

GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You



Interim Principal's Welcome

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Grateley House School newsletter.

This Spring term has provided an abundance of learning opportunities and activity options for our students which I hope you will enjoy reading about. I feel privileged to be able to share these experiences with them and thoroughly enjoy celebrating their achievements. I am also incredibly proud to have the opportunity to lead such a diverse, skilled and dedicated staff team who do their utmost to ensure that the students are given the opportunity to achieve their personal best.

As you will be aware we are currently in an exciting phase of growing our school community, and we have welcomed many prospective students in for either overnight or day visits during this term. It has been an absolute pleasure to see our students uphold the school values – Be kind, Be brave, Be you, demonstrating these when the prospective students have visited. This has helped to make them feel welcomed during their initial experiences of Grateley House School. We have also had Michael and Ryan join us as day students and this has been really positive.

Next term we will be launching the Rights Respecting School Award, as we are aiming to achieve the bronze accolade for the site by the end of the academic year. The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes, goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community:

- Children are healthier and happier
- Children feel safe
- Children have better relationships
- Children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

We are also going to be finalising the Student Activity Passports. These are designed to support a child's development outside of the classroom and give the school a framework for an enrichment curriculum. We will be seeking valuable feedback from the student population, ensuring their voice is captured in the planning and production of them.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to three valued members of the Grateley team who are leaving to explore new opportunities; Claire Lockley, Administrator, Chantele Adams, Night Assistant Team Manager and Emerlee Stewart, Assistant Psychologist. I am sure you will join me in

thanking each of them for their contribution during their time working at the school. We wish them all the very best in their next ventures.

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for your continued support in helping us to put the 'Great' back into Grateley House School. We are really excited about our continued journey and really pleased that you are all able to be part of it.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday and I look forward to seeing our students back for the Summer term.

Best Wishes,

Eva Pereira



Message from Head of Education

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Spring term has been incredibly busy with a wide range of opportunities and events taking place.

The Mock exams were taken this term by students in Year 10 and 11. This provided them with the opportunity to experience exam conditions and help them in preparing for their upcoming examinations in the summer term.

We recognise the hard work and effort shown by all students who participated in this process, as we understand this can be daunting for some.

Next half of term we will be continuing to support the students in preparing themselves for their exams, with Study Skills being offered, supported by our therapy team.

We have had many different events taking place in the school this term and most recently we had our school Careers Week. This has given the students the opportunity to develop their skills and start preparing them for the 'world of work'.

To celebrate Autism Acceptance Week we are welcomed Simon Tobin, a former student, to come and talk to the students and share his life experiences. These insightful discussions were be useful for our students to hear.

Over the last two weeks we have run Residential Student Progress meetings, these were attended by the students, supported by their key worker. They met with their subject teachers to discuss and review their progress. Each of the students were also asked to submit their feedback on their learning experiences prior to the meetings being held.

This has been valuable in identifying where learning can be transferred into the houses as part of the waking day curriculum.

I would like to celebrate some of the new options for the Friday afternoon Personal Development sessions; these include: Lego, Games, Photography (offsite), Running, Biking, Crochet, Cooking, and Hair and Beauty. These are excellent opportunities for

the students to develop outside the formality of the classroom.

Lastly, I would like to share the following news. As some of you will be aware, sadly, the Stonehenge Stomp had to be cancelled due to the weather; however, we still wanted to get our 'stomp on', so Alvaro Lopez has planned and organised on our own Grateley Stomp where participants can choose to complete the following distances 5km, 10km, 15km or 20km. This is taking place on the last day of term 31/03/2023 and we are really looking forward to it!





Message from Interim Head of Care

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

A big thank you to all the young people and parents this half term, who have welcomed me into my new role as Interim Head of Care. Some of you I have previously met and interacted with via one of my previous roles at the school and others who have been new faces. This half term has been an exciting one for me personally, and it is a real privilege to be back on site and working with the wider Grateley provision.

