



Dear Parents and Carers

5 October 2016

It was an absolute privilege to meet so many of you at the Year 7 "Meet the Form Teacher" Evening last week. The comments left on the questionnaires and from the exit conversations were fantastically positive and it was a pleasure to hear so many parents tell us how well and how quickly their son had settled at Birkdale High School. This is our hope when we plan our transition process and it is gratifying to see how well it worked this year for so many students, but we want to get it even better and continue to welcome all your comments. We are all looking forward to our first Year 7 disco of the year on the 19th of October. This is a joint event with Greenbank High School and a chance to meet again with Year 6 friends who have gone to our sister school. I hope your son will attend and make it a great event.

Just a reminder that tomorrow night is our Parents' Forum. As many of you will know, we invite parents to come in and talk to the Senior Leadership Team about what we do well as a school, but more importantly what we can do better. We aim for it to be a frank and open conversation without any specific agenda other than trying to find out your perspective and your views as parents so that we can carry on moving the school forward with your support.

At the last meeting in June it was suggested that we could have a presentation on the school's assessment framework as some parents had said they would welcome some clarification and therefore this what we will start the meeting with. From 6pm to 7pm we will discuss the assessment framework as well as any positive comments and suggestions for improvement you may have from a Key Stage 3 perspective (Years 7-9). From 7pm til 8pm we will discuss assessment but with a greater focus on the new GCSEs as well as any issues, concerns or positive comments you may have from a KS4 parent point of view (Years 10 and 11).

We will have tea and biscuits ready and will meet in 012 at the bottom of the languages corridor (1st door as you come into the junior yard. I look forward to meeting many of you then.

THE NEW SCIENCE GCSE FOR YEAR 10 STUDENTS

This week sees the start of the first end of unit tests being delivered in Science lessons across year 10. Over the next few weeks, your son will be taking these tests and they will be the first indicator of his progress in Science. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could support your son in his revision efforts. If he works well independently, this support could be as simple as ensuring he has time and an environment without distractions. If this isn't the case, you could test him on his knowledge of notes within his exercise book or ensure he accesses relevant podcasts on www.gcsepod.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

Mr Woodley

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Please encourage your son to check that he has submitted all of his evidence for his Skill, Volunteering and Physical Recreation sections via the eDofE system as soon as possible. Our current Silver Award cohort are due to deliver their expedition presentations to their assessor tomorrow, 6 October, and we wish them well in completing this aspect of their Award.

Mr Milner

SKIING

Ski Course 2017 – Winter Park, Colorado, USA

A place has become available for our upcoming trip to Winter Park (April 2017) should any pupils wish to take up the fantastic opportunity. The full cost of the trip (£1499) would need to be paid by February unfortunately but should you wish for your son to join us, please get in touch for details.

Ski Course 2018 – Courmayeur, Italy

We are happy to inform you that we now have places available for our ski course for February half term 2018. The trip is open to all pupils in school, whether they have skied before or are complete beginners wishing to experience it for the first time. Full details are attached and please don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries. Please note that, historically, our trips 'sell out' quickly and we have to operate a 'first come first served policy' so should you wish for your son to join the trip, please ask him to return the reply slip to me (in the Technology Department) as soon as possible.

Mr Milner

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MACMILLAN FUNDRAISER



A HUGE thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents who supported the Macmillan Fundraiser last Friday - over £200 was raised! Thanks to Mr Ascough and the Year 11 Catering students for baking so many cakes and all parents who sent in cakes and raffle prizes.

A special thanks also to Ms Nightingale, Ms Drela and the peer mentors who helped the event run so smoothly as well as Nathan Crewe and Oliver Sharples for providing such wonderful musical accompaniment.

Mrs Jeffery



SCHOOLS FIREWORK AND HALLOWEEN LETTER

Attached is a letter from Merseyside Police, who are working with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and the Council, to promote firework safety and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour over the Autumn period.

YEAR 7 – ACORN ADVENTURE TRIP – 23-25 JUNE 2016

A 3 day residential educational adventure activity course for Year 7 pupils will take place on 23-25 June 2016. A letter will full details and including a reply slip is attached.

