# PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE IST MARCH 2024

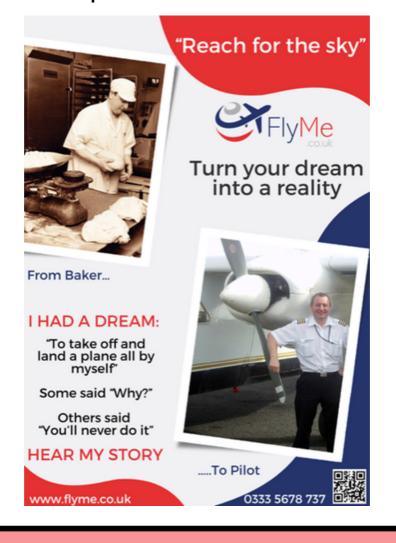
WORD OF THE WEEK – EQUALITY WORSHIP THEME OF THE WEEK – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (8/03) CORE VALUE OF THE WEEK – INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY BIBLICAL REFERENCE OF THE WEEK – PROVERBS 31:25-26

Another fantastic week has passed us by. I was delighted to read a selection of superbly written applications for our Senior Student Leadership team this week from current Year 7 students. They will be interviewed next week and some of them will be given the responsibility of being part of the team. One common theme from any visitor who gets a tour by the team or meets them is how well-spoken they are and how proud of the school they are. To be fair, all the children are the same. We have had another round of interviews this week and I am delighted to announce we have appointed three exceptional new members of staff: one who will teach computing, one to teach maths and have a responsibility within the department and finally a subject co-ordinator of history. They will add to and strengthen our already outstanding team. We're looking forward to an action-packed week that includes National Careers week, an author visit for Y7, World Book Day on Thursday and motivational speaker for our Y9 cohort on Friday. We will be holding our Y9 Options Evening on Wednesday 6th March to start the process of students deciding what they will study at Key Stage 4.

# **CAREERS WEEK**

National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance across the UK. NCW is a dedicated week every year allowing us to provide students with new knowledge, ideas, and career aspirations.

In school next week, we have a variety of activities and sessions taking place. These include activities in every form time to get students thinking about their future career choices and ambitions. There will be posters and resources in classrooms for discussion, careers conversations with staff and for Y9, a careers focused assembly from a guest speaker. Our guest speaker is a former commercial airline pilot who now lives and works in Barnsley. Roy Kelly will be speaking about his unconventional path to becoming a pilot and how his ambition and drive ultimately got him to his end goal. The Y9 assembly will be taking place on Friday 8th of March and all students will have the opportunity to ask questions and listen to the talk.



## PE AND SPORT

Now we are heading towards Spring and lighter nights, our fixtures will be coming thick and fast again. This week our triumphant girls' football team carried on where they left off with a 1-0 victory, Kaitlyn Oates with the winning goal. Our boys' basketball team played another great game away at Kettlethorpe, unfortunately going down 25-12. Baskets scored by Zakk, James, Henry and Rayan.

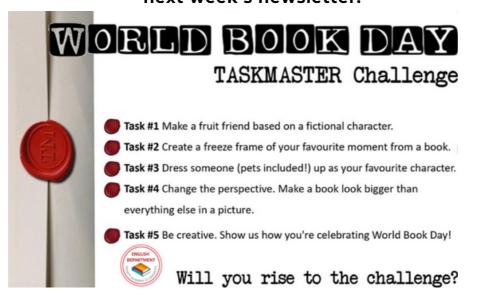
Finally, after school on a Monday, we have external coaches coming into school to deliver dance and kickboxing. Please see Mr Wilson if you are interested.





## WORLD BOOK DAY

We are already planning our staff outfits ready to celebrate everything reading on Thursday. Children come to school as normal in their full uniform and during the day there will be tasks and activities in every lesson and in their free time to take part in. One of these is below and it details the Taskmaster challenges for students. Staff will be decorating their classroom doors and we will be shouting loud about the importance of reading and the power of imagination it generates. I will be posting photos of the event in next week's newsletter.



### PREVENT

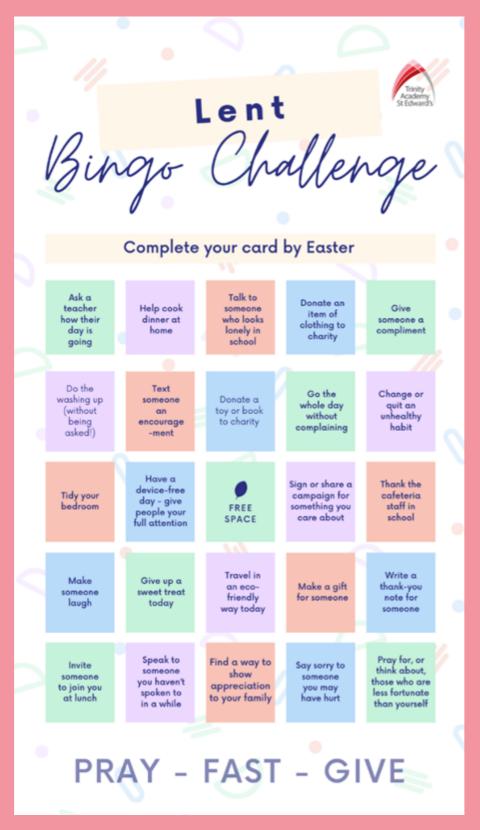
This week we have welcomed Andrew Barnaby from Barnsley LA to lead an assembly for each year group on PREVENT. He gave detailed information of what radicalisation is and the things to look out for and who to report it to. He covered other topics such as misogyny and how to challenge far right views. If parents are concerned about anything related to radicalisation, extreme views or behaviours, please do get in touch with the pastoral team.

## LEXONIK ADVANCE

One of the biggest challenges that children face in secondary school is accessing vocabulary and ensuring that their reading age is where it should be. Without an understanding of words, they struggle to interpret questions and then answer incorrectly or feel anxious when faced with comprehension and completing work. We have just completed a first piece of work with some students that required a little top up. We are delighted to announce that after a six-week programme, on average the entire group made 46 months progress. This is testament to the work they put in and their dedication and the skill of our fully trained English team who delivered it. We have sent out letters for the next cohort, please do support us with this, it really will make a huge difference to learning and understanding.

## LENT

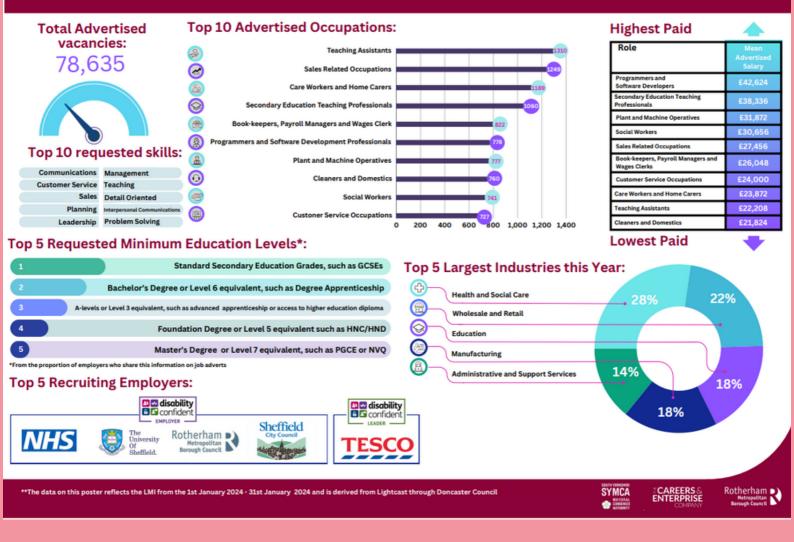
As I reported last week, we are in the period of lent and our bingo challenge will run throughout, please do try the challenges below at home. We will be supporting Barnsley Foodbank again during this time, if you would like to make any donations, please can you bring them in during the last week of the half term.



# LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION- BARNSLEY

Please see below the current Labour Market Information (LMI) for Barnsley. Labour market information tells you what the workplace looks like. LMI is data taken from publicly available sources, which gives information on jobs and industries. This helps us understand the structural trends and demands of an economy. Labour market information describes the condition of the labour market currently and makes future predictions. It informs us where work opportunities are increasing or decreasing, what occupations exist, what you need to study to get into that occupation, what is required to take up an occupation, how you can find a job, change job or progress in a career. Labour markets operate at local, regional, national and now at international levels. Labour market information can be overwhelming and confusing. Learning what it is and how to use it can assist you in helping your child research careers and find out where those careers exist.

#### The Latest Monthly Labour Market Information (LMI) for South Yorkshire\*\*



# **Y9 OPTIONS GUIDANCE MEETINGS**

Every Wednesday for the next 6 weeks, we have careers adviser Katie Copson from C&K Careers in school meeting with individuals and small groups of Y9 students regarding their options choices. Students will be told in form time notices when their appointment slot is on a Wednesday and should ensure they arrive promptly for their guidance meeting.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Monday 4th-Friday 8th March</u> National Careers Week

> <u>Tuesday 5th March</u> Author visit for Year 7

<u>Wednesday 6th March</u> Y9 Careers guidance interviews Y9 Options Evening - 5:30pm – 7pm – all Y9 parents/carers need to attend

> <u>Thursday 7th March</u> World Book Day

Esports visit to Barnsley College – Y8

<u>Friday 8th March</u> Motivational speaker assembly Y9

## **PE FIXTURES**

<u>Monday 4th March</u> Y7-9 football and netball away at Netherwood

<u>Tuesday 5th March</u> TMAT games – girls' netball at Trinity Academy Grammar

> <u>Thursday 7th March</u> Y7/8 girls' football vs Kirk Balk Y9/10 rugby at Shaw Lane

<u>Friday 8th March</u> Let girls play – inter school event at Honeywell