



Dear Parents and Carers

18 January 2017

I am pleased that we have now all settled into the new term and that the boys are working hard, especially Year 9, who have their very important end of year assessments coming soon.

Please continue to check our Twitter feed to see examples of lesson activities and we will start soon to add examples of excellent student work as well as examples of effective marking by teachers so that you have the opportunity to see for yourself what we look for and the different approaches we use to provide effective feedback to your son.

May I please remind parents who haven't completed the Ofsted parent view questionnaire to do so. It will genuinely help to not only support you and your son better, but also to assess the impact of the work we do so far. It only takes a few minutes and can be found the at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

YEAR 11 TRIPLE SCIENCE

Ms Flood's Triple Science class will be sitting their ISA Paper 2 on Thursday 19 January 2017 during period 5. This will result in **a late finish** as pupils will be required to stay until **3.45pm**. The ISA comprises 25% of the final Biology GCSE grade.

Ms Flood

YEAR 11 GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Your son will find daily revision practice on Show My Homework from Monday. It is called One Hundred Days of revision and will help him to commit the knowledge he needs to memory in easy chunks. It means completing a quiz every day. I hope that you will encourage your son to do this, especially if revision is usually a difficulty for him.

Mrs Marshall

XPRESSIONS APP (FREE OF CHARGE) FOR ALL PARENTS

Reminder that you can view your child's information on your mobile phone! Now available for all parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. Xpressions will give you an insight into your child's school day.

You will be able to see your child's attendance record, timetable, school calendar, behaviour, achievements and the details of the school. During this time we ask that you make sure your details are correct on our Management Information System (MIS) especially your e-mail and mobile number as this is required to provide security to our system. If you would like any additional information please visit <http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/>

Please see attached document for installation support.

Mr Moss

YEAR 8 REWARDS

There were 51 pupils who had 100% attendance last half term and 26 pupils who managed to be sanction-free between 31 October and 21 December 2016 and 3 pupils from each category won gift vouchers during last Wednesday's Reward Assembly.

We also have 36 pupils who are still on 100% attendance since the beginning of the school year and 13 students who have zero sanctions; 3 pupils from each category also won gift vouchers at last Wednesday's assembly.

Certificates will be sent home to all students in these reward categories – well done for all your effort and hard work!

Mrs Nightingale

YEAR 9 REWARDS

The following Year 9 boys were treated to a Rewards Breakfast of pastries and drinks on Monday morning: Adam Ball, Elliot Brown, Christopher Cockwill, Lewis Collins, Oliver Crockett, Oliver Farrow, Kyle Finney, Thomas Guest, Louis Hardy, Adam Hopper, Benjamin Huyton-Meadows, Liam Laing, Tobias Lea, Lewis Lyon, Om Prathumpim, Dion Rimmer, Declan Sheridan, Tom Spinks, Taylor Stanbrook, Bradley Steele, Jamie Sunderland, Josh Taylor, Kyle Taylor, Joseph Thompson, John Took, Ellis Watterson, Leighton Woods and Matthew Wright. It was a pleasure to spend time with these boys who achieved the highest results for Attitude to Learning and Behaviour for Learning in the most recent Tracking Report. Well done boys and keep it up!

Mrs Sinclair

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YEAR 7 - BIKEABILITY LEVEL 3 CYCLE TRAINING

This term BikeRight! will be coming into our school to deliver Bikeability Level 3 Cycle Training, and we would like **as many Year 7 pupils as possible** to take part in this opportunity to take part in FREE cycle safety training. In particular if your child rides a bike to school we consider this training essential. Please find further details attached to this newsletter. Mr Thorne

SKI COURSE 2017 – WINTER PARK, COLORADO

Preparations for our trip to Winter Park at Easter are well under way with a good turn-out for our first fitness session this week. The hard work and efforts in getting muscle groups ready for the week will be rewarded on the slopes! Parents should have received an email reminder of the various items due by Friday 20 January. Mr Milner

SKIING LESSONS – PENDLE SKI CLUB

We have some availability for our trips to Pendle Ski Club in March for anybody wishing to learn to ski. (Please note that this is open to all pupils in school). Sessions are scheduled for Fridays after school (3, 10 and 17 March). Letters are available from Mr Milner if you would be interested in your son taking up the opportunity to experience the sport for the first time or to brush up on technique if they already participate. Mr Milner

AMY WINEHOUSE FOUNDATION ASSEMBLY

The Amy Winehouse Foundation is due to come into school and deliver some alcohol and substance misuse awareness work with Years 11, 10, 9 and 8 students, firstly in the form of an extended assembly.

