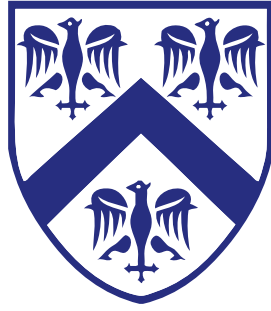


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Birkdale High School

Aspire • Thrive • Succeed

YEAR 7 TRANSITION GUIDE 2017-2018



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Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to Birkdale High School and what we hope will be for your son five successful and happy years.

What do we all want for our children as parents? At Birkdale High School we believe that we all look for the same things: In these crucial five years we want our children to be safe and happy in school, we want them to develop into responsible young adults and we want them to achieve whatever their potential is. Therefore our commitment to you for the next five years is that we will work tirelessly with you to build what we consider to be the foundations of a successful lifelong education: *Aspire - Thrive - Succeed*.

We pride ourselves on having high aspirations for each of the boys that join us at Birkdale High School and to deliver these aspirations we have unashamedly high expectations in every area of school life and personal development. We insist on the highest standards of appearance, behaviour, effort and attitude to learning but we will also provide opportunities for him to experience new things, develop new skills and grow personally and academically both in and out of the classroom. We will be there for him every step of the way and will always be in close communication with you so that he hopefully looks back at his time at Birkdale knowing that he got the best pastoral care any school could possibly offer and achieved the best academic results he could have ever hoped for.

Communication is key to an effective transition and this booklet is designed to collate and clarify some of the key aspects of school life that you will become familiar with over the years. It will also give you a quick guide to the year that lies ahead and how we are going to work together to ensure your son has the best possible start to secondary school.

Should you have any further questions after reading this booklet do not hesitate to contact your son's form tutor or Mr Cunliffe, Head of Year 7.

Best regards
Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher



*"Boys and staff have their sights,
expectations and ambitions set high."
(Ofsted 2013)*

Transition

It is often hard to know how to achieve the balance between offering your child too much support (becoming the 'over-anxious parent') and letting things go on too long because you don't want to interfere.

The job is made much easier if you keep talking to your son about how things are at school and get a good idea about how they are feeling generally about school. This will give you a sound basis for deciding whether your intervention is required or not.

If we have any concerns we will always contact you but we always welcome contact from parents at any time. Moving to secondary school affects each child differently and you know your son best, but if any aspect of school life is persistently distressing him then it is probably best to err on the side of caution and intervene early. Certainly if you have talked to him, offered reassurance, helped him come up with ways of solving the problem himself and things have still not changed, it is time to speak to the school.

Contacting the school

Your son will be given his own email address in the first two weeks at Birkdale High School. This gives him access to the email addresses of all the staff should you need to contact anyone specific. However we have listed some of the most important ones below for your benefit:

Reception - 01704 577253

Headteacher

Mr Bourgade (gbourgade@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Head of Year

Mr Cunliffe (mcunliffe@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

SENCO

Miss Daly (jdaly@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Assistant Headteachers

Pastoral, Mr Pryor

(dpryor@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Curriculum, Mr Marshall

(pmarshall1@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Data & Exams, Mrs Duffy

(hduffy@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Teaching & Learning, Mr Hudson

(dhudson@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Head of Year 7



Mr Cunliffe

mcunliffe@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Mr Ascough

gascough@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Mrs Sinnott

asinnett@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Mrs Jeffrey

hjeffrey@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Mrs Keating

lkeating@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Mr McCarthy

jmccarthy@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Mr Waring

jwaring@birkdalehigh.co.uk



Miss Kelly

rkelly@birkdalehigh.co.uk

Peer Mentors



WHAT ARE PEER MENTORS?

Peer Mentors are older pupils - usually the year above you.

They have been specially chosen and have received training to help them to offer help, support and give guidance to boys in your year.

Peer Mentors are also role models for younger boys.

All our Peer Mentors are approachable, friendly and are always happy to help.

WHAT CAN PEER MENTORS HELP WITH?

Peer Mentors can help you with lots of things in school, such as:

- Finding your way around.
- Talking through concerns about homework.
- Advising you where to go if you have a problem.
- Introducing you to lunch time clubs you can attend.
- Sharing useful information about school.

HOW TO RECOGNISE A PEER MENTOR?

Birkdale High School has 16 Peer Mentors. The names and photos of each of the Peer Mentors are displayed on the wall as you enter the canteen.

Each of our Peer Mentors have a Peer Mentor badge on their blazer and they also wear a slightly different tie.

