



Dear Parents and Carers

23 November 2016

I really need to start this newsletter wishing all of our Year 11 students good luck for their mock exams, which start next week. I know that many of them have started revising but I also suspect that many are still missing that sense of urgency. Please continue to encourage them at home. They should be revising a couple of hours daily, at least, as part of their preparation, and it will pay off.

The importance of students preparing themselves thoroughly for examinations is all the more evident this week as we are getting ready to celebrate last year's Year 11 students who are coming back on Thursday night to collect their certificates at our Awards' Evening. This is one of the best nights in the school calendar as we welcome back our students, share their achievements and catch up on their new journeys into adult life.

We currently have a vacancy on our governing body for a Parent Governor. Please see further information, including a nomination form attached. If you have any queries, please contact myself or Ms Karen Anslow, Clerk to the Governors.

I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter. It features again several sporting successes, including quite a performance at national level by our swimmers, but also our BPA fundraiser, Christmas competition, Science event and other news.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



In order to encourage our students to write creatively and descriptively, whilst celebrating all things Christmassy, the English Department is running a descriptive writing Christmas Competition. This competition is open to all students in all year groups and prizes will be awarded in the Christmas Assembly. There will be a prize for the best entry in each year group as well as an overall winner.

In order to take part, students need to write a description inspired by this image. This should be no longer than one page of A4. They should aim to include ambitious vocabulary choices, imaginative figurative language and make sure they are writing in the third person, describing and not writing a story. All entries should be passed to any English teacher by the deadline of Friday 16 December. Good Luck! Mrs Follett

ENGLISH MOCK EXAMINATIONS – YEAR 11

Thank you to all parents who are supporting Year 11 in their revision for their upcoming Mock Examinations in English Language. We have had some queries about a mock in English Literature. The boys should be aware that they will be having a separate English Literature Mock Examination at the end of January. This mock will test them on 'Blood Brothers' and the Poetry Anthology.

Mrs Follett

SCIENCE – YEAR 11

On Tuesday 22 November 2016, we invited in Pippa Roberts from Chester Zoo to speak to Year 11 pupils about her work during her Science degree, her masters and her current role at Chester Zoo.

The talk was focused on her role at Chester Zoo, about improving public engagement in Science, working on projects in different countries and her current work at the Zoo.

It was an fascinating look at potential careers in Science and the further opportunities open to the boys when they leave Birkdale. The pupils involved were very positive about the experience.

Mr Burcher

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KIERAN CONWAY 8JB

Kieran Conway made the local news last week for his kindness in coming to the rescue of a woman who was scammed out of a Christmas present for her grandson.

Kieran has been showered with praise after he donated his almost brand new PlayStation Vita gaming console worth £300 completely free to a Southport woman who was scammed when she tried to buy a Christmas present for her grandson.

The woman had decided to purchase a second hand Playstation Portable (PSP) hand held gaming console from a stranger on a social media site for £50. It was intended to be a nice Christmas present for her grandson but when she came to check the PSP, she found it to be broken and all attempts to contact the seller again were in vain after he disappeared.

Kieran immediately decided to donate his PS Vita – a superior model to the PSP – completely free of charge so the woman's grandson could have a Christmas present.

We are very proud of Kieran for his kind actions.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

As part of Road Safety Week our Year 8 assembly focused on bike safety - how many accidents occur each year, how teenagers are more at risk, possible injuries, and Ryan's story – this was about a 16 year boy who collided with a van but wasn't wearing a helmet. The pupils were given advice of key ways to stay safe whilst cycling, they are:

- *Wear a helmet**
 - *See and be seen (reflective clothing and lights on bike)**
 - *Don't ride wearing headphones**
 - *Follow cycle laws**
 - *Take part in bike training (Bikeability)**
 - *Be extra cautious when riding at night**
 - *Be predictable – so drivers can anticipate your movements**
 - *Keep your bike well maintained.**
- Mrs Nightingale

GREEN MACHINE



We are coming to the end of Switch off Fortnight, a chance for us to think about whether we really need to use lights, computers, mobiles and televisions as much as we think we need to! G.M. members from 9PZM will be going round the school placing stickers to help remind us about this.

Here are a few facts for us to think about:

- 27,000 trees are felled each DAY for toilet paper!
- Recycling an aluminium can can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours!
- If you've got a tap dripping one drop a second, that can add up to 165 gallons of water a month!
- Tonight, if all computers were shut down instead of being put in sleep mode, they will still save enough energy to light up the Eiffel Tower 24 hours a day for another 720 years!

We CAN make a difference in the world! Let's see what we can switch off for the rest of "Switch off Fortnight!"