Mr Thorne

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Reminder that the deadline for orders for school photographs is Friday 14 October 2016.

MUSIC TUITION

Please find attached letter giving details of Music tuition opportunities in school.

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WINDY HARBOUR ROAD – DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

Reminder to parents to please take care when dropping off your son at school in the morning, especially when reversing. There have been a few incidents where boys have been nearly knocked over by cars reversing into the school driveway. There is a wider turning circle at the bottom of the road to help you turn around safely.

SPORTS REPORT

Rugby

This week the Year 7 A&B and Year 9 Rugby teams played fixtures against St Mary's College, Crosby. The Year 9s started the fixtures on Monday with a closely contested match. Missing a number of players, the boys put up a spirited performance eventually losing 42-29. In their first game of the season there were plenty of positives to build upon and things are looking bright for a successful year.

Yesterday the Year 7 A and B teams played at Birkdale against St Mary's A Team. The game was split up into three 20 minute periods to allow all 28 Birkdale players experience in the game. The A Team started brightly in the first twenty minutes with some excellent passing and running and strong tackling forcing St Mary's back. The second 20 minutes saw the B Team starting with a number of boys making their debuts. In a much more closely contested period the B team acquitted themselves admirably against an organised St Mary's A Team. The last period saw a mix of both A and B team players and saw Birkdale finishing strongly with a number of tries being scored. Well done to all the boys involved.

The Year 11 Rugby Team have a Lancashire Cup match this afternoon at Birkdale vs. Lancaster Royal Grammar School. Match report will be in next week's letter. Good luck to the boys involved.

The Year 10 Rugby Team have been invited to participate in a Merseyside and Wirral 7's Tournament on Thursday in New Brighton. Again the match report will be in next week's letter.

Score updates and match information can be found on the PE Departments Twitter feed @BirkdaleHS_PE.

Mr Thorne

GREEN MACHINE

How did you do with your 101 ways to Waste Less Live More? If anyone managed to do 20 or more of the ideas or if any of you did anything you feel the Green Machine could try out as a group, would you please let Mrs Bradley know.

October is Walk to School Week, so maybe you would like to get up a little earlier and walk to school or work, or if you live quite a distance from school, maybe you could walk part of the way!

We are always happy to welcome new members. For more details, please see Mrs Bradley or Mrs Marshall.

BPA NEWS

Year 7 Disco with Greenbank

We have arranged a disco for the Year 7 boys from BHS and the Year 7 girls from Greenbank. This will take place at BHS on Wednesday 19 October 7pm - 9pm. Tickets will be £3 and will be on a first come, first served basis. The attached letter has been emailed to all Year 7 parents.

Meeting

The next BPA meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 October at 7pm – everyone is welcome.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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

October 2016

SKI COURSE 2018 (FEB HALF TERM - COURMAYEUR, ITALY)

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Following the fantastic success of this year's ski trip to Pila (Aosta), I am happy to inform you that we now have places available for February half term 2018. The trip is open to all pupils in school, whether they have skied before or are complete beginners wishing to experience it for the first time.

We have booked the resort of Courmayeur, located in the Aosta valley in the North West of Italy. We skied there as a school group in 2015 and know the area and its facilities well. The ski company infrastructure and organisation is very impressive, with the mountain providing superb conditions to learn to ski or to develop techniques as a competent skier. The evening entertainment facilities, for us to fill the week with lots of things to do, are also impressive.

The resort is suited to skiers of all abilities, with magnificent views sweeping the Alps, from Mont Blanc to Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn. There are 100 kms of perfectly maintained pistes, modern ski lifts, 250+ snow cannons (meaning superb snow-making) and a tempting mix of tree-lined runs and vast, wide, open spaces.

The total cost of the trip is £999 and will include the following: -

- Executive coach travel, from school to resort and return, including ferry crossing and road tolls
- 6 nights 3* half-board accommodation with private facilities in all rooms.
- 24 hours (6 x 4 hours) of instruction by fully qualified English-speaking snowsport instructors.
- Fully supervised hot snack lunches at a choice of mountain restaurants (effectively full-board basis).
- Hire of top quality carving skis, boots, poles & helmets.
- Comprehensive winter sports insurance for all members of the party.

