



Dear Parents and Carers

30 November 2016

First of all, some praise for our Year 11 students who have so far conducted themselves fantastically well in the mock examinations. I would also like to remind you that during the mocks period Year 11 students are allowed to leave at 2.10pm if they have no exam, or as soon as their exam is finished. This is in order to give them some independence over their revision time and encourage them to use it effectively without the constant guidance of parents and staff. Students are aware however, that this is a privilege and must be treated as such.

I also need to tell all Year 11 parents that on Tuesday 20 December 2016 we will hold, as we have done in the past, a mock results day when we will gather students together and give them the opportunity to open their results in a formal setting. We have found in previous years that it gives the process some gravitas and helps students to appreciate the potential impact, positive or negative, of their work and preparation. You should expect your son to bring his results home that afternoon.

I would also like to remind all parents who drive their children to and from school that it is absolutely vital to drive slowly up and down Windy Harbour Road. It is a very narrow cul-de-sac made all the more dangerous by cars parked on either side. Should you park on Windy Harbour Road before or after school please be mindful of our neighbours and not obstructing drives as we have had a few reports of residents not being able to access their drives. Your support is greatly appreciated in this matter.

CYCLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Can you please remind your son about the safety of cycling to and from school, especially around Windy Harbour Road. We encourage your son to walk his bicycle into and out of the school grounds ensuring the safety of all students including himself. This is particularly important when leaving the school as there is a lot of traffic in the road at that time and we do not want pupils riding out into the road without due care and consideration. Can you also make sure that your son's bike is roadworthy, by checking tyres and brakes in particular. Mr Marshall

BBC COMEDY WRITING COMPETITION – WINNERS

Nathan Crewe, Ben Gaskell, Jamie Johnson and Solomon Palmer received highly commended certificates for their entries into the BBC's Comedy Writing Competition and have received certificates signed by Charlie Higson and feedback, which are all attached to this letter. Congratulations and well done boys! Mrs Follett

ACCELERATED READING SCHEME

Well done to our Year 7 and Year 8 students who are making good progress with the Accelerated Reading scheme. The following boys are performing particularly well. Prizes will be awarded in the upcoming Christmas Assembly for those with high scores and the most improved scores over the upcoming weeks.

Students with 30+ points and an average score of 80%+ on their quizzes: Ethan Marshall, Isaac Mills, Jamie Shaw, Oliver Sharples, James Caldwell, Christopher Rolphe, Jake Rimmer, Faysal Patel, Harvey Leggett and Sam Murray.

Students with 10+ points and an average score of 80%+ on their quizzes: Jack Dawson, Elliot King, Joshua Brewis, JD Sanderson, Anthony Waite, Alexander Major and Travis Nolan. Well done boys! Mrs Follett

YEAR 10 PARENT'S EVENING – THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2016

A reminder that the Year 10 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 8 December 2016 from 4.00pm to 6.30pm. If you have not already made your appointments online, please do so by following the attached instructions.

Further details regarding the evening are also again attached to this newsletter. Mr Bennett

YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING – THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2016

A date for your diary – Year 8 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 15 December 2016 – letters regarding the booking system will be sent out shortly. Mrs Nightingale

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BIRKDALE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE GARDEN AND ANIMAL CLUB

Nearly there! The boys have been working really hard to complete the club's first on-line vlog. If any boys wish to be part of this vlog in the future, please come and see me. Please remember that pupils must have a letter of permission signed by a parent or carer before they can appear on Youtube.

Mr Leece



CATCH 22

Year 8 students' assembly this week was delivered by outside agency **Catch22**. They talked to the pupils about **Keeping Safe and Healthy relationships**. **Catch 22** talked to pupils about signs of grooming, what to look out for, how to stay safe – internet safety – keeping privacy settings up to date, and what to do and who to talk to if they are worried. Hopefully the pupils feel they have learned some valuable information which will help keep themselves and others safe.

Mrs Nightingale

SOUTHPORT LEARNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Student Councils' work with Ainsdale Methodist Church and helping the elderly in our community will see 6 students attending a Christmas get-together with their linked primary schools and the elderly people on 9th December. They plan to run a lucky dip stall for the guests attending. Any donations to this lucky dip would be gratefully received. Please deliver to G13. Next year we hope to join together with Ainsdale Care Community and have Birkdale Students run technology master classes and exploration sessions with the elderly people. Well done to all involved and let's make this a Christmas for the elderly people one to remember.