Show My Homework and Xpressions app for home / school communication

Birkdale High School has an exciting new service which is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. Xpressions is a new service created by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited. The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices (with Windows mobile to follow) and you'll be able to see information for your children.

It is essential you keep the school up to date with any contact detail changes, such as mobile phone, address and email. This will then enable you to access all our apps as detailed in this guide.

In September once your son is enrolled on the system, we will let you know how to install the app and login in order to get access to his information. Once installed and set up you will be able to see some or all of the following information:

- Free messages sent by the school delivered directly to the app
- Attendance and punctuality record
- Merits records
- Sanctions records
- Your son's timetable
- School calendar
- Key assessment data (later on in the year)



Calendar

AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 5th September 2017
- Thursday 21st December 2017

Autumn Half-term

Monday 23rd October 2017 - Friday 27th October 2017

INSET Days

Monday 4th September 2017 and Friday 20th October 2017

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 9th January 2018 - Friday 23rd March 2018

Spring Half-term

Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2018

INSET Day - Monday 8th January 2018

SUMMER TERM

Monday 9th April 2018 - Friday 20th July 2018

Summer Half-term

Monday 28th May 2018 - Friday 1st June 2018

INSET Days

Monday 23rd July 2018 and Tuesday 24th July 2018

May Day - School closed for May bank holiday on Monday 7th May 2018

School Day

08:50 - 09:10 Registration including an assembly once a week and ERIC* on a Friday

09:10 - 10:10 Period 1

10:10 - 11:10 Period 2

11:10 - 11:25 Refreshment Break

11:25 - 12:25 Period 3

12:25 - 13:10 Lunch Break

13:10 - 14:10 Period 4

14:10 - 15:10 Period 5

*Everyone Reads In Class

Key transition dates

We will do everything to ensure that your son's transition to Birkdale High School is as smooth as possible. We aim for every child to settle quickly and make a confident start to their time with us. We also want to build strong and lasting relationships with all our parents and carers. In order to do so we have a comprehensive programme of activities throughout Year 6 and Year 7. Some take place before your child's start in September and some after:

September Year 6:	Open Evening School visits with the Headteacher (in groups or individual at parents' request).
October Year 6:	Parents fill in the form and choose Birkdale High School.
March Year 6:	Parents and children are told they have been granted a place at Birkdale High School. Birkdale High School contacts parents and sends registration documents to be returned.
June Year 6:	Head of Year 7 and SEN coordinator visit every primary school and discuss each child with relevant primary staff. Year 6 students come and spend a full day at Birkdale High School to meet the Form Tutors and the rest of the students in their form. They experience 3 Year 7 lessons, have a free dinner in the canteen and get familiar with the building. Students who are particularly anxious about transition or have SEN have a tailored enhanced transition programme over the whole of June and July. Parents and children attend our Year 7 Induction Evening where they get the chance to buy their new uniform, hear from current students about their personal experiences, meet key staff and ask any questions they may still have.
September Year 7:	Start at Birkdale High School. Students are registered onto cashless catering system and have photograph taken. Students spend time with Form Tutor again to go over expectations, timetable, etc. as well as go around the school. Peer Mentors help in the first few days by taking pupils to lessons so no one gets lost, or feels lost. Form Captain elections. Parental Forum Meeting to give feedback, raise concerns or discuss further improvements.
December Year 7:	1st Progress Tracking report. Homework is now set in all subjects. Keep In Touch evening with Form Tutors to review transition so far.
March Year 7:	2nd Progress Tracking report. Year 7 Parents' Evening .
June Year 7:	Second Parental Forum Meeting to give feedback, raise concerns or discuss further improvements.
July Year 7:	Year 7 reports . End of Year rewards trips .
September Year 7:	Overnight Team Building Trip .

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Curriculum at Birkdale High School

At Birkdale High School the curriculum we offer aims to encourage and actively develop knowledge, creativity, thinking and practical skills so as to ensure success throughout Key Stages 3, 4 and beyond. Our core purpose is to provide a positive and rewarding educational experience for all our students.

We adapt the curriculum to suit the needs of each learner to enable access and achievement for all. We ensure a strong focus on the skills required for the demands of the new GCSE and vocational qualifications and offer a wide range of courses at all levels to prepare students for further study post 16 and beyond.

YEAR 7

Birkdale High School offers all Year 7 students a broad and balanced range of subjects to develop knowledge and key learning skills. Students will develop independent learning and thinking skills, creativity and learner resilience through a variety of subjects and topics. Our learners gain the competences required to prepare them for the future GCSE and vocational curriculum requirements. Students also learn about the personal and social issues which challenge them as young adults in today's society.

