



Dear Parents and Carers

11 January 2017

Happy New Year and welcome back to our weekly newsletter. As I did last week in assembly with all the students I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for 2017! In this letter I would like to draw your attention to 2 particular aspects of school life.

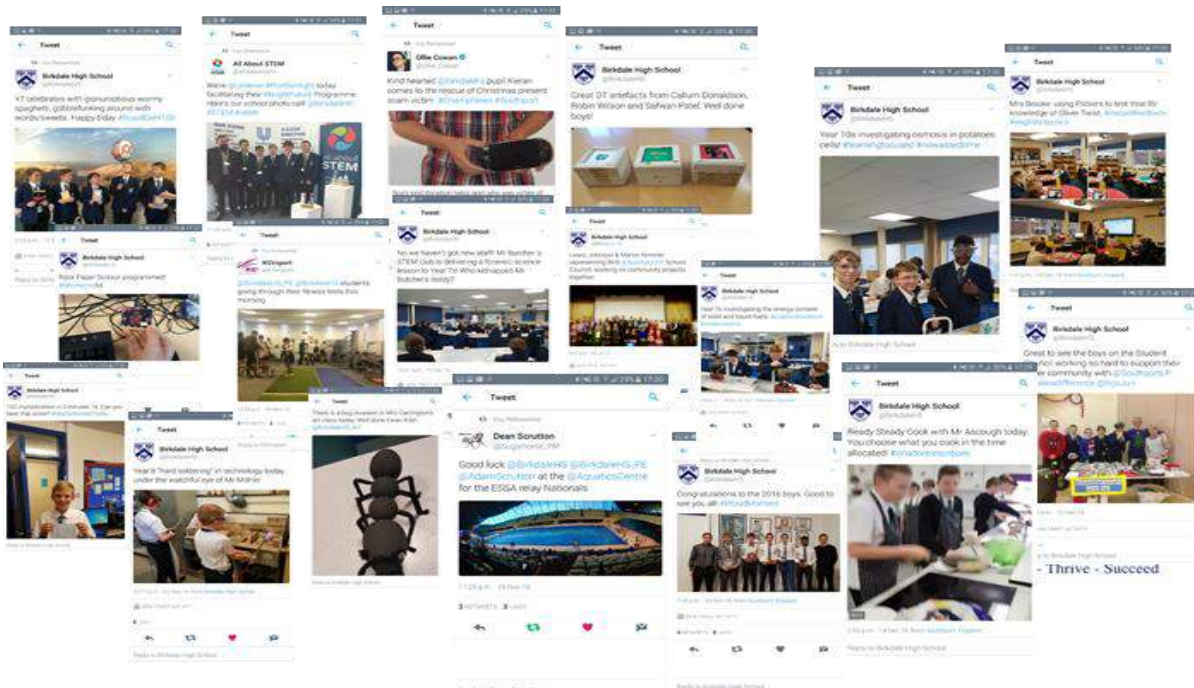
ASSESSMENT: as you will no doubt be aware from previous newsletters and the Information Evening we held in the Autumn term the new GCSEs have significantly increased in content and most of them will be 100% terminal examination in Year 11 without the support of the Controlled Assessment element. In order to support the students we have put in place a range of measures.

We started over a year ago, for instance, formalising end of year exams from Years 7 to 10 to build up students' awareness and confidence when preparing for longer examination sessions. We now have formal sessions in the hall from Year 7, increasing the number of subjects year on year so that students understand the importance of doing well in their end of year exams as this is similar to the way they will be assessed in their GCSEs.

We are also implementing two new key elements to our curriculum that we refer to as "spiral learning" and "cumulative assessment". In a nutshell, we are beginning to embed into all our schemes of work and assessments elements from units of work previously covered. This will mean that for all their assessments throughout the year, students will need to revise and recall previous knowledge and build up these skills all the way to GCSE. It will help them learn how to revise but also ensure that they constantly refer back to what they have already studied. In Year 10 and 11 the Science department are running their "total recall" league as a way of continuously testing students on their core knowledge. Please ensure that your son is taking part through Show My HomeWork (SMHW) and check his place in the league.

Prior to each set of exams we will also run "How to Revise" sessions starting this week for Year 9 students.