Mrs Brook

SPORTS REPORT

Water Polo

Squad - Ethan Scrutton, Luke Monaghan, Tommy Jones, Mathew Fraser, Matthew Cook, Matthew Spencer, Aaron Mobbs-Pursell, Mason Galley, Tobias Lea, Sam Pennifold.

On Wednesday 23rd November 2016 Birkdale travelled to Bradford Grammar School to play in Round One of the u18's English Schools Water Polo Championships 2016. The other teams involved were Bradford Grammar School and Manchester Grammar School. The games were played over two periods of eight minutes each way. Birkdale lost 17-0 to regular national finalists Manchester Grammar School 17-0 and lost to Bradford Grammar School 8-0. Birkdale competed well in both games and had many opportunities to score but were just not clinical enough in front of goal. Well done to all boys involved.

Mr Keary

Football

Squad – Nathan Bowden, Dylan Curry, Matthew Cook, Al Faiaz De Sousa, Ben Gaskell, Brion Monaghan, Connor Wheeler, Callum Lee, George Carrington, Kyle Joseph, Owen Highton, Jamie Johnson, Kasraa Mohammadi, Matthew Howarth

The year 10 football team travelled to Pensby High School to play in round two of the Merseyside Cup. Five goals from Kyle Joseph, three from Owen Highton, a brace for none other than Kasraa Mohammadi and one each for Al Faiaz, Callum Lee and Dylan Curry in a dominant display of football Birkdale ran out comfortable winners 13-3. They will face a sterner test with a home tie against Broadgreen. Well done boys and good luck in the next round.

Mr Keary

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Rugby

On Tuesday the Year 8 Rugby team travelled to St Edmund Arrowsmith in Ashton in Makerfield for a Rugby League cup game. Though similar to the untrained eye, the two codes of Rugby are significantly different, and for the majority of our boys this was their first game of League. During the first half BHS struggled to come to grips with the different defensive tactical requirements of League, and had a dire time, conceding several tries. The game threatened to become a one way rout for St Edmunds. However a halftime talk, some soul-searching, pride, but most importantly working hard for their friends, saw the boys rally. Though this was not to be a fairy tale ending, effort, thought, commitment, structure and spirit could be seen in abundance. The boys can be proud of their second half performance - Well done! I would like to pass on some comments from the staff at St Edmunds, something we should all be proud of:

Dave Morgan said, "Your lads kept going with heads up and deserved a lot of credit. Well done to them in their first venture into Rugby League, and well done to your school for having a go at the other code of rugby. No doubt we'd get beaten if we went round the North West playing RU schools such as yourselves. Thanks again for coming to play us, and best wishes to you and your lads for the rest of the season".

Mr Boyce



GREEN MACHINE

Here are a few ideas to help you do your bit for the environment over the Christmas season:

- Cut out your used postage stamps from all your Christmas cards (with a centimetre of paper all round) as these can be brought to school for Mrs. Bradley to give The Leprosy Mission (to raise money for helping people who have/ had leprosy.)
- Save electricity by playing old fashioned parlour games or boxed board games together, instead of everyone playing on electronic games.
- If you have an artificial Christmas tree, use it for as many years as possible. If you have a real tree, please take it to Formby after the Christmas season, to be used to help the sand dunes. Did you know that there's a REALLY GREEN option? You can even RENT a Christmas tree!
- Instead of giving presents which people don't really need, how about giving them a pile of poo, a mosquito net, a donkey, medical supplies or clean water for a village instead! Check out your local Oxfam or other charity shop or online for details.
- Don't forget to take shopping bags with you when you do your Christmas shopping, to cut down on the number of carrier bags. Apparently, supermarkets hand out more than 17 billion plastic bags a year, which means nearly 60,000 tonnes going to landfill sites.
- Many presents require batteries. If you haven't got rechargeable batteries, please remember to recycle your used batteries, so that the harmful chemicals do not leak into the ground.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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HIGHLY COMMENDED

CERTIFICATE

Presented to

Ben Gaskell

FOR HIGHLY COMMENDED WORK IN THE COMEDY WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY OF

CLASS COMIC

*** CLEVER CAPTIONS ***

NOVEMBER 2016

Sinead Rocks
Sinéad Rocks
Head of BBC Learning



Charlie Higson
Charlie Higson
Comedian, author and writer

BBC Learning



HIGHLY COMMENDED

CERTIFICATE

Presented to

Jamie Johnson

FOR HIGHLY COMMENDED WORK IN THE COMEDY WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY OF

CLASS COMIC

*** CLEVER CAPTIONS ***

NOVEMBER 2016

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Charlie Higson
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

