



Dear Parents and Carers

19 October 2016

It is hard to believe that the first half of this term is already coming to an end. As usual this time of year we have included a few seasonal reminders about uniform and, talking of clothes, I hope that you will be able to support our bags2school fund raiser for the BPA by donating some of your unwanted clothes. We will even do a doorstep collection if requested (see details below).

I am looking forward to meeting Year 11 parents tomorrow for this all important parents' evening. As we start building up for the mocks your support in encouraging your son to apply himself in lessons, attend intervention sessions and revise conscientiously at home is crucial. Several subjects are in the final stages of completing their controlled assessments and again your support in ensuring that every boys aims to at least meet and hopefully exceed their target grade in the controlled assessment is appreciated. Every extra mark they can get in the CA will help them to create a buffer, a safety zone, when they get to the final exam and will enable them to tackle the final paper with confidence.

The work has now started replacing windows in the gym and around the building and the frame for the new cladding is being erected. The contractors have done their best to keep the disruptions to a minimum but some have been inevitable unfortunately. We keep monitoring impact to ensure that it does not detract from the most important part of school life which is your son's education but should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING – THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016

Year 11 tracking data was sent home last Friday and Parents' Evening takes place tomorrow from 4.00pm - 6.30pm.

All Year 11 pupils have been given appointment sheets and should have made appointments with their teachers. If you are unable to attend but would like to make another appointment to come in then please email me

hjeffery@birkdalehigh.co.uk

Mrs Jeffery

ENGLISH NEWS

Spine Chillers Competition Winners

We were delighted to hear the results of the Young Writers Spine Chillers competition that we entered in the Summer Term. Forty of our boys have had their entries accepted to be published in an anthology to be distributed in January. This is a fantastic achievement and each of the boys should be very proud to become a published author! We are now eagerly waiting to see if any of these 40 boys are one of 5 lucky winners of a Kindle Fire HD or have won money for the school. Good luck to all of them.

Those who are to be published: Kamal Khan, Tom Porter, James Sunderland, Jack Britton, William Byrd, Nathan Crewe, Solomon Palmer, Samuel Roberts, Safwan Patel, Sam Bellamy, Tobias Lea, Dion Rimmer, Josh Rimmer, Arran Messenger, Elliot Ratcliffe, Lewis Hill, Taylor Stanbrook, Michael Moscrop, Vlad Ungureanu, Ethan Mobbs-Pursell, Benjamin Gaskell, George Saundry, Nathan Scales, Sam Cooper, Ethan Mossom, Louis Searle, Lee Thompson, Jude Moore, Henry Maw, Brandon France, Oliver Crockett, Jamie Roberts, Doug Hatton, Louie Wilson, Louis Hardy, Daniel Doherty, Josh Harding and Elliot Brown.

Young Writers Busta Rhyme Competition

Young Writers have also run another competition this half term; this time a poetry competition in which students were asked to pen a poem about an issue that they feel passionately about. Our boys have been greatly motivated by the prize for this competition of £1000 going to the individual who wins this National Competition. The entries have been of an extremely high quality. Please see attached three of the entries which deal with a variety of issues: valuing what is truly important in life, testing at age 11 and finding a cure for cancer. Well done to Kasraa Mohammadi, Solomon Palmer and Nathan Scales for writing such thought provoking pieces. Mrs Follett

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YEAR 11 ENGLISH REVISION GUIDES

CGP English Text Guides will be available to order for the following texts on Thursday evening: 'Blood Brothers', 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Macbeth'.

The guides cost a reduced price of £2.75 when bought through school. If you would like to purchase any guides please provide payment in full via your child's English teacher. Please ensure that your order is clearly labelled with your child's name and the required texts.

Mrs Morgan

GCSE DRAMA THEATRE TRIP AND WORKSHOP

On Thursday 13th October, myself, Mrs Carrington and Mrs Sinclair accompanied the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama Students to the Atkinson Theatre, Southport to watch a performance of 'Happy Hour' by Tmesis Theatre. The production was a fast-paced physical comedy exploring our 21st century obsession with happiness and success and audiences described the performance as 'high energy, witty and thought –provoking.'

The students enjoyed the production immensely and some of them were fortunate enough to chat to the actors after the show and were even interviewed for the Theatre Company's twitter feed!

We look forward to welcoming the actors into school on Wednesday afternoon for a physical theatre workshop that should prove invaluable to the development of their skills in this area of the GCSE course.

Mrs Jeffery



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MATHS REVISION AID

Due to the forthcoming mock examinations and GCSE preparation, the maths department are recommending Corbettmaths Revision Cards as an aid for exam preparation. They consist of:

- 90 detailed, engaging Revision Cards for GCSE Higher or Foundation
- Designed for the New GCSE – Edexcel, AQA, OCR
- Each card has its own Video – there are over 10 hours in total!
- Each card has its own set of GCSE exam questions and solutions
- Each Revision Card is postcard size (A6 – 14.8cm by 10.5cm) and Printed on Very High Quality Card.