I must take this opportunity to stress that the price **does not** include ski clothing (which can be rented or purchased at fairly low costs).

Payment will be by instalments according to the following schedule: -

- Initial (non refundable) deposit of £100 with returned reply slip.
- Second (non refundable) deposit of £100 by November 3, 2016
- Third (non refundable) deposit of £100 by January 26, 2017
- Remaining balance of £699 by November 9, 2017

After the deposits are paid, you can obviously pay via instalments to suit you either via cash, cheque or Parentpay (payment cards are available upon request). Please write 'Ski Trip ITALY 2018' and your son's name and form on the reverse of all cheques and return them directly to **me (not the school office)**.

If you would like your son to be included on the 2018 trip to Italy, please return the reply slip and initial deposit to me (in the Technology Dept) as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or email (azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Milner (Ski Course Organiser)

Registered office address:

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

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REPLY SLIP: SKI COURSE 2018 – COURMAYEUR, ITALY

To Mr Milner, Ski Course Organiser, Birkdale High School.

I would like my son _____ Form _____
to be included on the 2018 ski trip to Courmayeur, Italy. I enclose a cheque for £100
made payable to Birkdale High School. I understand that this initial (and subsequent)
deposit is non-refundable if I choose to cancel his place and it cannot be filled by another
pupil within school.

Signed

Parent/Guardian

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Autumn Halloween and Firework Season School Briefing Sheet

Merseyside Police, together with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and local councils, is working to promote firework safety and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour over the autumn period.

With your support we can reduce the problems associated with this time of year by ensuring young people between the ages of 11-16 years are aware of the problems associated with, and the consequences of, such behaviour.

Please could you remind your pupils of the following important messages during assemblies, class registrations and/or through citizenship lessons:

Think about how your actions can affect others

- Tricks that you play on people can be very frightening and can have serious consequences.
- Some people feel that they have been targeted personally and may not leave their homes for weeks after a so-called 'trick' has been played on them.
- Be aware of your actions. This time of year can be very frightening for the elderly and very young and can cause distress or lead to illness. If you have elderly relatives think about how you would feel if they felt frightened or intimidated by a so-called 'trick'.
- Local retailers are also offering their support by not selling certain household items to young people over this period e.g. flour, eggs, etc.

The police may arrest those responsible for anti-social behaviour and criminal damage

- Some 'tricks' that you play on people could cause damage to homes and property. If this is the case, you may have committed a criminal offence and could be arrested and prosecuted.
- Throwing missiles at houses, vehicles and people is an offence. If you are caught or reported to the police you could be arrested and receive a £60 fine or a criminal record.
- If you are fined, even if you don't have any money, your parents or guardian will have to pay the fine for you.

Fireworks can be dangerous

- Fireworks are explosives and they are dangerous
- If you are under 16 and found in possession of a firework, including bangers, you can be arrested and fined £60. This even includes carrying fireworks in your pockets.
- You can also be arrested if you:

Please note

Merseyside Police is aware that the majority of young people's behaviour is acceptable throughout Merseyside and it is only the actions of a small minority that causes upset within the community.

1. throw or light a firework in the street
2. make a bonfire in the street
3. cause injury, endanger or annoy others with a firework

- Remember it is safer to go to an organised firework display

Don't forget there are lots of great activities and events happening right across Merseyside that you can get involved in at this time of year.

You can find out what's going on in your area and how to stay safe by visiting www.merseyside.police.uk/autumn-fun from 19th October 2016.

Do have fun with your friends but please enjoy this period safely and always respect others.

Please note

Merseyside Police is aware that the majority of young people's behaviour is acceptable throughout Merseyside and it is only the actions of a small minority that causes upset within the community.



Birkdale High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

Headteacher:
Mr G Y Bourgade

5 October 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are delighted to inform you that we are organising a 3 day residential educational adventure activity course with The Acorn Adventure Company, at Tan Troed, Brecon Beacons on 23rd -25th June 2016. We are very fortunate to have secured a booking as it is extremely popular with school groups.

This three-day residential course involves students in a range of hands-on activities, giving them the chance to really get to grips with life in the outdoors and providing them with a unique environment in which to learn and interact.