Mrs Bradley



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SPORTS REPORT

Year 9 Football

Squad – Tobias Lea, Toby Sykes, Elliot Brown, Ben Stott, Ryan Graham, Matthew Brown, Daniel Doherty, David Sperrin, Jack Gaskell, Robbie Jackson, Adam Livesly, Kaidan Hesketh, Christian Johnson, Jack Green.

Birkdale travelled to Stanley High School for the first round of the Sefton Cup. Buoyed by their good cup run last year the boys arrived at the match in a confident mood. Birkdale did not play so well in the first half and conceded four soft goals in the first half. The boys rallied in the second half to produce a spirited performance however it was not enough to overhaul the four goal deficit and Stanley ran out eventual winners 4-1. Good luck to Stanley in the next round.

KGV – Stretch and Challenge

The following boys attended the 'Stretch and Challenge' day at KGV on Thursday 3rd November 2016:

Ayomide Ayodele, George Carrington, Al Faiaz De Sousa Jussub Karim, Harvey France, Jacob Haworth, Matthew Howarth, Joseph Jones, Sebastian Mikolajewski, Brion Monaghan, Ian Moogan, Jack Newnham, Charlie Turner, Nathan Bowden, Tom Porter, Matthew Cook, Kasraa Mohammadi, Owen Highton, Sam Johnson, Sam McGlincy, Oliver Rimmer, Ben Gaskell, Sam Hodge

In the morning the boys took part in a fitness testing day focussing on protocols, reliability, validity and practicality, advantages and disadvantages of tests, health and safety and normative comparisons. In the afternoon a coach from Blackburn FC and Southport FC ran a football masterclass coaching session for our students to provide a good insight in to coaching at a high level. This is hopefully the start of a positive 'Stretch and Challenge' working relationship.



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Birkdale Swimming Team

Junior Squad – Adam Scrutton, Charlie Kelly, Henry Maw, Fraser Cooke

Birkdale attended the 59th English Schools' Swimming Association Secondary Team Championships 2016 at the London Aquatics Centre in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for the third year running. This is a fantastic achievement as it means Birkdale have qualified for the finals five times in the last six years. This year the event was held at the London Aquatics Centre in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The pool was packed with top quality swimmers hoping to emulate some of the greats, like Michael Phelps, Rebecca Adlington and Ryan Lochte who graced the pool in 2012.

The junior boys competed in both the freestyle and medley relays. In the medley relay Birkdale finished fourth in their heat and squeezed through to the final in 9th position after heat three and swam excellently in the final to finish in 9th place.

Junior Boys 200m Medley Team - Heats

Full Results

Place	Name	A.G	Club	Time
1.	Millfield School		Street SW	2:05.01
2.	Mount Kelly		Tavistock SW	2:07.62
3.	Dulwich Prep London		Dulwich Lo	2:11.69
4.	St Albans School		St Albans Ea	2:12.32
5.	Canon Slade School		Bolton NW	2:12.87
6.	Aldwickbury School		Harpenden Ea	2:15.42
7.	Trinity		Croydon Lo	2:15.65
8.	Sevenoaks School		Kent SE	2:16.21
9.	Birkdale High School		Birkdale NW	2:16.70
10.	Woking High		Surrey SE	2:17.20
11.	Churchers		Hants SE	2:17.79
12.	Cranmore		Surrey SE	2:17.90
13.	Reigate Grammar		Surrey SE	2:18.26
14.	Whitgift School		Croydon Lo	2:18.81
15.	George Abbott		Surrey SE	2:18.08
15.	The Skinners School		Kent SE	2:18.98
17.	Winterbourne Inter Aca		Bristol SW	2:19.39
18.	Manchester Grammar S		Rusholme NW	2:19.93
19.	John Hampden Grammar S		High Wycombe	2:20.49
20.	King's Worcester		Worcester WM	2:21.65

Junior Boys 200m Medley Team - Final

Full Results

Place	Name	A.G	Club	Time
1.	Millfield School		Street SW	2:05.21
2.	Mount Kelly		Tavistock SW	2:06.87
3.	Dulwich Prep London		Dulwich Lo	2:11.73
4.	St Albans School		St Albans Ea	2:13.05
5.	Canon Slade School		Bolton NW	2:13.31
6.	Sevenoaks School		Kent SE	2:16.04
7.	Trinity		Croydon Lo	2:16.22
8.	Aldwickbury School		Harpenden Ea	2:17.45
9.	Birkdale High School		Birkdale NW	2:17.84
10.	Woking High		Surrey SE	2:18.22

The boys swam well in the freestyle heat finishing fifth in their heat and although they swam faster than they did in the North West competition it was not enough to qualify for the final. They finished 15th overall in England.