Part of my role as Interim Head of Care has been to undertake several audits and start to build and further the quality that is already in place. In doing this, I have been very pleased to see that the young people are making great progress in care and education. 'Crunching the numbers' around our Star Outcome scales has shown we are making strong progress across the board, particularly in areas such as 'communication and social skills', 'physical health', 'living skills' and 'well-being'.

A big part of our growth moving forward will be to ensure that we continue to maximise the young people's opportunities and share experiences across teams. Some of you may be aware of the recent Residential Student Progress Meetings which are the start of promoting collaborative working, as care, education and therapy come together to review formal and informal learning experiences with the residential students.

This term we have been lucky enough to interview and appoint two internal candidates for Assistant Team Manager roles, Shauna Lund in Amport and Tanya Boddington in Monxton. Nurturing 'home grown' talent is something that is really important to us as a site, as it is really powerful for ensuring the values and ethos of the school remains strong.

As a team this term we have embarked on some exciting training opportunities that we aim to embed into our day to day practice to benefit the development of our young people. We have had sessions with external professionals on 'Restorative

Practice' and 'Supporting Progress' using interesting theories such the 'Growth Mindset' and understanding how to instil a 'Growth Mindset' into ourselves and the young people we work with. We have also trained certain staff in Mental Health First Aid at Work and have added to our expertise in this area through training provided by the British Red Cross.

Have a relaxing Easter all and we look forward to seeing you after the break ready for the Summer term.



New Staff

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



"My name is Emily, and I have decided to come to Grateley House School to join the domestic team, as it works around my family life with having my daughter in school. Alongside this job, I do another job in domestics so when I do get any free time, its usually spent with my family, 3 very energetic dogs, and 7 chickens."

"Hi my name is Rachel Ewence. Most of you will know me as I have worked at Grateley for close to 17 years now in various roles, from Housekeeper, Chef, Catering Manager, Support worker, and finally Senior support worker at Grateley. I am now working at Stratford Lodge which is a change for me, but I am really enjoying it. We have a brilliant team who are great to work with. They are super tolerant, I know this as they put up with my weirdness. "





"Hi, my name is Anna and I'm one of the newest staff members at GHS. I have joined the care team as a Learning Support Worker. I previously worked in a residential home for young girls where I was part of a small team that supported young people with additional needs, and other mental health needs. I have various hobbies that I enjoy, but my number one thing I love to do and takes up most of my spare time is drawing and painting. In my spare time I like things such as book cover illustration, long country walks and yoga. I'm also a qualified swimming teacher which makes swimming a favoured sport of mine. For many years now I've had a passion and empathy for help making a difference in the lives of young people I enjoy the work I do and therefore I look forward to what the future holds for me here at Grateley.

School."

"Hi I'm Caroline, I previously worked as a support worker here at GHS between 2017-2021. For the last almost 2 years I have been working as a support worker in a residential children's home. During this time I also went through the intensive registration process to Foster with Wiltshire Council and I am now also a full time foster carer for two siblings. We also have our naughty Bulldog Maisy to contend with. My mantra is 'Every day is a school day'."



Careers Week

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

As part of National Careers Week 2023, we thought we would introduce a range of new opportunities to the students. We invited all of the students to direct interview-style questions to selected staff members, enabling them to experience being an interviewer.

The volunteer staff included Eva Pereira, Jean North, Maggie Wilson and Graham Charnley. They were all asked a series of questions about their career pathways, each of them shared their successes and learning experiences to help showcase our theme of 'growth mindset' and the benefits of this when employment opportunities are explored and considered.







Later in the week, students had their own chance to be interviewed by a staff panel so that they could see both sides of the process. They were given feedback afterwards. There were some excellent interview techniques demonstrated which should build the students confidence as they head towards the world of work in a few years'.



Rights Respecting School Award

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Grateley House School aims to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan we are working towards recognition as a 'Rights Respecting School', an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF UK.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and young people and their rights. In 1989, governments across the world agreed that all children have the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

Students will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. A Rights Respecting School models rights and respect in all its relationships.

We really hope that you will be able to support our school on our journey towards becoming a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School.