The Amy Winehouse foundation is run by volunteers all of whom are recovering addicts. They have funding from the Big Lottery and have been delivering this kind of awareness work in schools up and down the country. However, we will be the first school in Sefton to invite them in.

Within the assembly they plan to show a short video to the boys and also two of the volunteers will share their 'life stories' and their personal journeys to recovery. Mrs Nightingale

YOUNG CARERS' AWARENESS DAY – THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017 AT 3.30pm

Greenbank High School are hosting an event to raise awareness of Young carers which will take place in their Learning Zone at 3.30pm on Thursday 26 January 2017 at 3.30pm. Young people and their families are invited to attend this event.

There will be a number of organisations present – Sefton Young Carers, Carers Trust, Young Minds, Brighter Living Partnership, Active Sefton and the Alzheimer's society. For more information please contact Paula Counce or Bev Lean on 01704 567591 or just come on the day. Mrs Nightingale

TOP 3 GSCEPod STUDENTS (AND THEIR TOP 3 SUBJECTS)

Some outstanding usage from our top three student users last term:

MORGAN NEILSON (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)
 RYAN JACKSON (Maths, English Literature, Chemistry)
 VAUGHAN FAWCETT (Biology, Maths, Physics)
 Well done boys – Keep it up!

Mr Moss

CAREERS FAIR – WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017 – YEARS 9 -11 PUPILS

Liverpool and Sefton Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Careers Fair in school next Wednesday 25 January 2017 during periods 3 – 5 for Years 9-11 pupils. Miss J Bailey

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE (NCS)

The National Citizen Service (NCS) are coming into school next Friday 27 January to introduce the NCS programme to all Year 11 students at an assembly. Further details are attached to this newsletter. Mrs Jeffery

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD – BRONZE GROUP 1

There are some places left in the Bronze Group 1 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expeditions. If your son is interested in taking part, please contact Patrice Hey, YCP on 07855 296759. Please find attached flyer for further details including dates.

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GREEN MACHINE

If you like "Planet Earth".....

On Tuesday after school (24 January 3.15pm - 4.15pm we've got the opportunity to find out all about RED SQUIRRELS. Rachel Miller, Project Manager for the Lancashire Wildlife Trust will be coming here to give a short presentation on the ecology of red squirrels, the threats they face and what we are doing to conserve them. She may go over some techniques for monitoring red squirrels such as hair tubes and trail cameras. If any of the staff or students are then interested in doing surveys on the school grounds to see if red squirrels are passing through more frequently, we would have the skills to do so. This should be really interesting. Please do come along!

Mrs Bradley

SOUTHPORT BADMINTON CLUB

Southport Badminton Club run a junior section at Birkdale High School every Saturday from 2.00pm – 3.30pm with ages ranging from 7 – 16 years old and they are looking to recruit new players. Each session costs £2.50. The coaches are fully qualified and DBS checked/insured and the club runs on a non-profit basis as it is subsidised by the Southport Badminton Club which has over 100 members and 9 league teams.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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Groupcall Xpressions App

View your child's information on your mobile phone!

An exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. **Groupcall Xpressions** is a new service created by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited.

The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices (with Windows mobile to follow) and you'll be able to see information for your children.

What do I need to do now?

Please ensure we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use the new app. Forms are available from the school office to check and update your details or simply email them to the school. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.

What happens next?

1. Install the Xpressions App



2. Once installed, open it and enter your e-mail address and click 'Next'

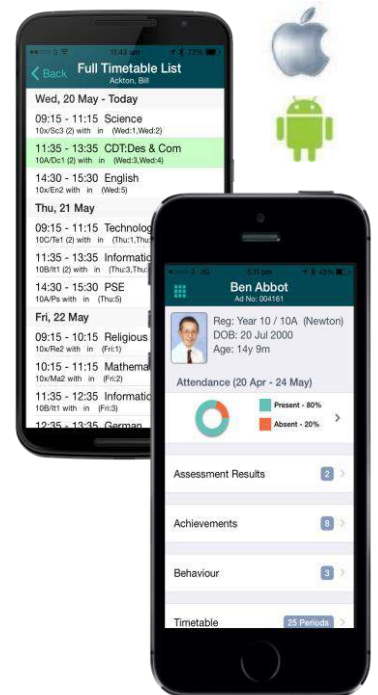
3. Enter your mobile number and click 'Next' (If your details do not match the school records you will see the text 'incorrect answer' in red)

When you have entered details correctly you will receive a text message to your mobile phone containing a 6 digit code.