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Junior Boys 200m Freestyle Team - Heats

Full Results

Place	Name	A.G	Club	Time
1.	Millfield School		Street SW	1:53.47
2.	Sevenoaks School		Kent SE	1:57.55
3.	Dulwich Prep London		Dulwich Lo	1:57.84
4.	Mount Kelly		Tavistock SW	1:58.43
5.	Cranmore		Surrey SE	2:00.35
6.	Twynham School		Dorset SW	2:00.70
7.	Churchers		Hants SE	2:01.12
8.	St Albans School		St Albans Ea	2:01.87
9.	Trinity		Croydon Lo	2:01.89
10.	Canon Stade School		Bolton N/W	2:02.32
11.	Whitgift School		Croydon Lo	2:02.53
12.	St. Peter's School		BournemouthSW	2:03.01
13.	Woking High		Surrey SE	2:03.27
14.	Manchester Grammar S		Rusholme NW	2:03.77
15.	Birkdale High School		Birkdale NW	2:03.98
16.	John Hampden Grammar S		High WycomSE	2:04.02
17.	Berkhamsted School		BerkhamsteEa	2:04.50
18.	Latimer Upper School		Hammersmi Lo	2:04.84
19.	Warwick School		Warwick WM	2:04.72
20.	The Skinners School		Kent SE	2:05.04
21.	Aldwickbury School		Harpenden Ea	2:05.14
22.	Reigate Grammar		Surrey SE	2:07.00

All in all it was a very successful competition finishing 9th and 15th in the country and the boys can be very pleased and proud of their efforts, especially considering the schools and teams that were involved. Well done and roll on next year!!

A massive thanks to Mr Jenkins for his hard work and support and also to Southport Swimming Club for the time and dedication they give to produce such fantastic swimmers who have proved they can compete with the very best schools in the country at the very highest level. It also goes to show that Birkdale High School is definitely the school to come for swimmers. Well done boys and looking forward to next year already. Photographs and full results from the even can be found at http://www.essa-schoolswimming.com/results/59th_ssecteam2016/index.htm



Pictured left to right – Henry Maw, Adam Scrutton, Fraser Cooke, Charlie Kelly

Badminton

Birkdale A – Eliot Brown, Tobey Sykes, Robbie Jackson, Matthew Brown

Birkdale B – Oliver Ball, Louis Wilson, Samir Ahmed, Travis Nolan

On Thursday 17th December the U14 badminton team took part in the first round of the Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Competition 2016/17.

The teams were divided into two groups with all schools playing each other to determine who progresses. The schools involved were as follows: Birkdale; Christ the King; Formby, Stanley.

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Birkdale A won all of their matches with ease. They beat Stanley and CTK 5-0 and also beat Formby 4-1 with Tobey Sykes losing the only match of the tournament. Birkdale B also won all of their matches by beating Stanley 3-2, and managed to beat both CTK and Formby 4-1. This bodes well for next year. Therefore Birkdale were the winners of the tournament meaning Birkdale will progress to the next round of the Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Competition to represent Sefton against all winners of each regions of Merseyside, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens and Wirral. Well done boys and good luck in the next round.



Pictured from left to right - Travis Nolan, Oliver Ball, Louis Wilson, Eliot Brown, Matthew Brown, Samir Ahmed, Tobey Sykes and Robbie Jackson.

FARNBOROUGH ROAD INFANT SCHOOL – COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

Farnborough Road Infant School has put together a bid for £25,000 for the re-development of their Reception Play Area to offer the children a Forest Schools experience. They have asked for our help in voting for their project by following the link bit.ly/fris1 Voting closes on 30 November 2016.

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BPA NEWS

BPA Meeting

The next BPA meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 December 2016 at 7.30pm – please join us – all welcome to attend.

Bags2School

Thank you for the great response for the Bags2School, as soon as we receive payment from the Bags2School we will inform parents of how much we have raised. Thank you again for your support.

NEWSLETTER FROM MIKE McSORLEY, HEAD OF SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES AT SEFTON COUNCIL

Please see below extracts from a newsletter sent to all schools from Mike McSorley, Head of Schools and Families at Sefton Council:

“It will not have escaped your attention that in my role I regularly push the array of support services for our looked after children in these updates. I have a few items that I want to draw your attention to in this area. Firstly, our

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Fostering Service will soon be launching a new website and e-bulletin for anyone considering fostering as not only a life choice, but a career option. I know that many of our teachers, teaching assistants and governors are qualified to a high level in caring for children, which not only makes them ideal applicants to become foster carers, but also means that they can enter the role at a higher payment level due to their existing expertise, although they are expected to develop their skills further by taking part in Sefton's comprehensive training programme. To find out more, please contact the service by Freephone 0800 923 2777, from 9am-5pm.

