

Each year a class of pupils at Collège Victor Hugo links up with 30 pupils here at Corbridge Middle to swap letters, introducing themselves and sharing cultural experiences.

This link has been established for several years and gives our pupils a great opportunity to find out about life in another country.



SEN Department

I am delighted to welcome two new members to my team, Mrs Evans and Mr Norris.

Mrs Evans will be trained over the next 18 months to be able to diagnose dyslexia and prepare individual interventions using the Dyslexia Action Literacy Programme (DALP).

Mr Norris will be setting up and running a sensory zone at the end of the day for our Autistic children.

As a department we are busy this term increasing our knowledge so we can further support our pupils with eating disorders, self-harm and general resilience. In conjunction with our Educational Psychologist, we are hoping to run a series of workshops for parents about managing anxiety in children and teenagers.

If you have any worries about your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, we will be adding some useful links onto our school website in relation to mental wellbeing.

Mrs Ricketts



Corbridge Middle School

Pasta Challenge 2019

Our annual Pasta Challenge competition is a highlight of the year for many Year 8s.

This year we had a fabulous selection of dishes, including lasagne, pasta with prawns, spicy chicken pasta and macaroni cheese.

Pupils work in pairs to plan and prepare a pasta dish of their choice and we are always impressed how seriously pupils take the challenge.

The dishes produced are of a very high standard and beautifully presented.

Congratulations to our winners in joint first place were Archie F and CJ B, and Rosa, Sophie SB and Lily T.

Our runner up groups were Imogen W, Hannah S and Fran W and Nathaniel N and Toby P.





Carol Service & Late Night Shopping

The Carol Service is a real musical highlight of the academic year, where the school community come together to celebrate Christmas.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to St Andrew's Church to watch and listen to the service which was led predominantly by the children.

With many a musical treat, it was a magical evening, which will be remembered all year long.

The choir also had the opportunity to sing carols at the Late Night Shopping event in Corbridge last term!



Ambition

Year 8 have been continuing to work on their future plans in Ambition. They have been investigating post-18 options and looking at the opportunities for college, university and apprenticeships. Understanding of future possibilities helps them to decide how they can achieve their long-term goals. With taster days at Queen Elizabeth high school due later this term, the weekly Ambition lessons will help the children when it comes to considering their year 9 options.

We are currently making preparations for National Careers Week which is taking place from 2nd to 7th March. More information to follow.





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Library Update

The Library continues to be an extremely popular space for children to spend their break and lunch times.

It is a calm, quiet room where children can quietly read either their own books or choose one from our ever expanding collection.

We have recently acquired more books that children with dyslexia can read more easily.

We now have 4 Kindle Fires with the BorrowBox app installed on them. This app enables us to download any book in Northumberland County Library's collection, which can then be read in a variety of fonts. The Scholastic Book Fair raised over £400 for new library books and the book stall at the Christmas Fair was also very successful.

Thank you to everyone who donated great quality books to the fair and to all who bought books at the Scholastic Book Fair.

We are more than happy to continue to accept donations of books, particularly non-fiction.

This year will see the start of reading groups in the Library and we will enter a team of children to take part in the Carnegie CILIP Children's Book Awards in the Spring.

Maths Department

A big focus in maths this year is recall and retention – remembering what has been taught!

If you would like to support with this, talking to your children about what they have learnt at school will be of great help. They might even enjoy teaching you what they have learnt!

As a school, we have bought a subscription to a website called MyMaths (www.mymaths.co.uk) and this site has tutorials for many of the maths objectives which can be used to support with maths at home.

All children have the same username (corbridge) and password (subtract). We have also been focusing on mathematical vocabulary and some of this will be included in the homework.

A good site to find support for this is www.mathsisfun.com as key words can be entered and definitions shown.



Celebrating Success

It has been an exciting start to the year for some of our pupils outside of school as well!

Well done to Hannah who, after a gruelling two weeks, managed to win first place in her ski competition!

Well done to Issy and Emelia who have been selected to sail in their Optimist boats by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) as part of the UK Zone Squad - North!

Congratulations to all of our school teams that celebrated success throughout the last half term!





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Author Visit

We were delighted that Dan Smith came to talk to us last half term!

Dan is a local writer, whose books many of our pupils read, and he came to talk to us about reading and writing!

He was personable and approachable and presented an awesome hour on his amazing life (so far) with volcano-climbing, piranha-avoiding and jungle-living being the highlight of conversation afterwards!

Dan's books are particularly popular with our boys so it was great to see that his new novel has a central female character and is set in Northumbria during Viking times.

Lots of pupils had Dan sign their books and he was really generous with his time, chatting with pupils about their reading and writing.

It's brilliant for our pupils to meet authors and discover how they get their ideas, write and publish their books and we loved having Dan here at CMS!