Students are mainly taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7 allowing them to access the full curriculum before being set in Year 8 and then opting for specialist subjects for Years 9, 10 and 11.

We operate a two-week timetable in all years and in Year 7 students will study all subjects, Mathematics (7 periods a fortnight), English (7), Science (6), History (3), Geography (3), Religious Education (2), French (2), Spanish (2), Physical Education (4), Art (3), Drama (1), Music (1), Computing (3) and Technology (4).

LITERACY

Literacy is a big focus for us at Birkdale High School as we want boys to leave us as competent young men who can communicate effectively in different situations. All teachers mark pupils' literacy as part of their feedback using the following code:

Marking for Literacy

Mark Meaning

Pr Poor presentation/handwriting

Sp Spelling error

P Punctuation error

Cp Capital letter

// New paragraph

READING MATTERS

Students' reading ages and literacy levels will be monitored throughout their time at Birkdale High School to ensure they have the key skills required in order to access the curriculum and succeed academically. Anyone who requires additional support with reading will follow appropriate intervention schemes such as IDL or Paired Reading Support.

At Birkdale High School, we believe that reading is a very important skill that needs to be practised regularly. Every Friday morning during registration, all students bring a book into school and take part in ERIC (Everyone Reads In Class), this includes staff as well as pupils. Until young people become functional, independent readers, they may need a little extra help and support - which parents and carers can provide at home.



Support your child's reading at home

5 simple ways that you can support your child with their reading:

1. Hear your child read aloud as much as possible.
2. Let them see you reading, whether it's a novel or a newspaper, lead by example!
3. If they enjoy movies or TV shows that are based on books, like Harry Potter or Tracy Beaker, encourage them to give the books a try.
4. Try reading the same book they are reading - then you can talk to each other about it.
5. Encourage them to read to younger brothers or sisters.

Key Stage 3 suggested independent reading list

My Name Is Mina - David Almond
Halse Chains - Laurie Anderson
Darkside Series - Tom Becker
Artemis Fowl Series - Eoin Colfer
King of Shadows - Susan Cooper
How to Train Your Dragon Series - Cressida Cowell
Flood Child - Emily Diamand
The London Eye Mystery - Siobhan Dowd
Changeling Series - Steve Feasey
The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman
Across the Nightingale Floor - Lian Herne
The Alex Rider Series - Anthony Horowitz
Skulduggery Pleasant Series - Derek Landy
Moon Pie - Simon Mason
Return to Ribblestrop - Andy Mulligan
Trash - Andy Mulligan
Fever Crumb - Philip Reeve
Percy Jackson Series - Rick Riordan
Dragon Orb Series - Mark Robson
The Boy in the Dress, Billionaire Boy, Mr Stink
- David Walliams
Echo Falls Trilogy - Behind the Curtain, Down the
Rabbit Hole - Peter Abrahams
Heaven Eyes - David Almond
Skellig - David Almond
Noughts & Crosses Series - Malorie Blackman
The Hunger Games Trilogy - Hunger Games, Catching Fire,
Mockingjay - Suzanne Collins
Millions - Frank Cottrell-Boyce
The Black Tattoo - Sam Enthoven
Baby Blue, Hunter's Heart, Drawing with Light, Breathing
Underwater - Julia Green
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time
- Mark Haddon
The Enemy - Charlie Higson
War Horse - Michael Morpurgo
Maximum Ride Series - James Patterson
Keeper - Mal Peet
Revolver - Marcus Sedgewick
Shiver Series - Shiver, Linger, Forever - Maggie Stiefvater
Bartimaeus Trilogy - The Amulet of Samarkand,
The Golem's Eye, Ptolemy's Gate - Jonathan Stroud
Numbers - Rachel Ward
Malice - Chris Wooding
Face - Benjamin Zephaniah

Homework

At Birkdale High School, we believe homework is an essential part of your son's learning and when regularly set and properly done, can add a substantial amount of study time over a five-year school career. It will cement the knowledge acquired in lessons, enhance his understanding and further his progress in each of his subjects, thereby benefiting his overall intellectual development.

Homework is set on Show My Homework (**SMHW**), a simple online homework calendar, visible to all pupils and parents complete with instructions for completion and deadline. The Homework calendar your son accesses is individual to each student and if used effectively will help him make good use of his time and keep strictly to important homework deadlines. You will also have your own individual login as a parent.