The cost is £8.99 plus p&p and can be purchased online at <https://corbettmaths.com/revision-cards/>

UNIFORM

As the colder weather approaches, please be reminded that the following rules apply regarding coats. All coats must be plain black or navy. Hooded tops and sports tops are not permitted as alternatives to wearing an outdoor coat or to be worn under blazers.

Mr Pryor

STUDENT COUNCIL

I am pleased to announce the following pupils have been selected to stand on the Student Council: Edward Hammond, Fahim Alom, Safwan Patel, Max Matthews, Louis Verite, Fraser Andrew, Bryn Ellington, James Bartlett and Edward Bellerby. Alongside their Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy, they hope to lead the school to make changes that will benefit them as learners, but also allow us to be citizens of the community. The Southport Learning partnership is set for big things this year with Birkdale High School being linked with 5 other Primary Schools in the area. The first council meeting took place yesterday during Period 5 and new initiatives will begin after half term. As always, anyone wanting to contribute to the Student Voice can drop in to G13 any Friday lunchtime.

Mrs Brook

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

If your son is currently enrolled in the Award at Bronze or Silver level, please encourage him to submit evidence (diary logs / photos / assessors reports) as soon as possible for his volunteering, skill and physical recreation sections. He should also have filled in the requirements for his expedition section (the YCP team have uploaded all the required evidence for this aspect) and submitted everything through the eDofE system. Please note that he cannot enrol for the next level of the Award without completing everything at his current level.

SKIING

2017 – Winter Park, Colorado

Parents of pupils enrolled should have received an email this week requesting personal details for the travel company. Pupils have also been given a paper copy should you wish to do so this way.

Please could either be filled in and returned directly to azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk or Mr Milner by 1 November 2016.

2018 – Courmayeur, Italy

We're happy to report that places are filling for our 2018 trip (letter and reply slip attached). If your son has handed in his reply slip, please be assured that he has been allocated a place. The trips are perfectly suited to all age groups and ability levels. If your son has never skied before or is a competent skier, we are confident that he will certainly enjoy and benefit from the experience. Payments can be made via cash, cheque (payment cards available upon request) or ParentPay. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Milner at azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk

Mr Milner

MUSIC

Last Tuesday the British and Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM) came to school to give a very informative presentation about careers in music. Our boys were also treated to some superb live music from some of their graduates. Some of our ex students are excelling at BIMM colleges around the country as a result of previous BIMM visits and hopefully some of our current students may feel encouraged to do the same.

Mr Waring

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SPORTS REPORT

Rugby

Last week the Year 7 A & B Rugby Teams played at Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe. In two tightly contested games both teams played some excellent rugby demonstrating an improvement with every game. The A Team were winning 2-0 at half time but unfortunately due to a couple of injuries meaning they had a reduced number of players in the second half came out on the losing team at full time. The B Team were involved in a high scoring tight encounter which eventually saw them drawing 5-5. Well done to all the boys involved.

The Year 9 Rugby Team take on QEGS, Blackburn on Wednesday afternoon at 3pm at Birkdale. The team are hoping to improve on their performance against St Mary's and to get back to winning ways. A write up will be in the next letter.
Mr Thorne

Year 7 Football

Squad: Lucas Balshaw, Theo Davies, Lucas Goodman, Adam Dimba, Vincent Hartley, Owen Kelly, Harry Lambert, Mackenzie Mault, Bailey McDonald, Rico Seddon-Davidson, David Tear, Konna Tzigkouras, Jack Walmsley, Lawrie Woods

Birkdale travelled to Stanley HS for the annual Everton Football Club Schools competition. The format was two groups with the winners of each group facing each other in the final. Birkdale won both their group games defeating Christ the King and Formby 2-1. In the first game goals from Lambert and Hartley were enough to see off a stubborn Christ the King team in the first game. Birkdale beat Formby in the second game with delightful and well taken goals from Mault and Kelly. In the final Birkdale played Stanley, Birkdale were rarely troubled by Stanley and goals from Lambert and Hartley ensured that Birkdale won the tournament and go forward to represent the area in the annual Finch Farm tournament. Well done and good luck for the rest of the season.

Year 9 Football

Apologies for not mentioning this in last week's letter. Congratulations to Robbie Jackson who played his first game for the u14 Sefton Schoolboys. They played Knowsley and won by a comfortable margin 8-0. Well done to Robbie who played half the match.
Mr Keary

Oliver Booth



Oliver Booth (7SHW) was recently awarded the Manager's Player of the Year for the Everton FC Under 13s Disability Team. He is pictured with Joe Williams and Mateusz Hewelt (under 23s).

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GREEN MACHINE



Last year, the Green Machine got the ball rolling for the paper and card recycling scheme at school and is now aiming to do the same for the large amount of plastic bottles.

McDonald's was the only business we wrote to who actually sponsored a bin. Over the summer holiday, they organised a raffle in their Kew branch and gave us just over £100.00, so thank you to all the Kew staff at McDonalds! Please see picture.

