



14 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start this letter by praising the new Year 7s for the way they have settled in school this last week. Their behaviour and attitude has been an absolute credit to you and their primary schools and it already feels like they have always been part of the Birkdale family.

It has only been a week and yet so much is already happening. Some clubs and team trials are already taking place and we have included a timetable. We have celebrated Roald Dahl's 100th birthday in style yesterday and I was so disappointed not to have been able to be there to see it. We offer so many clubs and activities and are always looking to add more, please encourage your son to go and try them out as it is a great way to make friends and learn new things.

I would also like you to encourage them to come and help out at Open Evening next Monday from 6.30pm til 9pm. The boys are our greatest ambassadors and every year we receive amazing praise from visitors regarding their manners, maturity and enthusiasm for learning. We have had in the past as many as 60% of the boys taking part and we would love for your son to be part of this special showcase event in the school calendar. Please be aware that boys will finish school at 2pm on Monday so that we can prepare for the Open Evening.

I hope you have all managed to download and access our parental apps such as Show my Homework and Xpressions as they are crucial communication tools between home and school. We realised last year that the planners were no longer used by most parents as emails and texts had become more prevalent and homework was being set online. We have purchased jotters instead for the students to take notes and do some of their rough work and will be communicating notices mainly through electronic means.

I hope that you will be able to attend the parents' forum on Thursday 6 October 2016 at 6pm. All parents are invited. It is an open agenda but we will start with a presentation on our assessment framework and the data you will receive this year on your child's progress.

On behalf of the staff and Governors thank you in advance for your support during this forthcoming year and I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

This year SMHW (Show My Homework) is the main way of checking the homework set for your son. Your son has a username and password for the site. With this you can check the homework through his password or you might have set up your own in the past. If you have not, or your son, still does not have one then please do email me on pmarshall1@birkdalehigh.co.uk and I will send you the necessary codes by return of email. Mr Marshall

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographs will be taken tomorrow. Year 11 will have their year group photograph taken during registration so all year 11 pupils must go straight to the media hall for 8.50am in order to be on the photograph. During the day pupils will be taken down in their forms to have a class and individual photo which you will be able to purchase. If you have more than one son in the school there is an opportunity to have a photo taken at break time of them together. Mr Marshall

YEAR 9 PARIS TRIP

As a matter of urgency, all outstanding interim payments of £90 need to be paid by Tuesday 20 September for the Year 9 Paris trip.

Because of a cancellation, there is now one available place on the trip. Anybody interested in going should see Mr Glew for more information and a letter. The total cost of the trip is £465. Mr Glew

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

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Birkdale High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

Headteacher:
Mr G Y Bourgade

YEAR 7 CELEBRATE ROALD DAHL'S 100th BIRTHDAY

Year Seven joined the English Department yesterday in our newly refurbished library to celebrate 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl.

Great glorumptious fun was had by all with a variety of competitions. James Ward showed his expertise in removing the 'worms' that Mrs Twit had snuck into Mr Twit's spaghetti. Anthony Waite excelled with his ingenious 'gobblefunking' of new words: his inventions of 'drizzlepopple' to mean a rainy day and 'strimastricter' to mean a strict teacher were just two of his marvellous creations. Finally, the winner of our crossword, displaying superb knowledge of the works of Roald Dahl, was Jake Rimmer. Well done to all the boys who took part in all these activities.

Mrs Follett

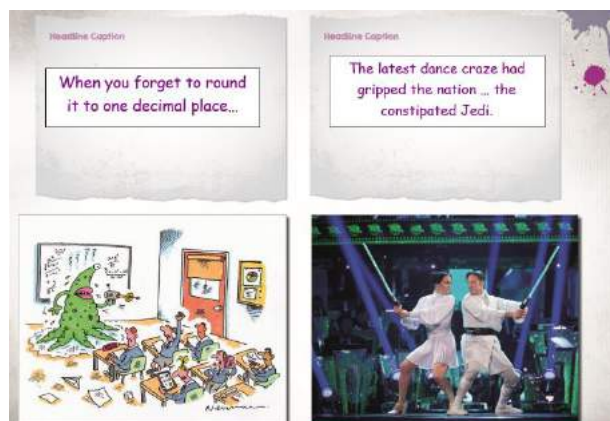


COMPETITION WINNERS

BBC Comedy Caption Competition:



We were delighted by the quality of the entries for this competition at the end of the Summer Term. The four winning captions were combined to form this entry which has been submitted to this National Competition. Well done to Nathan Crewe, Ben Gaskell, Jamie Johnson and Solomon Palmer for their winning contributions.