TWITTER: over the last year we have tried to think of new ways to share with you what your son does in school and what we do to support and engage him. We have introduced for instance both Show My HomeWork and Xpressions. We are also increasingly using Twitter. We have built up our following to over 1200 and we now share photos of students' work, activities, lessons etc on a weekly basis. I would really to encourage you to join twitter and follow us. Please continue to share our posts with your followers and encourage other parents to follow us so they can see what we do in school. We have a school account @BirkdaleHS but all subject areas also have their own for you to follow. I have attached some of our tweets from last term.



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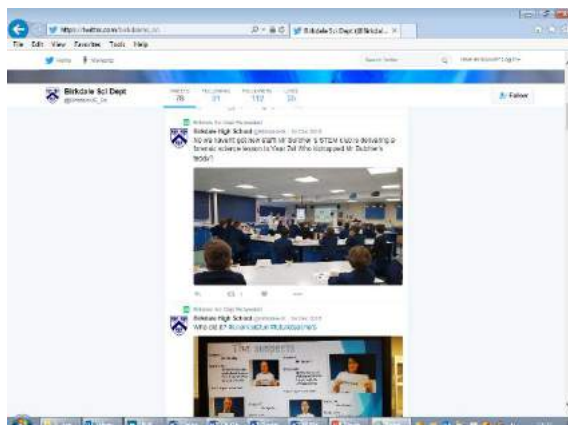
SCHOOL TWITTER ACCOUNTS

Art Department

Please see the two screen shots from our Twitter account. We intend to use the account to inform students and parents of up and coming events and sharing examples of students' work. The Art Department Twitter account is @BirkdaleHS_Art
Mrs Carrington



Science Department @BirkdaleHS_Sci



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ENGLISH LITERATURE REVISION

Due to the increased content and more challenging nature of the new English Literature exams, early revision and preparations are vital. If your son hasn't started revision for literature you must encourage him to do so immediately.

As part of our drive to support your child with their revision we would encourage them to access a range of online resources. Your son currently has access to:

PiXLit – an online resource that tests their knowledge around the key texts of Macbeth and A Christmas Carol. There are a number of quizzes to help embed key quotations from across the text (a skill vital for the exam).

To access the app the details are as follows:

School ID: BK3628

User ID: surname and first initial in capitals e.g. BLOGGSJ

Password: surname and first initial in capitals e.g. BLOGGSJ (until changed)

GCSEPod- online podcasts are available for EVERY aspect of English Language and Literature. This tool provides knowledge and guidance on all the key texts (Blood Brothers, Macbeth, A Christmas Carol) including a focus on context, themes and characters – all important aspects of the final assessment. Your son's log on for this is his usual password for the school system.

SMHW- We will be starting to make more use of the quiz function within SMHW to support your son's English Literature preparations. We will be creating some year wide quotation quizzes on Blood Brothers this week and will be introducing other texts as the term develops.

We would appreciate your support by encouraging your son to access all resources available to him. Mrs Morgan

Command Words

Please find attached a useful resource to help you support your son in his revision. All exam questions include command words. These words dictate how your son should be responding to the question and are linked to key skills he has been taught. Often students miss out on vital marks because they fail to match their knowledge and skills to what the examiner wants them to do. This chart provides a simple explanation of the key command words and a brief explanation of their meaning. This should help them understand what the question is asking them- thus avoiding dropping vital marks.

Mrs Morgan

'BUSTA RHYME' YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

Congratulations to those of our Year 10 students who entered the 'Busta Rhyme' competition and have been chosen to have their poem published in an anthology. Please keep an eye out for the letter in which you are required to give permission for their work to be published. The date for publication is the 31st March, after this date the writer of the best poem in the country will receive £1000 cash for themselves. Fingers crossed it is one of our boys!

Those awaiting permission to be published: Benjamin Gaskell, Kyle Joseph, Daniel Windsor, Sam Cooper, Daniel Hames-Godfrey, Ryan Stephens, Nathan Bowden, Arran Messenger, James Finegan, Ben Wilkie, Robert Campbell, Benjamin Harvey, Lewis Hill, Ethan Mosson, Ethan Mobbs-Pursell, Vlad Ungureanu, Tom Porter, Daniel Thompson, Nathan Crewe, Nathan Scales, Solomon Palmer, Kasraa Mohammadi, Elliot Ratcliffe, Jamie Johnson, Samuel Johnson and Curtis Speers. Well done to all of you and good luck.