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Presented to

Nathan Crewe

FOR HIGHLY COMMENDED WORK IN THE COMEDY WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY OF

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*** CLEVER CAPTIONS ***

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Sinead Rocks
Sinéad Rocks
Head of BBC Learning



Charlie Higson
Charlie Higson
Comedian, author and writer

BBC Learning



HIGHLY COMMENDED

CERTIFICATE

Presented to

Solomon Palmer

FOR HIGHLY COMMENDED WORK IN THE COMEDY WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY OF

CLASS COMIC

*** CLEVER CAPTIONS ***

NOVEMBER 2016

Sinead Rocks
Sinéad Rocks
Head of BBC Learning



Charlie Higson
Charlie Higson
Comedian, author and writer

BBC Learning





BBC

COMEDY CLASSROOM

HAVING A WRITE LAUGH



YOUR COMEDY WRITING FEEDBACK

You have an excellently dark and silly sense of humour and this is very clear in your very funny captions. You manage to create strong characters very quickly using your dialogue, especially with the picture of the bears. It feels like you've landed us in the funniest, albeit meanest, bit of a longer story and the audience can work out exactly what has and what will happen from those few sentences. I like your use of the phrase 'gripped the nation' as it adds a lot more weight to the idea that this very silly dance is a new viral trend. I also like how original all the captions are. You've managed to look at the scene in each photo and move away from the first thing most people would think, which is really important.

Things you may like to consider if you continue writing comedy...

I hope you keep up the caption and joke writing as you are very good at it. Maybe think about trying elements of word play, or experimenting with how the characters in each scene might speak and what accent they might have. Try writing captions for really boring looking pictures and see if you can draw out a funny scene from them that no one else would spot and see what you come up with.

Very well done, it's really great stuff!

Tiernan Douieb

Comedian and writer



16 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carers

Our Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 8 December 2016 between 4.00pm and 6.30pm.

Each appointment will last 5 minutes, so please try to limit your discussions to your allotted time slot. Where possible, please try and select consecutive appointments in the same locations.

We have organised for a trial of a new online booking system and have attached the information on how to access this and make the appointments.

If you have any problems please call the school office and we will be able to make the appointments for you.

Please note the following for the Science appointments:

If your son is in 10S1T make an appointment with Z Flood
If your son is in 10S1S make an appointment with S Woodley
If your son is in 10S1C make an appointment with C Spallen
If your son is in 10S2 make an appointment with J Woodley
If your son is in 10S3 make an appointment with S Bennett
If your son is in 10S4 make an appointment with S Burcher

The online booking system will be going live on Wednesday 16 November and will close at 12pm on Thursday 8 December 2016.

It is essential that both you and your son make every effort to attend the Parents' Evening.

Your son is expected to wear full school uniform.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Bennett
Head of Year 10

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16 November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

We have organised for a trial of a new online booking system for our Parents' Evenings. Our next event is on **Thursday 8th December** for Year 10.

Go to <http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/birkdale>

PLEASE NOTE: You need to type this address into your website browser's 'address bar'. Do not try to 'Google' this website address or use a search engine as that will not work. This is a common mistake on phones and tablets especially.

Login to see which appointments are available and select one that is convenient for you.

You will need:

- Your child's legal first name and legal surname
- Your child's date of birth

The system is live on **16 November 2016** and will be open to take your bookings until **12pm on 8 December 2016**.

Once you have logged in, we suggest you use the 'Automated Booking' wizard to make your appointments. You will be asked to enter your availability and choose which teachers you want to see before being shown the most efficient order for visiting those teachers on the night.

Troubleshooting Tips –please read before booking!

- To log in you need to enter the details we have on record for you and your child. If you have recently changed your title or surname, for example, and not informed us, we will be expecting you to log in with the details we have on record
- The email address you enter is only used to receive a confirmation of your appointment. If the system gives you an error when you log in, it will not be the email address that is the problem
- If you have several children to make bookings for, use the 'Change Child' button on the blue bar (above the school's name) in the very top left corner of the Parent's Booking Page to swap between your children. *This does not apply to the Booking Wizard, where your children are tabbed above the teacher names*

If you are unable to book at home, please call the office where a member of staff will help you.

We would welcome your feedback on the new online booking system, please send comments to smoss@birkdalehigh.co.uk, please add **Booking System** in the subject line.

Yours faithfully

Mr Moss
Head of ICT

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