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Spine Chillers Competition

We also received a fantastic amount of entries for the Spine Chilling story competition with the challenge of telling a suspense filled tale in 100 words or less. We are awaiting the results from the Young Writers group to see who will have their tale published. Our internal winners are these three fantastic entries with Oliver Farrow's 'The Collector' winning first place, Samuel Roberts' 'Forgotten Surgeon' second place and Safwan Patel's 'The Boy' as our third place winner. Well done boys and to all who entered.

'The Collector' by Oliver Farrow

Stuff... More stuff... Get more stuff... Good stuff... It was dark outside, safe for him to leave. He squeezed his great bulk down the hallway and out through the front door, sniffing the air. He liked to collect toys but they often get broken so then he would eat them. He knew where he was going; he could smell the toys from miles away. His legs rubbed together painfully as he walked towards the place. The toys smelt strong. He walked in the building and found them. Why in the end did they always have to break?

'Forgotten Surgeon' by Samuel Roberts

The crunch of fallen branches, the whistles of the howling winds. I hobbled towards the closest place of shelter. The deserted hospital door creaked open after an apprehensive push. Edging further down the corridor, I began regretting my choice. I turned to exit... no escape. A scuttle along the floor, a SLAM from the door; something had followed me in. Darkness flooded the building as my heart began to pound. An ear-piercing shriek punctured the silence of the corridors. An aerial object clattered into my skull. I awoke to see him gazing over me... "Time for surgery, Master Roberts..."

'The Boy' by Safwan Patel

They asked me to look after their boy for a few nights. From the minute I arrived he was eyeing me up and down. It was as if he was studying me, finding my greatest fears. One night I was getting ready for bed when I heard a loud ear-piercing shriek. I went up to the boy's room. The door creaked as I opened it. I walked over to the boy. Suddenly, the door slammed shut. The boy looked up. A wide grin on his face. He started laughing; a high pitched cackle. I turned to go. The door was locked...

XPRESSIONS APP (FREE OF CHARGE) FOR ALL PARENTS

View your child's information on your mobile phone! Now available for all parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. Xpressions will give you an insight into your child's school day. You will be able to see your child's attendance record, timetable, school calendar, behaviour, achievements and the details of the school. During this time we ask that you make sure your details are correct on our Management Information System (MIS) especially your e-mail and mobile number as this is required to provide security to our system. If you would like any additional information please visit <http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/>
Please see attached document for installation support.

Mr Moss

YEAR 9 PARIS TRIP

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Mr Glew

READING CLUB

Reading Club will start up again for this academic year, from Monday 26 September, 3.15pm – 4.00pm, in G16 (Mrs Keating's English classroom.) Reading Club meets weekly and is open to all year groups. Its purpose is to encourage pupils to read for pleasure and consequently improve their reading skills. A friendly, supportive atmosphere is provided by the overseers of Reading Club – the Teaching Assistants Mrs Bradley and Mrs Stirling; juice and biscuits are served to revive pupils and pupils are welcome to bring their own reading material or we have a stock for them to select from. A merit is earned per attendance of Reading Club and end of term parties are held for regular attendees as a means of reward. We look forward to seeing our returning regular attendees and will warmly welcome any newcomers. Reading Club – why not give it a try?

Mrs Stirling

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SPORTS REPORT

Extra-Curricular Sporting Opportunities at Birkdale

This term, we will once again be providing our boys with access to a wide range of extra-curricular sports clubs, practice sessions, form tournaments and inter-school competitions. I have included below our Autumn Term Timetable for your information. A3 copies of these will also be displayed around school and in form rooms. Lunchtime clubs and practices will run from 12.30pm to 1.05pm and after school clubs generally start at 3.20pm and finish at 4.20pm unless stated otherwise. Please encourage your son to get involved in as many activities as possible.