Mrs Follett

BLOOD BROTHERS THEATRE TRIP – YEARS 10 AND 11

This week, we are giving out letters to Year 10 and 11 students about a trip we are organising to Southport Theatre to see *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. This is the West End production and is highly recommended! We have acquired 50 tickets for Wednesday 15 February 2017 for the matinee performance at 2.30pm.

Once you have received the letter, tickets will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis so hurry with your reply slips! If you are unsuccessful, the play is on at Southport Theatre from 13 - 18 February 2017 so you could go with your son to see this amazing performance. As the play is a GCSE English Literature and GCSE Drama text, it will be a massive benefit to our boys to experience the Liverpool play first hand.

Miss Daly

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YEAR 11 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Year 11 pupils should be well underway now with their post-Birkdale college applications. The deadline really is the end of January to help with the interview process. In light of this Southport College and KGV are doing another 'drop in' session today, Wednesday 11 January 2017, and Runshaw College will be in school on Wednesday 18 January 2017 to offer any assistance and answer any questions students might have.

I have had a few enquiries about the 'predicted grades' section of the application form and have suggested this is left blank. Teaching staff are writing reports based on students' performance in the mock exams at the moment. Copies of these reports detailing grades attained and predicted grades will be forwarded to colleges for reference purposes.

Miss Bailey

LIVERPOOL AND SEFTON CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

We are working closely with the Chamber this year to improve our links with the local business community. To launch this partnership an initial meeting will be held with the Chamber on Wednesday 1 February 2017. A group of year 10 pupils will be making a presentation and laying the foundations for this partnership.

If anybody is already a Chamber member or has a business in the Southport area and would be willing to work with the school I would love to hear from you: jbailey@birkdalehigh.co.uk

Miss Bailey

READING CLUB

Reading Club re-commenced on Monday 9 January 2017; it operates Monday 3.15pm - 4.00 pm in G16 (Mrs Keating's English classroom), is open to pupils of all ages and offers an opportunity for reading for pleasure. Why not give it a try? You will be welcomed with juice and biscuits and can select from a range of reading material or can bring your own. Regular attendees over the term are rewarded with an end of term party. If you have any queries, please speak to the Teaching Assistants - Mrs Bradley or Mrs Stirling.

Mrs Stirling

YEAR 8 REWARD BREAKFAST

24 Year 8 pupils had a Reward Breakfast on Monday morning, which was a reward for having the best Attitude to Learning and Behaviour for Learning in their year group based on the last tracking data.

Well done to the following boys: Matthew Davies, Nathaniel Pye, Owen McKenzie, Fraser Andrew, Joshua Brewis, Carter Birch, Chris Rolfe, Charlie Blott, Matthew Coleman, Dylan Haver, Sam Lee, Joshua Nelson, Adam Scrutton, Jamie Shaw, Jack Swain, Caden Taylor, Daniel Morgan, Alfi Monaghan, Jack Marrin, John Suleman Siqueira, Josef Saunders, Daniel Sanders, Bryn Ellington and Joseph Sutton.

I hope at our next tracking to be able to reward even more pupils for their attitude and behaviour. Mrs Nightingale



GREEN MACHINE

The Green Machine is very busy at the moment.

- All welcome to come to our **RED SQUIRREL presentation** after school in the Media hall on Tuesday, 24 January 2017 – see attachment.
- **Christmas recycling:** If you haven't already got rid of your **Christmas cards**, please bring them in to Mrs. Bradley or Mrs. Marshall. Members of The Green Machine are planning to make gift tags to be sold next Christmas.
- Please bring in any **unwanted Christmas presents**, as the School will then have a supply of prizes for raffles and gifts for charity events.
- **Used postage stamps** can be given to Mrs. Bradley for The Leprosy Mission, so please bring those in too (if possible, with half a centimetre of envelope all the way around, so that the stamps aren't damaged)

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- Some members designed posters for our school canteen. They are pictured with certificates for their efforts.
- From left to right – Lewis Collins, Oliver Bedwell and Kyle Taylor

SPORTS REPORT

Badminton

Squad: Danny Hyde, Jack Swettenham, Elliot Brown, Oliver Rimmer, Matthew Brown, Tobey Sykes, Oliver Ball.