Pupils who complete all their homework to the best of their ability, in full and on time, always make better progress than pupils who struggle to keep up to date with homework. **Both you and your son will have your own login provided to access your own personal area of Show My Homework allowing open, supportive discussions about his effort and progress.**

At each tracking point your son will be awarded a grade from A-E for the completion and standard of homework. He should aim for an A at all times as this will mean he is likely to make the most progress. His overall progress level may also take into account assessed pieces of homework.

Engaging your support in your son's success is vital in helping to create high expectations and providing the basis for developing independent learning skills and habits which will benefit his lifelong learning. Providing time and space for your son to complete homework will support him in achieving his best.

We are conscious that, for some of our pupils, home study is difficult for a variety of reasons. Not every home can provide a quiet place in which to study and work and so, for those pupils particularly, but also for any others who feel they might benefit, the school runs homework and study clubs for different age groups before and after school as well as lunchtimes. Speak to your son's Form Tutor about the times of these sessions.

Assessment

REPORTS AND EXAMINATIONS

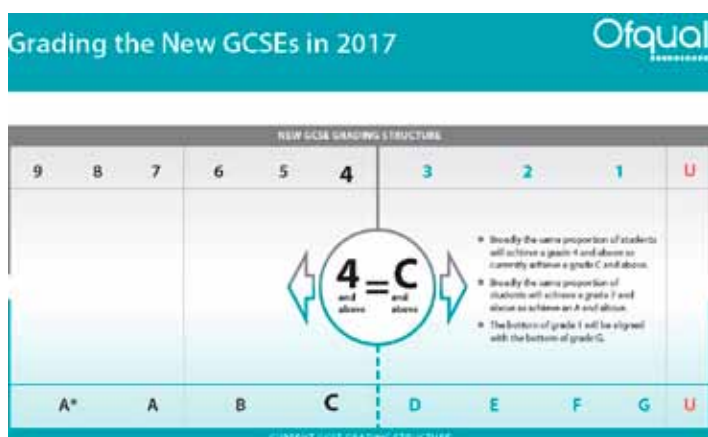
While students study at Birkdale High School, they receive three reports each year, one during each term. These reports highlight the progress of your child in each subject. They also provide information on their attitude and behaviour for learning, and the quality of their homework and presentation.

Throughout the year, the progress of the students is monitored through the work they produce in class and for homework, their performance in end of module assessments and by more formal summative internal examinations held once during the school year.

ASSESSMENT WITHOUT LEVELS

There is much change going on in Education, including a new National Curriculum, new, more challenging GCSEs and also new style A Levels. Most of this is happening over the next few years and your son will experience all of these changes. A key change is the removal of assessment levels, which parents and students have become familiar with.

The new GCSEs will be more demanding and require higher levels of literacy and numeracy to access the top grades. There will be a new grading scale, replacing the current A* to G grading, that uses the numbers 9 to 1 to identify levels of performance, with 9 being the top grade. A comparison between the 9 to 1 grading and the current A* to G grades can be most easily represented by the following diagram.



You can see that there are more grades at the top end and fewer grades at the lower end.

We have developed a new grading system that no longer sees KS3 and KS4 as separate courses, but tracks student progress throughout KS3 and KS4 on one continuum. Our aim is to provide a system that works for our school and students, and gives the feedback you need on your son's

progress. To support this aim, we have adopted the 9 to 1 GCSE grades as our model for monitoring progress throughout your son's time at Birkdale. Initially, in many subjects, students will not be working at GCSE level, so we have included an additional grade F to represent working towards the GCSE grade 1. Each subject area has produced a document detailing the skills and knowledge required for each of the grades. At each tracking students will be awarded an attainment grade based on these GCSE grade descriptors, using master grades and sub grades.

Master Grades

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Sub Grades

+	=	-
---	---	---

The example below illustrates how these grades will be applied.

- 2+ Has a comprehensive understanding of most of the concepts and skills required at grade 2
- 2= Has a good understanding of the main concepts and skills required at grade 2
- 2- Has developed an understanding of some of the main concepts and skills required at grade 2

It is important to emphasise that we are continually receiving updates and information regarding the new assessment and GCSE grading, so any new assessment system will need to be flexible; adapting and evolving in light of this new information. We will, of course, keep parents informed.

TRACKING PROGRESS

The progress of students will be monitored by a flightpath, which identifies where we would expect your son to be at each tracking point based on his end of KS2 starting point. There is a flightpath for each subject reflecting the different prior knowledge in each subject from KS2, and the different rates of progress expected during KS3. The table below shows an extract from a flightpath.