We are always keen to welcome new members. All boys (and staff!) welcome. Our next meeting is at lunchtime on Monday 7 November. Please see Mrs Marshall or Mrs Bradley for further details.

BPA NEWS

Cake Sale

Thank you to all parents that sent cakes and/or money in with your son last week. We raised £85 which is fantastic.

Year 7 Disco

The Year 7 disco takes place tonight between 7pm and 9pm. **Be aware that if you have not sent your money into school, you will not be able to get in. Tickets cannot be purchased on the door.** Please be considerate of residents and other motorists when dropping off and picking up. There are 175 year 7s at this event so traffic and parking will be busy. The Liverpool Road entrance will be open to avoid congestion on Windy Harbour Road.

Bag2school

The blue bags have arrived in school and have been given to your son. This is a great way of getting rid of any clothes that may be too small, too big or no longer wanted. There is a letter attached giving guidelines on what can and can't be taken. Unfortunately, Bag2school did not send enough bags, so if your son is in **Year 11 or Classes 10AM or 10CS**, please feel free to use normal black bin liners. Why not take advantage of our doorstep collection during half term. If you would like to make use of this service, please email bpa@birkdalehigh.co.uk with your details and we will get back to you to confirm your collection day.

Thank you to all parents for your support for BPA events and we hope you all have a nice half term break.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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Eleven

By Nathan Scales

It's done, the test is over,
He tried his best like all the others.
The test of his life, at only eleven.

He hopes for entry into Grammar School,
The Promised Land – his destiny is thwarted
Because his future's decided, at only eleven.

His dreams of success, now just a fantasy.
Thoughts of the future now just depress him.
Most doors are closed to him, at only eleven.

Only eleven, but his path is chosen, there's no going back.
Is this really what should happen to someone, at only eleven?

Have your time

By Solomon Palmer

Whether the day brings tears or cries,
It can often be life that we despise.
Some of us want to scream or shout
'cause we want to know what our life's about –
We want to know how, 'When' and 'Why?'
'Why are we born?' and 'Why must we die?'

For some 'there's no point' is simply no answer
And lots don't believe in some Godly Master.
This question of 'Why?' has made some go mad,
Nervous and scared or mostly just sad.
And while most of us don't go mad as a hatter,
We all ask ourselves – 'Do I even matter?'

'I mean what's the point in this unfair game,
When in 200 years, who'll remember my name?'
We wonder our whole lives and often forget,
Of our loves and our life, don't leave it, don't regret.
Call you mother or make a new friend,
Rally supporters so you're not alone in the end.

So don't stay inside, trapped and confined,
Go learn something new or challenge your mind.
Spend time with your loved ones, settle quarrels or bets,
'cause one day, like the sun, your life will set.
So as long as you're kind, I'm sure you'll be fine,
Go live your life while you still have time.

Time?

By Kasraa Mohammadi

In the back of the cab
Heading towards the lab.
Hoping today will be the day
in the dead heat of May.

Through the sliding doors I enter,
Looking at the next agenda.
Working to the following noon,
In the early hours of June.

Combining chemicals together,
Not knowing - when is whenever.
So cruel to the innocent. But why?
Thinking, as I gaze at the sun-scorched sea of July.
How long is time?

A few weeks later still trying to find the answer,
To the ongoing, heart-breaking, life taking cancer.
As the families painfully adjust,
And greet the dying days of August.

As it starts to spread like butter,
My work begins to clutter.
Why did I make this endeavour?
In the yellow leaves of September.
How long is time?

Although these tasks may take forever,
Just like the ever-changing weather.
Setbacks as continuous as ever,
But as long as there is a mountain to climb
Eventually we will know now is the time.



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)

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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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Birkdale
High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

BPA

BIRKDALE PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Birkdale
High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

WINDY HARBOUR ROAD, SOUTHPORT PR8 3DT

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Bag2School

We all have clothing in our wardrobes that we haven't worn in ages! In a world of fast fashion, we now have a lot of stuff – but when it comes to a clear out what do you do to make sure the environment comes off best?

Bag2School has the answer – we've been helping schools for over 15 years and in the process paid out over £27 million to PTAs and Friends of School Groups. The More We Weigh the More We Pay.

Your son has been given a blue bag to fill with items you no longer use or wear (see below for guidance). Once filled, your blue bag needs to be returned to school on or **before 17th November**. Once collected, the Bag2School organisation, weigh the bags and we receive a cheque.

Unfortunately Bags2school have not sent enough bags, therefore if you son is in 10AM, 10CS or all classes in Year 11 and you have items you would like to send, please use a normal black bin bag. Sorry for any inconvenience.

COLLECTION SERVICE: Due to the number of boys who walk, cycle or catch a bus to school, we have arranged to use the school minibus during the half term week to collect any bags from doorstops. If you would like to make use of this service, please email BPA@Birkdalehigh.co.uk with your name and address and we will contact you to confirm your collection day.

Bag2School accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Curtains
- Towels
- Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

We DO NOT accept:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material