



9th November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a packed newsletter again this week with items ranging from Science Competitions to Charity Drives, Clubs and Sporting activities. We hope that you find it informative and keeps you aware of what the school does to support your son's progress, welfare and achievements.

STEM

On Wednesday 2nd November I accompanied five Year 9 pupils to the All About STEM Bright Futures Challenge at Unilever R & D site, Port Sunlight. The pupils were Finn Cromack, Sam Pring, Jacob Clayton, Max Matthew and Lewis Collins.

At Unilever we explored the Research & Development site and participated in sessions looking at packaging, processing, recycling & sustainability, consumer technical insight, Digital R & D and formulation of products.

The pupils now have 4 months to design a unique product that encourages children in developing countries to wash their hands before food and after the toilet. After a productive day at Unilever the pupils were already full of ideas and ready to begin the process of designing their own product.

Mr Burcher



The Green Machine



At our meeting on Monday, we were delighted to welcome two new members. There is still room for more!

The wonderful bunch of Year 9s who attend are SO enthusiastic and have SO many ideas, that we decided that we will have to have fortnightly, rather than monthly meetings, so from now on, we will meet on the first and third school Mondays of each month.

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Switch off Fortnight is the next thing in our diary – we are challenging people to see if they can go a day without using electrical gadgets at home or at school! It's all about our attitudes to stuff and the impact these things have on the planet. It's only a day, but it could make a real impact!

Mrs Bradley

Thursday 17th November is Use Less Stuff Day!

Science Garden and Animal Club

The Science Garden and Animal Club is always open to new members, especially those pupils in Year 7 who have an interest gardening or animals

Come along and learn about the animals we keep. Our existing Club members are always eager and willing to show new members how to handle and take care of the animals we keep. At the same time you can make new friends too!

Ever thought of keeping a particular animal at home but may be unsure if it is the right animal for you and your family?

At Animal Club, you get the opportunity to take care of one of our animals during the holidays.

By looking after one of our animals for a short space of time you can learn if it is a suitable animal for you to own in the future.

Alternatively you can just take one our animal's home for the duration of the holidays and return them without the expense of buying one yourself.

At present we have two Dumbo Eared Rats (Albi and Splinter), one Bearded Dragon (Dave), one Tortoise (Buddy), one Corn Snake (Sammie), two Chinchillas (Denzil and Ralph) and a tank full of Vietnamese Stick insects. Not forgetting our two chickens in the Science garden (Zelda and Sarah) and our garden pond full of Sticklebacks.

With the addition of three new Gerbils in the next week or so there is a diverse group of animals that will be of interest to everyone.

Science Garden and Animal Club is open every lunch time and after school in Room G1.

Coming soon!

The Birkdale High School Garden and Animal Club will be posting videos on "Youtube" telling the whole world about our Club, how to run a club successfully, and instructions on how to look after the animals we keep.

The boys have been hard at work creating a suitable way of promoting our club via "Youtube". Hopefully in the next few weeks their efforts will be rewarded by the amount of views we receive.

Details will follow shortly on how to access the Animal Club footage.

Mr Leece

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Year 11 Rewards Breakfast - Tuesday 22nd November

Year 11 tracking went out before the half term holiday and 2 of the areas in which staff were asked to grade boys were 'attitude to learning' and 'behaviour.' I'm pleased to say that there were a large number of students who scored highly in these areas and to thank them for their efforts there will be a rewards breakfast for those who achieved an average score of *4.6 or higher* (out of a maximum of 5) in *both* areas.

The breakfast will take place in the Drama room from 8.40am on Tuesday 22nd November. The following boys are invited to attend:

Sam Pennifold, Jack Powell, Daniel James, Jacob Roberts, Daniel Hubbard, Max Hindle, Luke Monaghan, Laurence Fredricks, Will Berry, Morgan Neilson, Matthew Fraser, Oliver Mutch, Ethan Watson, Morgan Ashcroft, Ethan Scrutton, Connor Rylands, Martin Rimmer, Luke Harbon, Johnny Bean, Sam Livingstone, Louis Shorrcok, Edward Hammond, Red McCarthy, Ethan Fletcher, Angus Ball, Xander Yates, Aaron Mobbs-Pursell, Ismael Akesbi Baladi, Adam Heathfield, Connor Andrews, Joshua Wilkinson, Lewis Chambers.