		Year 7	Year 7	Year 7	Year 8	Year 8	Year 8	Year 9	Year 9	Year 9
		Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Silver Flightpath	Secure	1+	2+	2+	2+	2+	3-	3+	3+	4-
	Emerging	1+	1+	2-	2-	2+	2+	3-	3+	3+
Bronze Flightpath	Secure	1-	1-	1+	1+	2-	2+	2+	3-	3+
	Emerging	1-	1-	1+	1+	1+	2-	2+	2+	3-

Within each subject the attainment grade that your son has been awarded, will be compared to the expected grade for that tracking period.

You will be provided with information detailing whether your son is on track to meet our GCSE target for his KS2 ability, using these descriptors:

- Your son is currently working towards the expectations of his flightpath.
- Your son is currently meeting the expectations of his flightpath.
- Your son is currently exceeding the expectations of his flightpath.

At the end of KS3, we will review your son's GCSE target, for the subjects your son selects to follow at GCSE, to take into account, not just the KS2 attainment data, but also the progress he has made at KS3 and to reflect his ability in that subject.

We set ambitious and challenging targets, but we are confident that each student has the potential to achieve each of these targets if they show real commitment and determination to succeed.



"Results in GCSE examinations are now well above the national average." (Ofsted 2013)



Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Pastoral Care

We pride ourselves on providing substantial pastoral support so that your son's time at Birkdale High School is happy and productive. Students are placed into a form and the Form Tutor meets with the students on a daily basis. The Form Tutors are therefore the first port of call for students and parents/carers should they have any concerns or issues. Likewise, the Form Tutor is also in a position to notice any change in demeanour of the students in their care and provide any support that may be required.

Each Year Group has a Head of Year. These provide additional support for students as well as making sure that students are gaining the most from their time at Birkdale High School. Attendance, punctuality and behaviour are all monitored very closely so that any early signs that a student may not be working effectively can be identified and acted upon quickly. More importantly, the Pastoral Team seeks to reinforce the positives and a comprehensive rewards system is in place to promote high standards. The whole of the Pastoral Team is led and managed by an Assistant Headteacher who has specific responsibility for this aspect of the school to ensure that the school provides the best Pastoral Care for the students at Birkdale High School.

For those students who need specific assistance and support, the school has a Learning Mentor who helps students with issues such as self-esteem and motivation. In addition to this, the school works closely with a number of external agencies to provide more bespoke care if, and when required.

*"Boys feel safe. They have a good understanding of safety concerning their own health and well-being."
(Ofsted 2013)*

Attendance and Punctuality

WHAT CONSTITUTES GOOD ATTENDANCE?

Attendance percentages are not like examination results; an attendance percentage needs to be in the high 90s, before it can be considered good.

Consider the following examples:

- An attendance record of 90% might seem good but is equal to 1 day missed per fortnight. If this continues from Years 7 to 11, a total of 6 months of education will be lost
- An attendance record of 80% might seem acceptable but is equal to 1 day missed per week. If this continues from Years 7 to 11, a total of one year's education will be lost

In order for an attendance record to be deemed good it must be 95% or above:

- 100% - excellent attendance
- 98% - very good attendance
- 95% - satisfactory attendance

Each year, a number of students in every year group achieve 100% attendance records, showing that this is an achievable target.

A first class education requires full attendance.

ILLNESS AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Time off school for illness should only be taken if absolutely necessary. Medical appointments should be taken outside of the school day or during school holidays. When this is not possible, an appointment card should be brought into school by the student and shown to the main office. Please note that without an appointment card absences for appointments will not be authorised, even when parents have contacted the school.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SON'S ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY FALLS BELOW EXPECTATIONS?

Every student's attendance and punctuality is monitored regularly by the Pastoral Team and the school's Attendance and Welfare Officer.

Form Tutors will discuss attendance and punctuality concerns with your son in the first instance. If we continue to be concerned by a student's attendance and punctuality record, parents will receive a letter outlining the concerns and we may deem it appropriate to invite parents into school to discuss how their child can best be supported. Families may also be visited at home by the Attendance and Welfare Officer. When barriers to good attendance and punctuality exist, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer, together with the school, to work jointly so that these can be overcome. If a student has too many unauthorised absences, and all other strategies have failed to improve their attendance, parents may be referred to the Local Authority.

Please consider the unspoken message you are giving your son by letting them think that it is acceptable to miss school.

TAKING HOLIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TIME

There are 190 statutory school days in an academic year. There are 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available for use for holidays.

