

Principal's Message – week ending 14 02 20

Dear Families

Hinchingbrooke is about so much more than the lessons in the timetable!

Schools are about learning, and that's mostly about what happens day to day: lessons in English, Maths, Science, Music, Art, Languages, Geography, History, PE, Design Technology, Drama and so on form the basis of a learning journey that builds knowledge and skills over time, so that when young people leave school, they have – hopefully – a solid base from which to take their next step. But there is, and should be, far more to school than just what happens in lessons between 8.55am and 3.30pm each school day. We often call those experiences that happen outside of the regular lessons 'Enrichment'.

I was privileged to see the school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' this week and I was struck by the dedication of those students who must have practised hard to learn their lines and their moves, supported by our wonderful Drama Department team and our many other colleagues. I was struck, too, by the joy on the faces of the students at the end of the evening, and by how they clearly supported each other through the show – their team-work.

Some of our students left this morning on a History trip to Russia; other students will go on the ski trip during this half-term holiday; and I'm looking forward to the 'IndepenDANCE' dance event that will take place next half term - so much happens in this school beyond that which happens in lessons, whether that be trips, productions, concerts, other events, teams, clubs and volunteering (our sixth formers volunteer for one hour a week to support students lower down the school and they develop leadership skills as they do this).

I am positive that those students who have excelled in 'Little Shop of Horrors' this week will never forget it, as long as they live; just as other students will never forget the many other enriching things that they are able to do through school.

All of those things don't happen by chance; they happen through the dedicated commitment of a staff team that regularly go the extra mile for our students. That is, of course, as it should be – schools should be about more than the lessons in the timetable. Ours certainly is, and it makes me feel proud.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal