



7 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first Wednesday newsletter of the 2016-2017 academic year. As usual this time of year it is packed with useful and important information so please do take the time to go through it.

Last year's Year 11 students have now received their GCSE results and I want to congratulate them again for their results across the board although we are not complacent and will continue to focus relentlessly on the areas where we know we can improve further. It was a real spur to see that our Progress 8 figure (the government's new benchmark) remains significantly positive (it was the 2nd in Sefton last year) along with our Value Added, as both of these figures indicate that students across the school make more progress than expected.

I also want to wish all the Year 10s who have just embarked on their new courses and the Year 11s who are now looking at their final year all the best and assure them of all our support during this crucial time. They will need your support as well to make sure that they stay on top of their work and to reinforce the importance of the exams that lie ahead.

Over the last two years we have put a range of systems in place to help communication with parents and carers. There are in this newsletter for instance, instructions on accessing both of our parental apps (Show My Homework and Xpressions). We strongly value your views and your feedback and I would like to invite you again to come into school on Thursday 6 October 2016 at 6pm to meet the Senior Leadership team and discuss key aspects of school life. This time, following a request from parents, we will start the meeting with presenting and explaining our assessment and reporting framework to enable you to better understand reports and therefore best support your son's progress.

And finally a quick word on transport. We secured last year a new bus route dedicated to the school which will start in the next few days. This was something that many of the boys and parents had requested. The 705 bus leaves at 3.25pm but no longer finishes in the town centre. It now goes all the way to Marshside, Churchtown, Crossens and Hyde Park. This will enable many more of our students who come across town to ride a single dedicated bus back home every day but still allow them the flexibility of public transport should they wish to stay behind. We will inform you by text as soon as this route becomes operational.

We also have many of our boys who continue to ride a bike to school. This is something we encourage as it promotes a very healthy lifestyle. I am very pleased to report that we have noticed a significant increase in boys now wearing a helmet and I would ask you again to encourage your son to do so when riding a bike. I would also urge you to read Mr Boyce's piece included in this newsletter.

On this final point, the road safety unit has confirmed this week that, following representation from the school, they have modified the timings on the lights at the corner of Windy Harbour Road to give more opportunities for our boys to cross safely. There is therefore no excuse for anyone to take any risks at the junction. We will use assemblies, form time and PHSE days again to disseminate this message to the boys but it would be of enormous support if you could reinforce them at home as well. Staff will continue to monitor the crossing and the bus stops but the best prevention measure is the awareness, understanding and self-discipline of the boys themselves.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this newsletter and continue to find it informative. We will add a greater variety of content this year with examples of good work for instance along with the more traditional sections.

PARENT CHAMPION

The term of office of one of our Parent Champions has come to an end and so we are looking for a parent to replace him. The main duty of the Parent Champions is to attend Challenge Board meetings with Governors and Senior Leadership Team which take place once per term. The purpose of the Challenge Board is to form an overview of the academy and to bring rigorous challenge and accountability. If you are interested in this role, please contact Karen Anslow, Clerk to the Governors, for further details.

Registered office address:

Windy Harbour Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 3DT
Tel: 01704 577253 Fax: 01704 570451
mail@birkdalehigh.co.uk www.birkdalehigh.co.uk

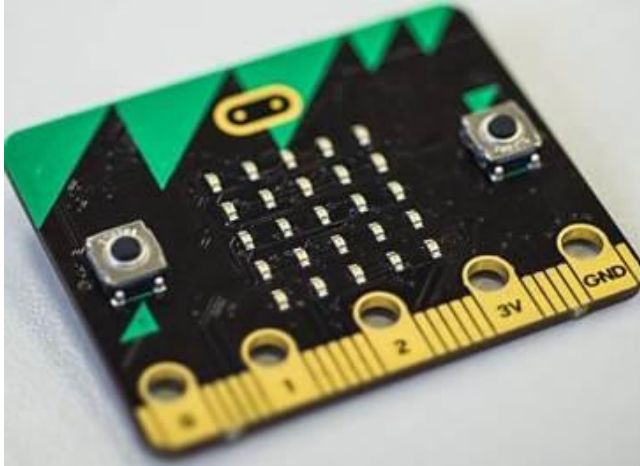
Birkdale High School is a Limited Company registered in England and Wales. Company Reg. 07695504



MICROBIT INITIATIVE

You will be aware that over the last few years computer programming has become a key part of every child's curriculum. The computing department at Birkdale High School has consistently taken a lead in developing this area and our results this year (43% A* -A and 87% A*-C) have confirmed yet again that it is a strength of the school that we continue to develop in lessons and in extra-curricular activities.