All research shows that excellent attendance at school is essential for a student to achieve their potential. An average two week holiday in school time means your son has 50 lessons of missed work to catch up on as well as all current work when they return. The Headteacher is unlikely to authorise any holidays for students in school time. School term time must be used for learning and teaching and holidays taken in term time impact negatively on the students chances of success. Any pattern of absence of extended days or days linked to the start or the end of a school holiday period will be questioned as a holiday unless medical evidence is provided in writing to support the absence.

The Headteacher does have the discretion to approve compassionate leave of absence from school such as for funerals, or authorise absences in other exceptional circumstances. Any such request must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Holidays in school time may be less expensive but your son's education is priceless.

School Discipline

We believe in positive reinforcement and the rewards system is based on this principle. However, the school will not tolerate behaviour which negatively affects the learning environment and we have very clear behaviour expectations that our students must adhere to. All classrooms have a Behaviour for Learning Consequence Ladder which outlines the behaviour stages within the classroom.

Outside of the classroom students must conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful manner. Behaviour which undermines the schools discipline and/or threatens the well-being of themselves or other students will not be tolerated.

Any student who continually disrupts their own learning and the learning of others and/or has little regard for the wellbeing of others or the schools standards will be removed into the exclusion room and parents contacted. We seek to positively reinforce the high standards that we expect of our students. Students are expected to behave in a manner which allows excellent teaching to take place and exceptional progress to be made. To provide students with the best opportunity of achieving rewards, systems are in place to monitor on a daily, weekly, half termly and termly basis. This is to enable the Pastoral Team to be proactive in addressing any behaviour concerns and ensuring that positive behaviours are achieved and sustained. At timely points throughout the year parents will be informed about their son's behaviour and attendance record. Parents can also keep up to date with their son's behaviour and attendance record via the Xpressions Application on their electronic devices. Students are rewarded in a number of ways, such as merits, chocolate bars, certificates sent home or direct contact with parents/carer.

Rewards and Incentives

Excellent attendance and punctuality is essential for students to qualify for this invitation. However, the biggest reward and incentive is the positive impact that an excellent attendance and punctuality has on their progress and achievement.

Remember - students have to attend to attain.

*"Boys' behaviour around the school is very good; they are polite and cooperative with each other and adults."
(Ofsted 2013)*

Behaviour for Learning

MERITS

Class teachers award merits for student's positive contributions to the school community. These may be for classroom based reasons such as a good commitment and dedication to work and homework but they can also be issued for good deeds and helpfulness. At the end of each week the students in each year group with the most merits and no sanctions receive a mini reward. At timely points throughout the year additional rewards are given out based on the number of merits received.

ATTENDANCE

Once every half term students are awarded certificates for 100% attendance.

HALF TERM REWARDS

At the end of each half term the behaviour and rewards data is analysed. Any student who has 100% attendance, 100% punctuality and has received no sanctions are put into a year group draw. The five students who are drawn out of the hat in each year group receive a gift card.

END OF YEAR TRIP

At the end of each academic year we invite students to attend a selection of trips. These trips are a way of celebrating the good behaviour, attendance and punctuality of the students. As a result, students have to meet certain criteria to be eligible for an invitation:

- Attendance - this must be 95% or above. It is appreciated that some students have medical reasons for not attending school. For these students special consideration is granted.
- Punctuality - students must have a punctuality record of 97% or above
- Merits / sanctions - students must have a positive balance of merits to sanctions ratio.



Animal Club

CLUBS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As well as homework support there are also a wide range of activities taking place at lunchtimes and before and after school. On top of sport practices and training sessions there are regular lunchtime inter-form games run by our sport leaders. There are also various clubs running at different times and offering a range of activities such as coding, programming and robotics, science, animals and pond life, debating, Christianity and ethics, sustainability and the environment, drone flying...



Drone Club

Practical Information

School Uniform

School uniform is a crucial part of life at Birkdale High School and we expect all boys to have and to wear with pride the correct uniform. Further information on uniform requirements can be found on our school website.

The school works in partnership with our uniform supplier 'Kitted Out' and parents purchase uniform online via a link to the school's website. Additionally, uniforms are available to be tried on and ordered at certain school events and also at specific times during the summer holidays. Selected students assist with uniform sales to give them valuable business experience and to encourage entrepreneurial spirit.