On Wednesday 21 December 2016 the Birkdale badminton team took on KGV College. Some fantastic badminton was played by both teams. Birkdale managed to win the match overall 12 - 10. We will look forward to the home match in the New Year. Well done boys.

Water Polo

Birkdale travelled to Manchester Aquatics Centre before Christmas to play in the first round of the u15 ESSA National Schools Water Polo Championships. Other teams were St Edwards, Bolton Boys School, St Bedes and St Josephs and Bradford Grammar School. Birkdale drew with St Edwards in the first game, lost to St Bedes and St Josephs 4-1. Birkdale took the lead against National Champions Bolton and were the only team to score against Bolton however eventually lost 8-1. Birkdale managed to win their last game 2-0. Goals throughout the tournament came from Tobias Lea, Matthew Spencer and Mason Galley. A really fantastic effort. Well done boys and we shall await our next round draw.



Pictured back row left to right: Michael Ascott, Mason Galley, Declan Sherrington, Matthew Cook, Tobias Lea.
Front row: Charlie Kelly, Henry Maw, Matthew Spencer, Fraser Cooke, Keenan Parr

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Football

Squad: Ethan Fletcher, Jack Blundell, Danny Hudson, Max Burdon-Bailey, Andi Pillana, Rustam Stepans, Tom Linaker, Josh Bailey, Nathan Davenport, Jake Graham, Brion Monaghan, Al Faiaz De Sousa Jussub Karim.

The Year 11 football team played their first match of the season away to Kirkby High School. Birkdale survived a tough and physical match and led for most of the game. Danny Hudson opened the scoring in 11 seconds and led until late in the first half. Both teams went close to scoring and some skilful play from Stepans saw Birkdale take the lead. Jake Graham squandered a glorious chance to seal the game. However, after a period of constant pressure from Kirkby they managed to equalise late in the game to force extra time. Both teams missed chances to win it but it finished 2-2. Pillana stepped up first to score and Kirkby equalised. Graham missed his penalty but Fletcher saved the next. Stepans slotted home his penalty and Fletcher pulled off another magnificent save leaving it to Burdon-Bailey to win the match. A magnificent performance and a well done to the two Year 10 boys who stepped in at the last minute to play up a year group. Well done boys - they will play Woodchurch in the next round.

Mr Keary

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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Command words

<p>Analyse separate information into components and identify their characteristics</p>	<p>Assess make an informed judgement</p>	<p>Consider review and respond to given information</p>	<p>Criticise assess worth against explicit expectations</p>
<p>Comment present an informed opinion</p>	<p>Define specify meaning</p>	<p>Describe set out characteristics</p>	<p>Discuss present key points</p>
<p>Deduce draw conclusions from information provided</p>	<p>Examine investigate closely</p>	<p>Explore investigate without preconceptions about the outcome</p>	<p>Evaluate judge from available evidence</p>
<p>Explain set out purposes or reasons</p>	<p>Illustrate present clarifying examples</p>	<p>Interpret translate information into recognisable form</p>	<p>Outline set out main characteristics</p>
<p>Summarise present principal points without detail</p>	<p>State express in clear terms</p>	<p>Relate demonstrate connections between items</p>	<p>Review survey information</p>
<p>Argue present a reasoned case</p>	<p>Debate present different perspectives on an issue</p>	<p>Give produce an answer from recall</p>	<p>Justify support a case with evidence</p>
<p>Estimate assign an approximate value</p>	<p>Calculate work out the value of something</p>	<p>Suggest present a possible case</p>	<p>Prove demonstrate validity on the basis of evidence</p>
<p>Compare</p>	<p>Contrast</p>	<p>Apply</p>	<p>Complete</p>

identify similarities	identify differences	put into effect in a recognised way	finish a task by adding to given information
Develop take forward or build upon given information	Identify name or otherwise characterise		

OUR LOCAL RED SQUIRRELS



***ALL WELCOME!
3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Tuesday, 24th January
In the Media Hall***