For further information about Rights Respecting Schools please visit: <u>www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa</u>





RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Monxton Activities / News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

During Spring Term, Carter has continued to engage in activities and develop his life skills.

Monxton has had a 'decoration upgrade', with Carter helping to choose items for the lounge area and making a trinket pot for the new wall shelf.





Monxton is also now 'Home of the best Carrot Cake', as Carter has happily taken to shopping for, and baking, the most delicious Carrot Cake we have ever tasted! His skill flows into making Crème Egg Brownies too, which he made for Circle Time as part



of the Easter Season celebrations. Carter and a peer also had a 'cake swap' on the occasion of his peer's birthday, with Carter being offered Red Velvet cake, in exchange for his Carrot cake.

The heavy snowfall, in the second week of March, had Carter outside building a 'snow cave' with Elliott, Darryl and Courtnall.

However, as they had failed to install central heating, Willow declined it as her new home.

This was her first experience of real snow, and loved trying to catch snowballs and a very ice-encrusted tennis ball, with Carter in the garden.





Kimpton Activities / News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

<u>News</u>

Garden Project

Kimpton staff and students have been coming up with ideas to transform our garden area in preparation for the nicer weather. Paint colours have been chosen, wildlife homes and feeding stations are on order and we are ready to take on this fun challenge. Watch this space for the transformation in the coming weeks!

Activities

Cooking

Courtnall has enjoyed cooking meals for himself with the support from staff over the term. He has been able to choose recipes he would like to cook, keeping within a budget to buy the ingredients and has produced some delicious meals.







Sea Cadets:

Courtnall is continuing to increase his independence at sea cadets. He has shown

greater confidence and desire to reduce the support needed from staff whilst attending and this has also been asked by the leaders in line with his progress.



Courtnall has received some lovely feedback from a senior cadet when a member of support staff asked how he was getting on one evening:

"Really well, he's getting involved lots which is nice to see, we love having him here."

Courtnall is looking forward to attending a fun trip with his sea cadets' group on the 9^{th} May to the science museum in Winchester.

Football Club

Courtnall also continues to enjoy being part of the Andover New Street Youth Club,



Streets Ahead, and attends every Thursday evening. He has recently been selected as captain during a match which he was delighted to take on this role.



Amport Activities / News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Lucas has continued to access the community this term. He enjoys his weekly off-site

educational visits to The Wheels Project in Swindon and is making good progress at Salisbury College. Lucas also enjoys regular visits to Salisbury to spend time with College peers and is independently catching the train to and from Salisbury by himself. As well as the local community, Lucas has also been building friendships in his home area by spending time at a Warhammer club in Blandford.



Harper has engaged in activities locally and in particular he enjoys Pokémon Go around Andover and Grateley. Although Harper finds going off site difficult, he has tried his best and been brave giving it a go. Harper continues to enjoy expressing himself in Amport's kitchen and has regularly demonstrated he can shop for supplies independently and work within a budget. He has also worked in the school kitchen this term, helping out the cooks and developing his skills.

During this term we bid a fond farewell to Harper who has moved house. We will all miss his sense of humour in Amport and look forward to seeing his progress in Monxton House.

Fred remains keen to go off site on an evening as often as possible. He has made use of his off-site status on numerous occasions by meeting up with peers in Salisbury and Southampton, spending time with them by himself. He has frequently used the train independently and has demonstrated the ability to get himself home, which includes traveling to Waterloo Station at busy times. A highlight this Term was a school visit to St. Mary's Stadium to watch Southampton Vs. Newcastle which Fred really enjoyed.



Stratford Lodge News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

We have had various students doing driving lessons, plus Declan and Oliver have even passed their theory test so congratulations to them.

Riley and Declan have been enjoying their work experience placements, Declan is at a charity shop in Salisbury twice a week and Riley works at a charity shop at home, along with a garage near Stockbridge.

Thomas, Rupert and Steph have all been going to the local gym regularly in an aim to get fitter, as well visiting Jump in.

Thomas and Rupert went to Ninja Warrior in Southampton which they enjoyed despite being tired afterwards.