Mr Quirk

Birkdale High School Physical Education Department Term One – Extra Curricular Timetable September - December 2016			
DAY	LUNCH TIME 12.30PM - 1.00PM		AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES & CLUBS – 1 HOUR MATCHES – APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS
MON	Basketball Club	Open access to all boys... <i>Mr. Quirk</i>	Yr 10 Football Club Open access <i>Mr. Quirk</i>
	Fitness Suite	Open access to all boys... <i>Mr. Thomas</i>	Yrs 9 & 11 Football Practices Squad Members <i>Mr. Keary</i>
	BTEC	Intervention WOW Room... <i>Mr. Keary</i>	POTENTIAL SCHOOL TEAM MATCHES... <i>Football, Rugby, Basketball & Badminton - All Staff</i>
TUES	edexcel GCSE PE	Yr11 Intervention WOW... <i>Mr. Quirk</i>	Yrs 9,10 & 11 Rugby Practices Open access <i>Mr. Thomas, Mr. Boyce</i>
	Badminton Club	Squad Members <i>Mr. Keary</i>	Yr 7 Football Club Open access <i>Mr. Assouah/ Mr. Quirk</i>
			Yr 8 Football Practice Squad members <i>Mr. Quirk</i>
			POTENTIAL SCHOOL TEAM MATCHES... <i>Football, Rugby, Basketball & Badminton - All Staff</i>
WED	Inter-form	Open access <i>Mr. Keary</i>	POTENTIAL SCHOOL TEAM MATCHES... <i>Football, Rugby, Basketball & Badminton - All Staff</i>
	Fitness Suite	Open access to all boys... <i>Mr. Quirk</i>	
THURS	Basketball Club	Open access to all boys... <i>Mr. Quirk</i>	Yrs 7&8 Rugby Practices Open access <i>Mr. Boyce</i>
	BTEC	Intervention WOW Room... <i>Mr. Keary</i>	POTENTIAL SCHOOL TEAM MATCHES... <i>Football, Rugby, Basketball & Badminton - All Staff</i>
FRI	Fitness Suite	Open access to all boys... <i>Mr. Quirk</i>	Basketball Club All year team members <i>Mr. Quirk</i>
			POTENTIAL SCHOOL TEAM MATCHES... <i>Football, Rugby, Basketball & Badminton - All Staff</i>

Basketball

Basketball Club will take place on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes this term and like many of our extra-curricular sessions it is open-access, meaning that any boy is welcome to attend. Already this week, a good number of year 7 boys have attended and benefited from coaching provided from older school team members.

Mr Quirk

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Inter-form Inclusion Sports Programme

Our Inter-form Inclusion Sports Programme will start next Wednesday lunchtime, with Year 7 pupils engaging in a whole-form 'Football Accuracy Challenge'. Boys only need their trainers to participate in this event. The emphasis, as is always the case in our inter-form sports events, is that the whole form gets involved including the form tutors. Boys who do not turn up to participate with their form will lose points for their respective tutor groups. This year, once each year group has finished all of their events the form with the most points will win a shield as a reward for their efforts. Please encourage your son to take part. Fixtures will be issued to form teachers towards the end of the week.

Mr Quirk

Football

As the football season gets underway our boys who represent teams should attend training in preparation for the forthcoming cup and league fixtures. Our first wave of Sefton Block fixtures are set to take place next week and once the games have been arranged we will let you know about the date and venue of each year group's game. Year 7 Football Trials will take place on Thursday evening. They will start at approximately 3.30pm and finish at 4.30pm. After the trials an open access club will take place on Tuesday evenings every week.

Mr Quirk

Fitness Suite

Starting on Friday, the fitness suite will be open during three lunch periods a week this term and is accessible to all pupils from all year groups from 12.30pm to 1.00pm. Obviously, for health and safety reasons, there is a limit to the number of pupils who will be allowed in the room so entry will be permitted on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Mr Quirk

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION AT SOUTHPORT COLLEGE

The organisation **Catch 22** are holding two information sessions at Southport college on the following dates: 28/09/2016 and 5/10/2016 from 6-7pm with time for questions afterwards.

Catch 22 work with schools, young people and parents/carers to help support, inform and educate around serious issues such as CSE (child sexual exploitation), online grooming and e-safety.

The session aims to provide parents/carers with an awareness of CSE going into greater detail around defining CSE, signs and indicators, grooming models, online exploitation and answer questions about e-safety as well.

This is a drop in session no need to book.

Year 8 pupils will also benefit from an extended assembly from **Catch 22** in November.

Mrs Nightingale

BIRKDALE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Birkdale Parents Association will meet tonight at 7.30pm. New members are very welcome and a member of the BPA will meet you at the front of school before the meeting starts.

BPA 200 Club

The quarterly draw will take place at tonight's meeting and all fully paid up members will be included in the draw. If you would like to be a member of the 200 Club, it's easy to join. Simply set up a standing order for £2 per month, using the following details:

Account Name - BPA 200 Club

Account Number – 73448649

Sort Code - 20-80-33

Once the standing order has been set up, please email bpa@birkdalehigh.co.uk, and we shall then confirm your 200 Club number.

Not only will you be supporting the BPA with their fundraising, but you'll also be in with a chance to win a cash prize. The draw takes place quarterly, with 4 cash prizes available to win at each draw.

For existing 200 Club members, can you please check that the correct account number has been set up on your standing order. Many thanks from the BPA.