Mrs Jeffery

Year 11 Leaver's Prom - important information

Just a reminder for those families who may be planning holidays when the Year 11s have finished their exams – the date of the YEAR 11 LEAVER'S PROM next year will be Friday 30th June 2017. More details will follow in the New Year, however I can confirm that the venue will be Formby Hall.

Also - the boys are aware that invitation to the Prom is not automatic. In order to attend students must have met the following criteria (as per all rewards activities):

- 95% attendance
- 97% punctuality (This is the area in which a LOT of students are letting themselves down)
- More merits than sanctions

Based on current data 48 pupils at present would not be able to attend the Prom next year!!

Obviously it's still early days as regards the attendance figures – and if a student has had one period of time off due to genuine illness then, *providing their attendance is good for the rest of the year*, they will not be penalised. However, there are a small number of students who regularly take days off throughout the year so please be mindful of this as they are at risk of not meeting the criteria if this continues.

Similarly with punctuality - there is room in the % criteria for the odd missed bus etc . However, some students are persistently late (albeit it by a few minutes) with no reason so please support the school by reinforcing the need for a punctual start to the day.

Thanks for your support.

Mrs Jeffery

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Science "Total Recall" Quiz League on Show My Home Work

This was launched successfully over the last 3 weeks with 61% of year 11 students and 80% of year 10 students participating. We would like to see these percentages increase when the league is updated on 21st November as these quizzes are designed to improve the knowledge of key facts required for GCSE success. Every student in KS4 has been assigned 3 quizzes to date by different teachers within the science department, so even if they are not taught by the assigning teacher they should still complete the quiz. The league positions of students are displayed in the science corridor. To move up league positions, students should learn the information provided, usually as an attached document or website and attempt the quiz. They can have 3 attempts at the quiz and their best score counts. Parents can monitor their sons attempts by logging on to Show My Home Work. Please encourage your son to make their best efforts in completing the quizzes as it is likely to have a positive, direct impact on their GCSE grades in science.

Mr Woodley

Rugby

On Monday 7th November the Year 7 Rugby A & B teams travelled to Manchester Grammar School for a Lancashire Rugby fixture. In two closely contested games the 'A' Team narrowly lost 10 tries to 7. There were excellent performances by Dylan Thompson scoring numerous tries and Joe Macadam for his outstanding effort in defence. It was better news for the 'B' Team as they staged one of the all-time comebacks trailing 35-0 at half time but going onto win 45-35. There were outstanding try scoring performances from Rico Seddon-Davidson and numerous boys making their rugby team debuts. Currently there is no match scheduled for next week but training is on Thursday night 3:10-4:10pm.

Then Year 11 Rugby Team travel to Stonyhurst College on Wednesday 16th November for their Lancashire match looking to emulate last year's Year 11 victory. Pictures and score updates will be available via the PE Twitter feed @BirkdaleHS_PE.

Mr Thorne

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A huge thank you to all the student and parents who have supported our 'Link to Hope' Christmas Shoe Box appeal. The tight deadline did not deter anyone and I am delighted to be delivering over 20 boxes to the depot this evening. The boxes will bring joy to each and every family or elderly person they are given to. I personally know a receiver of one of the shoe boxes, years ago, and she reiterated that it was the best thing she had received that year. Below you can see a picture of the preparation of the boxes in my living room, supervised by my cat Dave. Many thanks.

Mrs Brook



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Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Parents evening is on Thursday, 8th December. We will be trialling a new online system to make appointments. Information will be sent home in the coming days.

Mr Bennett

BPA News

Tonight's BPA meeting has been postponed and will now take place on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.30pm.

Bags2school

Many thanks to all those who have sent bags into school to support this fundraiser. There is still time to send any filled bags into school, as the bags will now be collected on **Friday 18th November**. If you have any filled bags, please either drop them off at school asap or email bpa@birkdalehigh.co.uk to arrange collection.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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