Residential courses organised by the school are an optional, but invaluable part of the National Curriculum. Pupils benefit hugely from the experience, both educationally and socially and we feel certain that the challenges we have chosen this year will prove to be both enjoyable and very worthwhile.

We would like to offer this opportunity to our Year 7 pupils. The cost of the visit will be **£150** and includes return travel by coach, full board, accommodation and a full programme of activities. To confirm our booking, an initial non-refundable deposit of **£25** will be required by Monday 10th October to be paid through the Parentpay system.

We will be arranging a parents' evening closer to the trip to explain more details and to show you a presentation of the types of courses The Acorn Adventure Company offers.

.....
Acorn Adventure Trip

I agree that I will instruct my son to abide by normal school rules, by specific trip rules and that I will require him to uphold the good name of Birkdale High School. I understand that if he fails to adhere to the rules above, that he may need collecting from the trip and is likely to be banned from future school trips for a minimum period of twelve months.

I have paid the deposit of £25 to confirm my son's place on the trip on Parentpay.

Pupil Name Form

.....
(Signed – PARENT/GUARDIAN)

Yours sincerely

Mr B Thorne
Head of Year 7



Registered office address:

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

**Music Tuition
From September 2016**

If your son is interested in taking Music Lessons please complete and return this form for the attention of Emma MacDonald or via email - emacdonald@birkdalehigh.co.uk at your earliest convenience.

Pupil Name: _____

Reg _____

Please indicate what instrument your son would like to receive tuition for – you can select up to 2 options:

Piano

Guitar

Brass

Woodwind

Double Bass

Drums

- Cost Per Lesson - £5.00 for years 7 & 8 – 20 minute session
- Cost per lesson for years 9 – 11 - £7.50 – 30 minute session
- Invoices will be posted out in advance in September, January & April.
- In total you can expect to receive 34 lessons over the course of the school year.
- Missed lessons due to Teacher absence will be credited to the following invoice.
- If your son is off sick – lessons will still be charged for.
- Pupils will NOT be charged if they are in an exam or on a school trip.
- Pupils receiving Pupil Premium will NOT be charged
- If your son has opted to take Music at GCSE – you will NOT be charged. – (applicable to Y10 & Y11)
- Should your son decide he no longer wishes to attend lessons we would require 6 weeks' notice and this should be made in writing for the attention of Emma MacDonald – emacdonald@birkdalehigh.co.uk. Lessons will continue to be charged for if notice is not received.
- We require this signed form back from all parents wishing to take advantage of the service, any boys without a completed form will not be able to take part.

I/We would like our son to take part in Music Tuition in school

Yes / No

I/We agree to Birkdale High Schools charging policy for Music Tuition – 34 Lessons x £5.00

Yes / No

My son is in Year 10 – Year 11 and has opted to take Music GCSE

Yes/No

Signed

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print

Name _____



Birkdale High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

BPA

BIRKDALE PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Birkdale High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

WINDY HARBOUR ROAD, SOUTHPORT PR8 3DT

TEL: 01704 577253

EMAIL: BPA@BIRKDALEHIGH.CO.UK

30th September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have organised an Autumn Disco for all Year 7 students from Birkdale High School and Greenbank.

The Disco will be at Birkdale High school on Wednesday 19th October 2016 from 7pm-9pm.

The cost is £3 and numbers are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis.

If your son would like to attend, he should take his money and form directly to the school office in an envelope marked Disco BPA. A register of who has paid will be taken and entry on the night will only be granted if you are on the register.

The Birkdale Parents Association will be running a tuck shop on the night so your son may require a small amount of money for snacks or beverages.

If you would like your son to attend please complete the reply slip below.

Yours sincerely,

Birkdale High School Parents Association

I give permission for

My son.....

Form group.....

Would like to attend the Disco at Birkdale High School on Wednesday 19th October 2016 and I enclose £3 payment. (Cheques payable to BHS BPA) I will make arrangements for my son to be dropped off at 7pm and collected promptly at 9 pm.

Signed.....(Parent/Guardian)

Emergency contact phone number (on the night).....