GENERAL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- Navy blue Birkdale High School blazer with school logo
- Navy blue Birkdale High School jumper with pale blue trim and logo (optional)
- White shirt*
- School tie
- Conventional black school trousers (no fashion alternatives)*
- Black socks*
- Plain black conventional school shoes (no boots, no training shoes, no fashion alternatives)*



OUTDOOR UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- Plain black, navy or dark blue coat
- No hoodies, fleeces, denims, sweatshirts, leather jackets or other fashion alternatives to be worn on the way to or from school

SCHOOL BAGS

- All school bags must be suitable to carry at least two A4 folders
- Drawstring bags can be used to carry PE kit only

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Having the right equipment is paramount if students are to complete work to the highest standards. Students are awarded merits for arriving to school fully equipped. Below is a list of the minimum equipment required for every lesson:

- Blue, black, red and green pens
- Highlighter pens
- Protractor
- Ruler
- Pencils/Pencil sharpener/Eraser
- Scientific calculator (not available from school)
- A see through pencil case is required for all exams
- Small headphones for use when required in lessons

The school has a selection of stationery items, many of which have the school logo on them. These are available to purchase at Year 7 Induction day and certain other school events.



They are competitively priced and a convenient way to purchase all requirements together.

PE UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- Navy blue rugby top with school logo (outdoor)
- Navy blue polo top with school logo (indoor)
- Navy blue shorts with logo
- Navy blue football socks (outdoor)
- Plain white sports socks (indoor)*
- Football boots with studs*
- Shin pads*
- Gum shield
- Trainers with nonmarking soles/no black soles*
- Optional tracksuit



JEWELLERY

- Jewellery is not permitted in school at all. Only wristwatches are allowed to be worn.

HAIRSTYLES

- Extreme hairstyles are not allowed. Hair shaved shorter than a number 2, hair with tramlines, patterns or unnatural colours are all classed as extreme, as is extended or braided hair. Long hair must be tied back neatly at all times.



Items marked with an asterisk* are not sold by the school

Mobile Phones

Birkdale High School does not operate a blanket ban policy on mobile phones however **students are required to use phones responsibly at all times.**

Mobile phones must not be used in lessons, unless used to support learning and at the express instruction of a member of staff.

During lessons and in the proximity of the school building, phones should remain switched off and out of sight. Mobile phones should not be used at any time in and out of lessons to contact parents or for parents to contact students. In an emergency, parents/carers should phone reception and a message will be taken to the student. Contact via mobile phone in these situations is not appropriate. At break and lunchtime phones are permitted to be used in the dining rooms and outside the building. Repeated misuse of mobile phones will result in student(s) being banned from having a phone in school.

We expect all students to follow the guidelines outlined above and those set out in the Mobile Phone Usage Policy around acceptable and responsible use. If these are not adhered to and phones are used inappropriately, the school will confiscate the phone and place it in the main office for collection at the end of the day.

School Lockers

Birkdale High School has provided lockers initially for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The lockers are provided by Prefect Lockers and the rental is arranged directly with them online. The cost for the academic year is £20. To hire a locker visit <https://locker.rentals/> and select Birkdale High School and follow the instructions. You will receive an email with further details that will enable your son to set his own locker code on his first day. It is important that your son does not disclose his 4 digit code to anyone and resets it if this has happened. It is the responsibility of each student to take care of his locker, ensure that no perishable items are stored in it, and that it is fully emptied for the summer break. Any valuables stored in lockers are entirely at the student's risk and will not be covered by the school's insurance policy.



Cashless Catering System

Birkdale High School operates a cashless catering system which provides us with a more efficient, faster and ultimately a better quality of service.



This system incorporates the latest technology and eliminates the need for pupils to carry cash throughout the day. It is also biometric so there is no need for pupils to carry a card as the system will recognise the thumbprint of your son at the revaluation pay points and at the tills.

Any amount of money can be paid into a student's account, and any money spent on food and drink will be deducted on a daily basis. We have two payment options available to you - **coin/note payments at the revaluation pay-points, and by cheque.** Pupils will also be given training on how to use this system.

A daily 'spend limit' of £5 will be programmed into the system. This can be increased or decreased for an individual student by making a written request to Mrs L Bryan, Catering Manager at Birkdale High School.

As per current legislation we will be operating an 'Opt In' policy for the biometric system which requires you to complete an authorisation form. If you choose not to have your son registered on the Biometric System a 4 digit PIN Code will be allocated to him. Please note that PIN Codes do not have the same level of security and it will be your son's responsibility to remember the code and keep it secure at all times.

The preference of the school is to use biometrics as this is more secure and faster than any other method of identification.

Please be assured that this information remains within the school and that the biometric information taken is an algorithm and not the actual finger print.

ParentPay

The ParentPay system enables parents to make online payments to school for school meals, trips etc. Cash should only be brought into school in exceptional circumstances. Further information is available at <https://www.parentpay.com>

Parents will receive an activation email with instructions on how to set up a ParentPay account.