Steph has enjoyed 2 theatre

trips, she saw Circus of Horrors and Queenz ,and loved meeting the cast afterwards.

Declan and Riley have been working on their transition, they have visited Ruskin Mill. Riley has also been to the Wing centre and Declan has had a number of meetings with Wiltshire Employment Support Team.



Riley attended a boardgame evening in Salisbury at a local pub which he enjoyed.

All the students continue to have their own food money so that they have the opportunity to buy and cook their own meals.





World Book Day

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

World Book Day was a great success this year at Grateley House School, with many students and staff adorned in a creative array of costume finery. These included Harry Potter, Goldilocks and Three Bears and Indiana Jones.



The students were able to enjoy a whole school assembly where three staff member read extracts from their favourite books, whilst dressed in character.



Post-16 News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Post-16 students and staff have enjoyed a productive and fruitful term. Students have completed [and been certificated] for their Level 2 Functional Skills Speaking, Listening & Communication assessments through NCFE. They must be commended on the level of content they included in their presentations with staff also being praised for playing their part within the audience. Students continue to make gains within their chosen vocational subjects both on-site and at the colleges for which they are supported. Our relationships with local colleges [Andover / Wiltshire] remain strong, open and transparent, which assists the students to remain at ease and be successful in their respective environments. Examples of good work include fully edited radio shows as part of their Occupational Studies course. All students are on track to achieve their study programmes in the Summer term and we look forward to celebrating their success with them at the end of the year. Work Experience placements at Enham Trust, The Army Flying Museum, Lockerley Motors [Romsey], Sue Ryder Charity Shop [Basingstoke] and Red Cross Charity Shop [Salisbury] continue to be successful in providing our young people with valuable work skills as part of their Preparing for Adulthood journey.

In the latter part of the term Ben and Christopher were very keen to present an assembly as part of our weekly theme of Neurodiversity. This was a great success where students were able to hear the thoughts of their peers as part of an assembly as opposed to staff delivering this message. The delivery of the assembly was thoughtful, considered, sensitive and informative to all in the audience. A special mention must be given to Ben who has not attended an assembly in a number of years. It was a moving experience for all who have worked with him over the last few years.





Upcoming Personal Development

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

As we head into the Summer Term we have some exciting events at Grateley coming up!

We start the term thinking about the future with weekly themes such as sustainability, STEM and Space and Future Tech. As part of this we are hoping to have some fun experiences and visitors.

As we move into May we have the Bank Holiday. The following celebrations focus around our new King! Despite the school closing for us to enjoy the coronation at home or our with friends and family, we will be holding small events at school to celebrate this special occasion!

Also in May, we have Bikeability visiting us once again to support students with road safety and cycling skills. Please let us know if you have any questions about this as it will be open to all students and the more the merrier with some students on track for Level 2 this time round.

We also have our big event on the first part of Summer with the GHS Swimmers joining the National Swimathon to raise money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Last year we raised a whopping £200 and the team did brilliantly achieving well deserved medals and swimming over 5km. We hope to raise even more this year so please do dig deep and visit our Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/grateley-house-school.

SWIMATHON

Following this, our annual Cultural Festival will take place towards the end of the month with activities and trips to enrich learning about different faiths, beliefs, cultures and religions. More information will follow so, as always, everyone keep your eyes on Student Notices for further information nearer the time.

We look forward to an exciting Summer Term welcoming the arrival of sunshine and warm weather and lots going on at Grateley House with plenty of opportunities for students to show their values- be kind, be brave, be YOU!

$\diamond \diamond$



Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The year 11's have done two sets of mock exams in preparation for GCSE, instead of the traditional one. Even better was they agreed as a team after the January series to do another series of 3 in the second half of term. The second set showed an improved performance which has greatly helped boost their confidence for the main event in may.

The new key stage 3 students are settling in well and are now starting to show their true abilities in maths now that they have got used to the Grateley way of learning. Looking forward to next term, the main event is always the year 11 GCSE exam series, which this year they will be prepared well to meet its challenge, and to succeed.