We would therefore like to inform you of a new initiative we are going to be involved in. This term the Computing



Department at Birkdale High School will be using the BBC micro:bit and micro:bit website with all Year 8 students. The BBC micro:bit is a pocket-sized, code able computer that allows children to get creative with technology. In the BBC's most ambitious education initiative for 30 years, up to 1 million devices will be given to every 11 or 12 year old child in Year 7 or equivalent across the UK, for free. It is as a one-off project that forms part of the BBC's Make It Digital campaign, and it will not be repeated. The UK currently faces a critical skills shortage in the technology sector, and the BBC and partners aim to help change that through the project.

Your child will receive their own micro:bit computer along with a USB cable and a battery pack and it will be theirs to own, keep and use. The Computing team will help to kick things off by spending the next week or so working with the micro:bits in lessons and learning how to create code and make effective use of them. They will be stored and kept at school during this time.

Before the end of the month the micro:bits will be sent home, allowing your child the chance to continue to experiment and develop code if they wish. Doing so is not compulsory or homework, and I would urge you and your child to consider carefully whether they intend to continue to use it after their introductory lessons have been completed. If the answer will be **NO** then we would request that you leave your micro:bit at school instead so that it can be used by other interested students, such as the Digital Leaders, our Hardware Club, other year groups or the Design Technology department. Micro:bits are due to be available for the general public to buy from September, most likely priced at £10. Reselling your free one is therefore unlikely to achieve a high value. There would be more value in allowing others within the school community to use them rather than have them being ignored or unused if this was to be the case.

For more information on the micro:bit please visit www.microbit.co.uk. The 'Teachers and Parents' section has some good resources and videos, including some on getting parents started. The website allows people to create code using four different programming languages without needing to login, and it includes emulators so you don't even need to have the device available.

Parental Responsibility

We would like to direct you towards the website terms of use and the house rules – available at <https://www.microbit.co.uk/terms-of-use> and <https://www.microbit.co.uk/house-rules>. By allowing your child to use the BBC micro:bit service, you will be allowing your child's contribution to be freely used, shared, copied, redistributed, adapted, remixed or transformed. As a parent or carer, you are responsible for their activity outside of the classroom. We will let the children know that they shouldn't include any personally identifiable information within their own scripts but we would ask that you encourage this too. More about what to do if you are concerned can be found on the website.

We hope that your child has an enjoyable experience and is inspired to explore and learn from the coding activities on the site and through the device itself. We wish your child many hours of challenging fun learning to code and programming their BBC micro:bit. If you would like any further information on what we will do in the introductory lessons, please do contact me at the school.

Mr Moss

Registered office address:

Windy Harbour Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 3DT
Tel: 01704 577253 Fax: 01704 570451
mail@birkdalehigh.co.uk www.birkdalehigh.co.uk



YEAR 7 MATHS

All year 7 boys will be taking a Maths test on Thursday or Friday this week. It is not a test that requires lots of revision, it is to help the Maths teachers identify strengths and weaknesses in your son's mathematical skills and knowledge. It will also help along with KS2 results to decide the initial setting for your son. The test does not require the use of a calculator, so a pen, pencil and ruler will be all that is needed.

The sets in Maths are quite fluid and are reviewed 3 times a year, but if you have any concerns at any time please do not hesitate to contact me or your son's Maths teacher.

Mrs Thompson

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will be taken of all students on Thursday 15 September 2016. Please let the office know if you require family photographs of siblings.

Mrs Ellis

ROAD SAFETY – CYCLING

As a School we are immensely proud and supportive of the fact so many of our boys choose to cycle to school, promoting a healthy lifestyle. Cycling on modern roads is now far more dangerous than in the past due to an increased volume of traffic. As a result, many of our pupils have taken to riding on the pavement in order to reduce this risk. This of course creates an increased interaction with pedestrians, and therefore an increased risk of collision with them. We do, from time to time, receive complaints from residents regarding the inconsiderate riding of a minority of our students. We would therefore ask you remind those boys who cycle, to ride in a sensible and safe manner that takes into account pedestrians' safety as well as their own. Can this be borne particularly in mind when near shops or primary schools such as Farnborough Road. Please ask the boys to think, look and slow down. It is more important to arrive without incident than to arrive quickly. As a School we promote all aspects of road safety, and we will shortly be offering again our yearly Bikeability lessons to enable boys to learn new skills and gain confidence in riding a bike safely on the road. Dates will be advertised in due course.

Mr Boyce

YEAR 9 PARIS TRIP

Reminder that the £90.00 interim payment for the Year 9 Paris trip is due by 20 September 2016.

Mr Glew

SCIENCE FICTION FILM CLUB

The film club will start again this Friday at 12.35pm in G1 or G7 and will be on every Friday this year. All students from Years 7 to 11 are welcome and they will be allowed to choose films from a range of content appropriate DVDs. Those who take part will not only watch some great films but also discuss scientific and ethical issues that arise in them. There will also be FREE POPCORN!!!