Transport

Birkdale High School is centrally located for various public transport connections and is a couple of minutes' walk from any stop.

- Route X2** Preston to Liverpool
- Route 44** Crossens to Formby
- Routes 46** High Park to Carr Lane
- Routes 46** A-High Park to Carr Lane
- Routes 47** Crossens to Liverpool
- Route 49** Crossens to Woodvale
- Route 705** Birkdale High School (Liverpool Road) to High Park

The 705 is a dedicated school bus and route departing daily from Liverpool Road (end of Windy Harbour Road) at 15.25 and taking the route via Liverpool Road, Sandon Road, Cardigan Road, Clive Road, Dunkirk Road, Blundell Drive, Burlington Road, Crescent Road, Westbourne Road, Westcliffe Road, Lord St West, Albert Road, Cambridge Road, Preston New Road, Rufford Road, Bankfield Lane, Botanic Road, Mill Lane to High Park (Old Park Lane/Roe Lane).

Birkdale High School is less than ten minutes' walk from Hillside Train Station which is on the Northern Train Line service from Liverpool to Southport.



School Photography

USING IMAGES OF CHILDREN

While your child is attending Birkdale High School we may, from time to time, take photographs or video recordings as records of learning activities or to use as displays, leaflets and booklets about the school or on an official website. This will only be done with the authorisation of the Headteacher. No child will be named in publications or on websites and photographs will only show children in a positive way.

In addition, sometimes the press may be invited to photograph or film individual or small groups of children, particularly on occasions to celebrate achievements. Again this will only take place at the Headteacher's discretion. On such occasions of individual celebration, it is appropriate for names to be requested and the newspaper may choose to publish them. In no circumstances will home addresses or other personal information be provided. Names provided to the media for children in class photographs, will be given in alphabetical order and not correlate to the position of the pupil.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, your permission is required for the publication of all photographs of your child for the above mentioned purposes and you are therefore asked to consider signing the consent form that will be sent to you. We assume that this permission will continue for your son's entire school career, Should you change your mind at any point you must let us know in writing. We would like to encourage you to discuss this with your child as soon as possible.

While public recognition for achievement is important, we do understand that you may not wish to authorise the use of photographs of your child. You do not need to give us an explanation for this and we assure you that your wishes will be fully respected. If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Home School Agreement

So that your son benefits from the education that Birkdale High School has to offer, it is important to establish a strong working partnership between all those involved. We are all partners - Students, Parents/Carers and School - and each of us has a vital part to play by being supportive of each other and committed to the success of the partnership.

As a community we:

- Have the right to be safe, to be listened to and to be taken seriously as individuals or representative groups.
- Have the responsibility to respond to the views of others courteously and treat each other with respect and tolerance.

As a parent/carer I agree to:

- Support the school's policies and guidelines regarding behaviour, uniform, and homework.
- Help my son to fulfil his potential by placing value and showing an interest in his school work.
- Take part in discussions about my son's progress at parent's evenings and, on occasions, at meetings as may be requested by the school or a parent/carer.
- Keep the school informed of any matters that may affect my son's progress, behaviour or wellbeing.
- Ensure my son's full and regular attendance and punctuality, and contact the school on the first day of any absence giving school a reason for the absence.

Birkdale High School agrees to:

- Value each student as an individual.
- Create a stimulating and safe working environment in which success and effort is rewarded.
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that caters for the needs of each child.
- Seek high academic attainment for each child as well as the full development of his potential.
- Inform parents/carers at an early stage of any concerns about their son.
- Report to parents/carers three times annually on the progress of their child and at parents' evening.
- Keep parents/carers informed about school matters.
- Set, mark and monitor homework as well as feedback to students on how to improve.

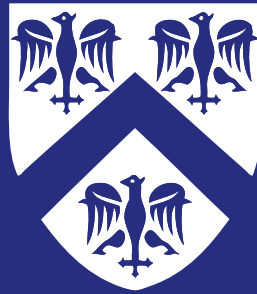
As a student I agree to:

- Work to the best of my ability on all school and homework.
- Behave in a way that doesn't disrupt the learning of others by following the school's rules and guidelines.
- Take pride in my appearance by wearing the school uniform correctly.
- Respect school property and my environment.
- Care for everyone in school and the wider community by showing respect, tolerance and courtesy.

The School would like to thank
J Greenwood (Builders) Ltd and E3 Cube Ltd,
both of whom are working on our current building projects,
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NIHIL NISI BONUM



Birkdale High School

Aspire • Thrive • Succeed

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