4 /



Subject News - Food Tech

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

At the start of Spring, 2 students celebrated Shrove Tuesday in Grateley style:



Re-interpretation of the traditional pancake, into delicious waffles.

Some people like traditions the best...



Year 8 students have been building on their knowledge about food safety, including storage, spoilage and temperature control.

Year 9's continue to learn about the function of ingredients in cooking. They are also developing their knowledge about the role of macronutrients and micronutrients – the benefits and the risks of deficiencies.

At the end of term, students were tasked with baking Easter-themed treats, including a biscuit challenge.





Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Stonehenge Stomp in January that Grateley House School planned to take part in was unfortunately cancelled due to flooding conditions, so... we have decided to organise our own 'Grateley Stomp'. This will be taking place on the last day of Spring term, 31st March, from 9:30am.

There will be an option of distances for both students and staff to walk or run, any distance between 5, 10, 15 or 20km!

Alvaro, our PE teacher has worked out a 5km loop around the Grateley village which participators will make their way round, stacking up the kilometres as they go.



The event will be raising money for Sports Relief - if you would like to donate, please go through the below link for our fundraising page, or cash is welcomed in the main school office.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/grateley-house-school-stomp

Preparing for GCSE Summer Examinations

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

A message from the Exams Officer:

Exams this year run over a five week period, starting with Drama on the afternoon of Monday 15th May and running through to the last exam, Food Preparation and Nutrition, on Tuesday 20th June. Although, on the whole, exams are reasonably well spaced which allows students a chance for recovery between each one, for students studying Computer Science, Geography, Creative iMedia and Music, there are several days when they will face morning and afternoon exams on the same day. (This is beyond our control as we have to follow national examination timings).

To comply with examination recommendations, we are hoping to start exams promptly at 9 o'clock for the morning exams and 1 o'clock for the afternoon exams, as then when students have an arrangement for extra time, this should mean that they should always be finished in time, so there should be no delays for taxis and homecoming at the end of the day. We do appreciate that this may mean earlier taxi pick-ups in the morning, which may have a knock on effect for students who are travelling with the Year 11 students.

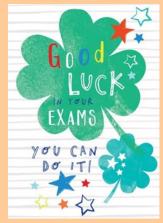
This year the full external examination subjects are English Language, Maths, Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs), Computer Science, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, Media, Music and Spanish. There are also some subjects e.g. Design Technology, where certification does not involve examination, but a portfolio of work showing their learning over the last 2 years.

For some of the more practical subjects, students are busily completing their GCSE coursework, and writing this up, while for other subjects, in class revision may already have started, while for other subjects, teaching still continues in order to complete the necessary learning. Students have received revision guides, workbooks, or a list of topics to be studied to help them with their independent revision. We encourage students to

start their revision early and some are already doing this, hopefully sticking to the recommendation of 'little and often', as this is usually far more effective than last minute cramming.

Because we know this is a particularly anxious and stressful time for students, the therapy team are hoping to become involved, offering revision tips, planning, and sessions covering techniques for relaxation and minimising stress.

I'm sure that everyone reading this newsletter will be thinking of our students during their exam period and sending them positive thoughts wishing them Good Luck.



Southampton Football Trip

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On 24th January, students and staff had the opportunity to visit St. Mary's Stadium in Southampton to watch the Carabao Cup semi-final, between Southampton FC and Newcastle United.

The freezing cold weather did not stop the excitement of this trip and how much we enjoyed it, along with the other 33,000 fans in the stadium. Unfortunately, Newcastle United were the winning team, taking the victory, by a narrow 0-1.

For some of the students, this was their

first live match experience in an English football stadium and the student's feedback was that it was a fantastic atmosphere.

This trip was part of the Physical Education curriculum and helps the students to support several objectives of their end of learning intentions. One of those being to analyse the tactical formations of the teams, and how players adapt to different situations within the match.

We are all hoping to see Southampton FC stay in the Premier League so that we can keep enjoying these quality matches in the future.