Mr Woodley

MEDICATION

A reminder to parents that if your son requires any medication during the school day, please bring this into the school office as we can only administer medication with prior written consent. School is only able to accept prescription medication in the original container with the prescriber's instructions. For safeguarding reasons students are only permitted to carry response medication, such as inhalers or epipens, but please inform school as written consent is still required. For further guidance please see our 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions' policy which is available on the school website, or contact Mrs Donker.

Mrs Donker

CURRICULUM OUTLINE LETTERS

Letters have been emailed to parents of students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 giving details of the curriculum for each year group. If you would like a printed copy of the letter or if you have any queries about it, please contact Mr Marshall on pmarshall1@birkdalehigh.co.uk

Mr Marshall

PARENT PAY

Attached to the newsletter is a guide on how to access your Parentpay account. If you have any problems, please contact the school office.

Registered office address:

Windy Harbour Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 3DT

Tel: 01704 577253

Fax: 01704 570451

mail@birkdalehigh.co.uk www.birkdalehigh.co.uk

Birkdale High School is a Limited Company registered in England and Wales. Company Reg. 07695504



LOCKERS

The School has made arrangements with Prefect Locker Rentals to provide individual lockers to students who want to have them. Lockers are available to rent at a cost of £20 per year.

For further information please log on to the Prefect Lockers Website at: <https://locker.rentals/>

You will need to enter the name of the school and then your child's details, and then make payment. You will be allocated a specific locker number and you will receive a code to enable your son to open his locker.

The Prefect Locker Rentals helpline number is: 0845 880 2426 and is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

They will be able to assist with any queries you may have.

Lockers were emptied during the school holidays and a few items left behind have been put in the school office for boys to collect.

Mrs Smith

BIRKDALE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the BPA will take place on Wednesday 14 September at 7.30pm. New members are always made very welcome and it would be great to see some new faces at our next meeting. A member of the BPA will wait at the front of the school, to show where we meet. The meetings are very informal and last for about an hour. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas and we look forward to meeting you next week. If you have any questions, please email either Amanda Fraser or Kate Ball at bpa@birkdalehigh.co.uk

HARVEY STOCKTON – YEAR 8

Harvey Stockton won a gold medal for Tag Team Sparring at the Tae Kwon Do World Championships on Saturday 16 July 2016 at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham. This is a fantastic achievement for Harvey and his younger sister who also won, as they have both worked extremely hard for this over the last year and a half. Harvey also won Gold in Sparring and Silver in Patterns at the Welsh Championships on 14 February 2016 at Deeside. Well done Harvey!



Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

Registered office address:

Windy Harbour Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 3DT

Tel: 01704 577253

Fax: 01704 570451

mail@birkdalehigh.co.uk www.birkdalehigh.co.uk

Birkdale High School is a Limited Company registered in England and Wales. Company Reg. 07695504

Parents' Guide

Activate your ParentPay Account



Activate your ParentPay account

If you have not yet received your login details please contact the school office. **Please note, letters have not been sent out for current Year 11 pupils.**

Once you have activation login details, please do as follows:

- Go to www.parentpay.com
- Click **Login** at the top right of the ParentPay website home page
- Enter the **Login Details** provided in your Activation Letter and click **Login**

Follow the onscreen instructions to activate your account.

Cross-school login: Adding a child to your account

If you have more than one child at **Birkdale High**, or children at other schools that use ParentPay, you are able to **Add** those children to your newly activated or existing ParentPay account.

- Log into one account, this will become your 'main account' username and password.
- Click on **Add a child**.

The screenshot shows the ParentPay user interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with tabs for 'Overview', 'Dan', 'Nathaniel', 'Rachael', 'April', and 'Christine'. To the right of these tabs is a button labeled 'Add a child', which is circled in red. Below the navigation menu is a section titled 'Items due for payment' containing a table with the following data:

Due date	Item description	Name	Amount	
-	Dinner money for The Denewood Community School	Rachael	£0.00	Add to basket
-	Dinner money for The Denewood Community School	April	£0.00	Add to basket
-	SMS Text Alerts	Pamela	£0.00	Add to basket
12 Nov 2011	Visit to the Woodlands Centre	Rachael	£6.00	Add to basket
12 Nov 2011	Visit to the Woodlands Centre	April	£6.00	Add to basket
28 Oct 2011	Autumn Term 2011 Music Tuition Fees	April	£0.00	Add to basket

At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: 'Pay for more items' and 'Checkout'.

Enter the **login details** for the child you wish to add.

Click **Search**.

The school, pupil name, year group and class will show on screen.

Adding from account: r2etqluz (paris Foster)

School	Pupil	Year	Reg. group
Sunnyside School	Nathaniel Norman	1	1DC

Add child to your account Cancel

After you confirm the add, these pupils will be transferred to the account you are logged into and the old account will be disabled.

Click **Add child to your account** to confirm this is the child you wish to add to your account.

If you have more children that you would like to add to the account simply follow the above process until you have added all your children.