4. Enter this code into the app

5. Press 'Login'

If you do not receive a code, use the 'Resend Code' function. However there can be delays due to mobile phone providers, so please wait for at least 5 minutes.



Once installed and set up you will be able to see the following information:

- Free messages sent by the school delivered directly to the app
- Updates regarding selected partner systems, used by the school such as homework, catering and library systems
- Attendance records and absences
- Marks and grades*
- Achievement records
- Behaviour events
- Timetable
- School calendar
- Notification timeline for all of the above.

*Enhanced Service being developed



18 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

At Birkdale High we pride ourselves on our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and the personal safety of our pupils. This is evident from the range of both curricular and extra-curricular activities that are available for our pupils and our participation in approved schemes provided by external organisations.

This term BikeRight! will be coming into our school to deliver Bikeability Level 3 Cycle Training, and we would like **as many Year 7 pupils as possible** to take part in this opportunity to take part in FREE cycle safety training. In particular if your child rides a bike to school we consider this training essential.

Bikeability helps your child STAY SAFE on the road:

Although cycling is already a relatively safe mode of transport, it is 10 to 15 year olds who have been identified as the most at risk age group when cycling on the road. Bikeability Level 3 training addresses the most common causes of accidents amongst this age group, such as negotiating junctions and joining the traffic from the pavement, and more, teaching pupils to assess risks and make judgements on the go, and so considerably increasing their safety while riding.

Bikeability scheme allows your child to develop a lifelong skill:

- Increasing confidence and knowledge on and around roads, whether as cyclists, pedestrians or even in the future as drivers
- Encouraging greater independence to make journeys further afield
- Encouraging them to cycle more and cycle more safely
- Also there are the obvious benefits of keeping fit, saving money, enjoying freedom of their own transport

The training takes place on fully risk assessed roads around the school, routes chosen according to each group's ability, under the supervision of BikeRight! instructors. BikeRight! is a Department for Transport approved Instructor Training Organisation and has been delivering Bikeability training to schools for over 10 years.

The school will supply 6 bikes and 12 helmets for those who cannot provide a bike of their own. Please return the enclosed consent form **to the main school office by Monday 23 January 2017** to ensure your child does not miss out on this fantastic (and free!) opportunity.

For more information on Bikeability: <http://bikeability.org.uk/>

For more information on BikeRight!: <http://www.bikeright.co.uk/>

Mr B Thorne
Head of Year 7

I would like _____ of Form _____ to participate in the Bikeability Scheme.

He will be using his own roadworthy bike and helmet for the duration of the session _____

He would like to borrow a bike for use in the session _____

He would like to borrow a helmet for use in the session _____

Signed _____ (Parent/Guardian)

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Dear Parent/Guardian

NCS (National Citizen Service) are due to attend Birkdale High School this term to introduce the NCS programme to all Year 11 Students. We have been working closely with the school to ensure we're able to offer as many as possible of their students the opportunity to take part. NCS is a government-backed programme for those aged 16-17, which takes place during the school holidays. It's a great way for young people to learn the skills for work and life they need to succeed in the future, whilst having an amazing time. So far, more than 200,000 young people have already taken part. This is an opportunity you do not want your son or daughter to miss out on!

Our next programmes are running in the Summer holidays for students who are in year 11 & 12. Young people will be in teams with their friends and other students from local schools and colleges. Details of the programme are outlined below:

What happens on NCS?

- **Taster Events:** Meet the NCS staff and other young people who will be taking part in the programme in your area before you go away.
- **Week 1:** Outward bound residential to focus on team work, problem solving skills and pushing personal boundaries (5 days).
- **Week 2:** A second residential to learn independent living skills and to learn about their local community (5 days).
- **Week 3 & 4:** Work from a local community base to plan and implement a project to make a difference in their local community.
- **Graduation:** Celebrate their NCS achievements and be presented with a signed certificate from the Prime Minister.