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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2016. 10.30am – 12pm

Please see details of our forthcoming Macmillan Coffee Morning attached to this newsletter – all welcome to join us to raise money for this very deserving cause.

Mrs Jeffery

GREEN MACHINE

Please find details of the Green Machine attached to this newsletter. Green Machine members are taking part in a 'Waste Less, Live More' Week on 19-25 September 2016. Attached to this newsletter you will find 101 ideas in case you and your family/friends would like to join in. See how many you can do and please let us know how it goes!

Mrs Bradley

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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Groupcall Xpressions App

View your child's information on your mobile phone!

An exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. **Groupcall 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.

What do I need to do now?

Please ensure we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use the new app. Forms are available from the school office to check and update your details or simply email them to the school. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.

What happens next?

1. Install the Xpressions App



2. Once installed, open it and enter your e-mail address and click 'Next'

3. Enter your mobile number and click 'Next' (If your details do not match the school records you will see the text 'incorrect answer' in red)

When you have entered details correctly you will receive a text message to your mobile phone containing a 6 digit code.

4. Enter this code into the app

5. Press 'Login'

If you do not receive a code, use the 'Resend Code' function. However there can be delays due to mobile phone providers, so please wait for at least 5 minutes.



Once installed and set up you will be able to see the following information:

- Free messages sent by the school delivered directly to the app
- Updates regarding selected partner systems, used by the school such as homework, catering and library systems
- Attendance records and absences
- Marks and grades*
- Achievement records
- Behaviour events
- Timetable
- School calendar
- Notification timeline for all of the above.

*Enhanced Service being developed



Birkdale
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Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 30th September 2016

Media Hall - Birkdale High School

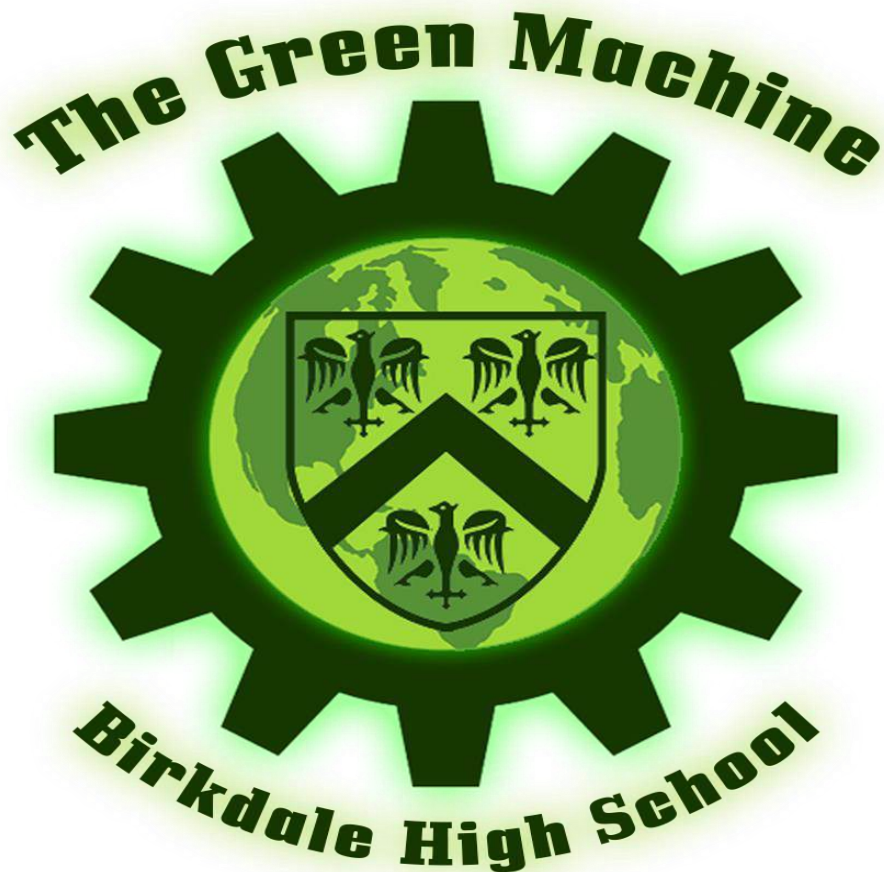
Time: 10.30-12.00

Refreshments, Entertainment, Raffle, Activities
for pre-school children....

*If you can contribute raffle prizes please hand these into **reception** by
28th September.*

*Cake donations can be brought in **on the day** as there will also be a
cake sale for students at break and lunch ☺*

Enquiries to hjeffery@birkdalehigh.co.uk



All students and staff are welcome to join The Green Machine!

