

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was good to welcome all of our students back from the Easter break this week. Unfortunately, we have had to relay some sad news to our students. Over the Easter holiday one of our Teaching Assistants, Mr Leigh Phillips, died unexpectedly in his sleep. Leigh has worked with many of our students, especially those in Year 8 and 9 who will miss him most keenly.

In our act of remembrance with students we have talked about grief and loss and the message of hope that we get from the Resurrection at Easter. To know happiness, we have to know sadness. If the world seems darker when someone has left it, it is because our lives were brighter for knowing them; this is why we refer to Psalm 119: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Leigh leaves a wife and young son and our thoughts and prayers are very much with them at this time.

Other news:

The response to our fundraising during Lenten Charity Weeks at the end of term was amazing. The last count before we broke up was that we had raised £2,800, but we expect that this will end up being more than £3,000 when all monies have been collected in.

Equally, the PTA's Easter Bingo was really well-supported and those who attended had a great evening of fun and games. Over £700 was raised to develop the stock of Young Adult Fiction for the Library.

We will hopefully run another event during the summer term (possibly a car boot sale or a Race Night), so I hope that you will be able to support these events if you can.

We have welcomed a new teacher to the Science Department this term. Mr Dunn is an experienced teacher of Science and we are delighted to welcome him to the Balshaw's Family.

Year 11 are in their final weeks of study before they sit their GCSE examinations after two disrupted years of study. We hope that they will work as hard as they can in these remaining weeks and wish them the best of luck.

May this warmer Spring weather continue and best wishes to you all.

Mr Steven Haycocks

HEADTEACHER
BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)

non sibi sed aliis