Student Work

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Harper has completed this lovely piece of work in DT - a gaming cabinet modelled after a GameBoy, working with MDF and plywood for the structure and Perspex for the screen.

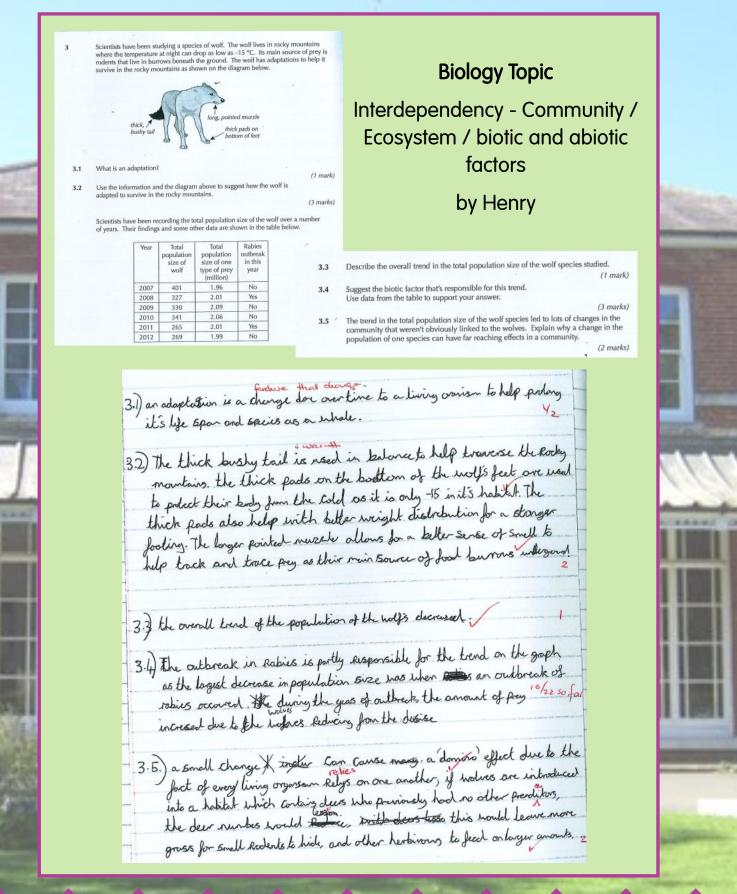






Student Work

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Safeguarding Topic - Railway Danger

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Grateley House School is within easy walking distance to both Grateley station and the railway line. As a result, it is vital that students be aware of the dangers that railway lines pose.

Students attended an assembly presented by the British Transport Police (BTP) this term, where these dangers were clearly spelled out to them.

These are some of the interesting facts shared by the BTP:

- Over 1.7 billion passenger journeys are made every year;
- The average fast train travels at 125mph;
- The average train weighs 400 tonnes that's equivalent to 80 elephants.
- A train travelling at 125mph will take 1 and a quarter mile to stop that's the same as 20 premier league football pitches.
- Electricity on the railway lines is live 24/7;
- A wind turbulence created by a train can drag someone standing next to the track under the train's wheels.

Grateley station has electrified tracks and although there is CCTV, it is not monitored 24/7. This poses a danger to our students and it is essential that they keep themselves safe if they need to travel by train. It is also essential that no student engages in risky offsite behaviour near a railway line. Should this occur, the processes outlined in our Student Offsite Safety Policy will be followed.

Students were made aware of the knock-on effect of any rail incident where, not only themselves, but also staff, family, railway police, employees and the public could be adversely affected.

Students were also made aware of the law and the maximum sentences in relation to railway crime. They were reminded that the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years and above. Any railway trespass can lead to a £1000 fine, criminal damage to 10 years imprisonment and endangering safety can result in life imprisonment.

Network Rail work closely with The British Transport Police to reduce crime on trains. If you experience any crime during a train journey, text the details of your train and location directly to the BTP by using the number 61016.

Students responded well to the assembly and were excellent in both posing and answering questions with the transport police. The BTP will attend annually to address the students and we are grateful for their support.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Easter break especially if you choose to travel by train.