We meet once a month to discuss environmental issues and how we, as a group and sometimes the whole school, can encourage recycling and do things to improve our environment.

The Group has only been going for a year and a half, but has already joined lots of campaigns and activities and organised our own things. Last term, we attended the Eco Awards Ceremony at the Ramada Hotel and were awarded "Secondary Team of the Year"!

We have many exciting plans for this academic year too, including a computer games tournament; trips; talks; making things; litter picking; enlarging our recycling programme; entering competitions and holding a bug hunt to mention just a few.

If your son would like to join us, please see Mrs. Bradley in the Hub or Mrs. Marshall in ©2 for further details and if you have any ideas for us, please let us know!

I'm taking the
#WastelessLiveMore
Challenge!

www.wastelesslivemore.com

Supported by



What's good for the
environment is good for us.

KEEP
BRITAIN
TIDY

101 ways to #WasteLessLiveMore

- 1 Become a RAKtivist
- 2 Have a declutter day
- 3 Rediscover the fun of the playground
- 4 Grow from scraps
- 5 Take it outside
- 6 Organise a shared lunch
- 7 Set up a book-swap shelf
- 8 Organise a street party
- 9 Have a go at upcycling
- 10 Support your local library
- 11 Make a pinecone birdfeeder
- 12 Scoot to school
- 13 Give collaboratively
- 14 Be intergenerational inspirational
- 15 Organise a walking bus
- 16 Support a local community project
- 17 Have a photography competition
- 18 Sleep under canvas
- 19 Have a fix-it party
- 20 Make a home for wildlife
- 21 Build a bottle rocket
- 22 Gift a tree
- 23 Darn it
- 24 Get gardening
- 25 Spend an evening by candlelight
- 26 Pledge to have zero waste lunches
- 27 Arrange a themed movie night
- 28 Get a teapot or coffeepot for work
- 29 Ditch the disposables
- 30 Preserve and pickle
- 31 Create a new game (no purchases allowed)
- 32 Get inventive, Masterchef-style!
- 33 Chit-chat for charity
- 34 Patch it
- 35 Share your skills
- 36 Get your office growing
- 37 Play team sports
- 38 Lift-share
- 39 Make a puppet or sock monkey
- 40 Love your local park, river or beach
- 41 Join a choir
- 42 Give a hen a home
- 43 Try geocaching
- 44 Eat seasonably
- 45 Make a musical instrument
- 46 Buy local
- 47 Organise a spoken word or unplugged music night
- 48 Set up a stuff library
- 49 Harvest rainwater
- 50 Join your local transition town
- 51 Buy milk from the milkman
- 52 Scrub naturally
- 53 Food-share
- 54 Row, row, row your boat
- 55 Organise a Big Tidy Up
- 56 Be a lover, not a leaver
- 57 Yarn-storm your garden
- 58 Do a bug hunt
- 59 Join a veg-box scheme
- 60 Stargaze
- 61 Go zero waste
- 62 Host your own DIY Olympics
- 63 Go paperless
- 64 Make a cork memo board
- 65 Fly a kite
- 66 Buy nothing
- 67 Have a (non-computer) games night
- 68 Go walkies!
- 69 Re-love some stuff
- 70 Go for a bike ride
- 71 FoodCycle
- 72 Race to save water
- 73 Become a citizen scientist
- 74 Plan an overland holiday
- 75 Host a 'jumble trail'
- 76 Create unique reusables
- 77 Share a bath
- 78 Organise a 'Give and Take' day
- 79 Make your own
- 80 Arrange a scavenger hunt
- 81 Get crafty with bottle caps
- 82 Theme your next book group
- 83 Green your roof
- 84 Go dairy-free
- 85 Do good, get fit
- 86 Create your family tree
- 87 Go birdwatching
- 88 Get together to doodle, paint, sketch, draw...
- 89 Break the bag habit
- 90 Forage
- 91 Visit your nearest green open home
- 92 Build a den
- 93 Plug-out
- 94 Volunteer with your local Scouts/ Guides group
- 95 Make rubbish art
- 96 Go meat-free
- 97 Try an outdoor gym
- 98 Swish your clothes
- 99 Write and perform a song, poem or play
- 100 Go swimming outdoors
- 101 Turn off the TV

Supported by



Waste less, Live more Week | 19–25 September 2016

Waste less, Live more Week brings together organisations and people from all over the country to take part in activity which is good for people and the environment.

What's good for the environment is good for us.

WasteLessLiveMore.com

WasteLessLiveMore

@Waste_Watch

KeepBritainTidyOrg

@KeepBritainTidy