Following a review of the recruitment approaches of our Fostering Service at Sefton Council, the Local Authority is reaching out to local voluntary and faith groups to build long standing, effective relationships that can eventually lead to more foster carers becoming part of the service. I know that many of you will be volunteers when you are not active in your school community and have strong affiliations with local faith groups. If fostering is not for you but you would like to support our looked after children in a different way, consider involving your voluntary or faith organisations in our recruitment drives and becoming a friend of the service. To find out how you can support fostering in this way, contact Helen Collins, Recruitment Officer at Sefton Fostering and Adoption Services on 0151 934 4244 or by email

In October, inspired by the Paralympics in Rio, Sefton hosted Merseyside's first para-triathlon for children and young people with additional needs. This pioneering event saw 28 competitors take part and many more spectators on the day. You can re-live the excitement of the day by viewing a video of the event on Youtube – the video enjoyed over 6,000 views on the Aiming High Facebook page /seftonaiminghigh

I have to admit that I am not very familiar with Instagram other than my own family uses it a lot. Sefton Council now has an Instagram account and I am reliably informed that there are lots of fantastic images being shared there that give a real flavour of our fantastic borough. As well as encouraging the Instagrammers among you to like and engage with the account, I have been asked to let you all know that if you are a keen photographer or enjoy taking pictures of our lovely borough or your schools, share them with Sefton Council's Communications team by email, who will then share them on Instagram and tag you and credit you (whatever that means) with taking the image. Alternatively you can tag the Sefton Council page in your posts. The Instagram handle for Sefton Council is sefton_council".

Mike McSorley

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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Wednesday 23 November 2016

Notice of Election

Dear Parents/Carers

Parent Governor Election

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on the Governing Body of Birkdale High School. Parent governors are elected by the parents of pupils to serve a four year term of office.

Governors have an important and influential role to play in the life of our school, and I do hope you will be able to take part in this election by becoming a candidate and by casting your vote when the time comes. You may, if you wish, put yourself forward as a candidate, using the attached nomination form. Please read the information given with the nomination form.

The timetable for the election is:

1. Nomination Form to be returned to me by 12.00 noon on Monday 5 December 2016.
2. Ballot Papers to be sent to all parents on Wednesday 7 December 2016; (Voting will only take place if there is more than one nomination).
3. Ballot Papers to be returned to me by 12 noon on Monday 19 December 2016;
4. The votes will be counted at 2.30 pm on Monday 19 December 2016 after which the result will be announced.

All nominations received will be acknowledged.

School governorship is now classed as a regulated category and as such all governors are now subject to a Standard Disclosure through the Disclosure Barring System. The appointment will be made on the understanding that clearance is received through the DBS. This is simply to protect young people in our care.

If you would like to have an informal chat with the Chair of Governors, or if you require any further information about the role of a school governor or the election process, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Anslow, Clerk to the Governors, on 01704 577253.

Yours sincerely

G Bourgade
Headteacher
Returning Officer

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PARENT GOVERNOR
NOMINATION FORM

Before completing this form, please read the Notes of
Guidance provided

	SURNAME INITIALS Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Nominee	 (Capitals)		
Proposer	 (Capitals)		
Secunder	 (Capitals)		

Declaration of Nominee: I am willing to accept nomination. I agree that if successful I will be subject to clearance through the DBS.

Signed:

Date:

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE RETURNING OFFICER BY 12.00 NOON ON

Monday 5 December 2016

LATE NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION FROM MEMBERSHIP OF A GOVERNING BODY

1. A person who is under the age of 18.
2. A person who is adjudged bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestered or who has made a composition or arrangements with his/her creditors and who has not been discharged.
3. A person convicted within the last five years of any offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine.
4. A person convicted within the last twenty years of any offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment for a period of two and a half years or more.
5. A person convicted of any offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment for a period of five years or more.
6. A person convicted within the last five years of an offence under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 (nuisance or disturbance on school premises and grounds) and sentenced to a fine.
7. A governor who, without the consent of the governing body, fails to attend meetings for a continuous period of six months beginning with the date of the first meeting missed.
8. A person who is detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.
9. A person subject to disqualification under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 or under the Insolvency Act 1986.
10. A person removed from the office of Charity Trustee by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on the grounds of misconduct or mismanagement.
11. A person who has not received satisfactory clearance through the Disclosure Barring System.
12. A person disqualified under the Education Act 1996 from being the proprietor of an independent school or from being a teacher or other employee in any school.