NCS costs £50, with all accommodation and meals covered during the residential phase. We may be able to offer bursaries to those who need financial support.

When we visit the school to deliver an assembly about NCS, all students will be asked to fill out an interest form. We'll then give them a call to tell them a bit more about NCS and how they can get involved, and to answer any questions you might have.

If you want to find out more in the meantime or are interested in signing up please visit

www.ncsingeus.co.uk or speak to your nominated NCS champion: Mrs Jeffery.

The NCS Team

Ingeus is the lead organisation delivering NCS in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, Essex and Hertfordshire, Merseyside and Cheshire..

NCS Trust is a not-for profit social enterprise established to shape, support, champion and lead a thriving National Citizen Service (NCS). NCS Trust, 131-151 Great Titchfield Street, London, W1W 5BB



NCSINGEUS



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@NCSYES



NCSYES

NCSINGEUS.CO.UK

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

BRONZE



The Youth and Community Partnership CIC (YCP) is the Approved Activity Provider (AAP) delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions and supporting students through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze Level in partnership with Birkdale High School.

Volunteering	Physical	Skill	Expedition
3 Months	3 Months	3 Months	Plan, train for and undertake a practice 2 day, 1 night expedition. Plus undertake an additional qualifying expedition.

An additional 3 months is required in either The Volunteering / Physical or Skill section.

EXPEDITION COMMITMENT DATES:

We offer 2 cohorts of Training and Expedition dates at BHS. Please refer to the attached schedules and check the option which suits your son best before he commits to the Award.

**A maximum of 30 young people on each programme*

The cost of the EXPEDITION SECTION of the Award is

£142

- 2 x Expedition training days held at Meols Cop Youth & Community Centre
- 1 x Practice Expedition in Wrightington: 2 days / 1 night
- 1 x Qualifying Expedition in Chorley: 2 days / 1 night
- 1 x D. of E. Bronze Registration Pack
- Camping fees for both expeditions
- Transport for both expeditions
- Provision of Tents / Rucksacks & Cooking Stoves
(A deposit of £20 is required to ensure equipment is returned undamaged)
- Presentation support
- Assessment and report on completion of the expedition requirements
- YCP's edofe support throughout the duration of the Bronze experience

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

**Made through Birkdale High School*

DEPOSIT of £50 due by Friday 25th November 2016

£23.75 payable by Friday 30th December 2016

£22.75 payable by Friday 27th January 2017

£22.75 payable by Friday 24th February 2017

£22.75 payable by Friday 31st March 2017

**If you require any more information please contact Patrice:
07855296759 or Email: ycp@live.co.uk**

**Disclaimer: The Youth & Community Partnership cannot guarantee participants' completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - only their hard work and commitment will make this possible!*



BIRKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

BRONZE Duke of Edinburgh's Award EXPEDITION Section

BRONZE GROUP 1 - 2017

BRONZE LEVEL GROUP 1 Max. 30 YP	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Training Day 1 Some outdoor work will be involved and so appropriate clothing required.	Saturday 29 th APRIL 2017	9am – 2pm Packed Lunch required	YCP BASE Meols Cop Youth & Community Centre Meols Cop Road PR8 6JU
Training Day 2 Some outdoor work will be involved and so appropriate clothing required.	Sunday 30 th APRIL 2017	9am – 2pm Packed Lunch required	YCP BASE Meols Cop Youth & Community Centre Meols Cop Road PR8 6JU
PRACTICE EXPEDITION	Saturday 6 th Sunday 7 th MAY 2017	Leave BHS 09:00 Return BHS <i>Approx.</i> 16:00	CHORLEY
QUALIFYING EXPEDITION	Saturday 3 rd Sunday 4 th JUNE 2017	Leave BHS 09:00 Return BHS <i>Approx.</i> 16:00	RIVINGTON
GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Thursday 15 th JUNE 2017	15:15 <i>Approx.</i> 1 hour	Birkdale High School All group members must attend and are expected to stay to support each group.

****IMPORTANT: Please ensure your son is able to commit to *all* of the dates prior to registering - students involved in the BHS trip to Paris will not be able to register on BRONZE GROUP 1**