Hindu Temple Visit

What another successful Hindu temple visit Year 8 experienced at the end of the autumn term.

Many thanks to the kind parents that came along and helped out on the visit; it is much appreciated.

Kirtida (the Hindu priest) at the temple, once again welcomed us all and shared with us so many interesting ideas and concepts.

The depth and level of questions posed by our students were so thoughtful and poignant.

They certainly showed lots of knowledge on Hindu beliefs which was our main learning focus in the classroom.

The activities ranged from understanding the greeting 'namaste' to drumming, chanting, prayer, hand and face decoration to trying on traditional Hindu saris, and headwear.

Before we left, to show us respect, Kirtida performed 'puja' a worship ceremony, using light, incense and chanting!





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Youth Parliament

On Wednesday the 22nd of January all young people aged between 11 and 18 will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates that they would like to represent them in both the Northumberland cabinet and the Youth Parliament.

Here at Corbridge we have 5 phenomenal candidates who have worked tirelessly on their election manifestos and will be hoping for their chance to sit on the cabinet.

Lost Property

Shown below is a timetable showing when children can access the lost property and who they will need to see!

If you have lost any items then please check there first!

	Morning breaktime	Registration time 3:05- 3:30	Registration times	Lunchtime
Monday	Mrs Crackett available.		Year 8 available to help children to look in lost property.	12:20- 12:50 All unnamed lost property laid out in room 10.
Tuesday		Named lost property returned.	Year 8 available to help children to look in lost property.	
Wednesday	Mrs Crackett available.	Named lost property returned.	Year 8 available to help children to look in lost property.	
Thursday	Mrs Crackett available.		Year 8 available to help children to look in lost property.	12:05- 12:30 All unnamed lost property laid out in room 10.
Friday		Named lost property returned.		Pictures of lost property placed on the Corbridge Middle school face book page.

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PTA

Thank you to the PTA for their recent purchase - Kindle Fire tablets for the library!

The PTA have recently purchased four Kindle Fires on which the BorrowBox app will be installed, allowing children access to hundreds of eBooks, eAudioBooks and dyslexia friendly texts.



Useful Dates

DATE	TIME	EVENT	AIMED AT
Tuesday 28th January	10:00 -15:00	Dry Ski Slope, Silksworth	Y7 (Voss)
Wednesday 29th January	16:40 - 18:00	Y7 Voss - Parents Information Evening	Y7 Parents (Voss)
Friday 7th February	12.30 - 15:15	Safety Works	Y5
Tuesday 11th February	18:30 (tbc)	Y6 Music Concert	Y6 Parents
Thursday 13th February	15:30	School closes for half term	All
Friday 14th February	All Day	Teacher Day	All
Monday 24th February	All Day	School opens for spring term 2	All
Friday 28th February	12:30 - 15:15	Safety Works	Y8
Monday 2nd March - Saturday 7th March	All Day	Y7 Ski Venture to Voss	Y7 (Voss)
Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March	All Day	National Careers Week	All
Friday 6th March	12:30 - 15:15	Safety Works	Y8
Monday 9th March	18:00 - 19:00	Y6 SATS Parents Information Evening	Y6 Parents
Wednesday 19th March, Wednesday 25th March & Monday 30th March	16:00 - 19:00	Parents Evening	All
Wednesday 1st April - Friday 3rd April	All Day	Winmarleigh Hall	Y5
Thursday 1st April	13:30 - 15:00	Y7 Music Concert	Y7 Parents



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Clubs Timetable

MONDAY		
12:05	KS3 Netball	Mrs Scott
12:05	Hockey Club	Mrs Parkin
12:30	Art Open Door	Mrs Walker-Thomas
12:30	Weather & Climate Change Club	Dr Batchelder
12:30	Ceilidh Band	Mrs Stephenson
TUESDAY		
08:30	Guitar Group	Mr Buckton
12:05	Junior Choir	Mrs Fisher
12:05	KS3 Friendship Club	Mrs Liddle
12:30	Games Club	Mrs Hamer & Mrs Mole
WEDNESDAY		
12:05	KS2 Friendship Club	Mrs Liddle
12:05	Homework Club	Mrs Firth & Mrs Mole
12:05	KS3 Football	Mr Blatherwick
12:35	Sudoku Club	Mrs Brown
THURSDAY		
08:05	Wind Band	Mrs Fisher
12:05	KS2 Football	Mr McKee / Mr Swinney
12:05	Homework Club	Mrs Firth
12:30	Senior Choir	Mrs Fisher
15:05	Boys Choir	Mr Reed
15:30	Code Club	Miss Jones / Mr Johnston
FRIDAY		
12:05	Chess	Mr Swinney
12:30	KS3 Rugby	Mr Blatherwick