



Dear Parents and Carers

1 February 2017

We have, over the last few weeks, tried to emphasise the many initiatives and projects happening around school, I do feel, however, that this week I need to tackle a less positive subject. It has been widely reported in the local and national news that school budgets are facing increasing pressures. Some schools around the country have talked about reducing opening hours, closing buildings or merging with other schools. You may have also read in our local newspapers the names of individual schools listed along with potential amount of lost funding and the impact on the number of teachers employed by each school. These figures are, at the moment, purely hypothetical but there is no denying that the education sector's funding is facing a significant crisis over the next few years. The key will be how every school responds to the challenge and I would like to reassure you on that point. Over the last two years the staff and governors have worked hard to steady our financial situation in order to enable the school to face these uncertain times, confident that we can continue to deliver the quality of education you expect and the results your son deserves. Amongst other strategies, we have restructured our staffing, renegotiated suppliers' contracts and improved our energy efficiency for instance, as well as increasing our income from lettings. Our numbers have consistently increased for the last two years and we are confident of another very significant increase next year. We have also aggressively pursued other streams of funding, which is enabling us to, not only massively improve the environment for the boys, but also redirect some of our current funding that would have otherwise been spent on maintenance. We are therefore confident that the school is facing a period of development and expansion, which will enable us to continue, with your support, to improve our provision over the next few years. I felt it was important for us to share this with you in view of all current headlines.

#### OFFICE

Work on refurbishing the school's main entrance will begin on Monday 6 February 2017 and should take no more than 3 weeks but it will mean that normal entrance to the school will be disrupted the week before half term and the week following half term. During this time, visitors will need to report to the house at the front of the school, where office staff will be based for the duration of the works. During the half term break, visitors to the school will need to make an appointment if they need to come into school. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but the work will finally enable all visitors, including those with restricted mobility, to access the school through the front entrance and will also provide a brighter and more welcoming environment.

#### SPORTS/PE NEWS

Birkdale makes it through to Sefton Basketball Champions League Finals once again!

Congratulations once again to all the basketball players in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 for their performances in the Sefton Champions Leagues this season. Over the course of the last week the four year group teams have completed all of their group stage games and overall, collectively they have won seventeen of their twenty fixtures played in the tournament to date since October. The Year 8 Team and the Year 10 Team are both unbeaten and have therefore definitely qualified to compete in their respective Sefton Champions League Finals which are set to take place at Deyes High next week. Whilst I await confirmation from the organisers of the final Group A standings for the Year 7 and Year 9 competitions, both teams still have a very good chance of also progressing through to play a final match next week. The final results and statistics for each year group are shown below. Very well done boys on these brilliant achievements!

Mr Quirk

#### **Year 7 – Played 5 – Won 3 , Lost 2**

Birkdale Lost against St.Mary's - 06-02  
Birkdale Won against Chesterfield - 06-05  
Birkdale Lost against Meols Cop – 12-10  
Birkdale Won against Christ The King 17-0  
Birkdale Won against Stanley 16-08

#### **Year 8 – Played 5 – Won 5 , Lost 0**

Birkdale Won against St.Mary's – 21-05  
Birkdale Won against Chesterfield – 24-0  
Birkdale Won against Meols Cop – 15-08  
Birkdale Won against Christ The King 17-0  
Birkdale Won against Stanley 19-02

#### **Year 9 – Played 5 – Won 4 , Lost 1**

Birkdale Won against St.Mary's – 18-07  
Birkdale Won against Chesterfield – 30-06  
Birkdale Lost against Meols Cop – 16-09  
Birkdale Won against Christ The King – 47-26  
Birkdale Won against Stanley 25-08

#### **Year 10 – Played 5 – Won 5, Lost 0**

Birkdale Won against St.Mary's – 12-08  
Birkdale Won against Chesterfield – 38-05  
Birkdale Won against Meols Cop – 20-18  
Birkdale Won against Christ The King – Game Conceded  
Birkdale Won against Stanley - 21-12

Registered office address:

Windy Harbour Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 3DT  
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## ENGLISH LITERATURE MOCK EXAMINATION

All Year 11 students will be sitting their English Literature Mock Examination next Thursday (9th February). They will be tested on 'Blood Brothers' and the Poetry and Conflict Poetry Anthology. Please encourage you son to revise for these topics.

Mrs Follett

## GCSE ENGLISH REVISION SESSIONS

After half term, the English Department will be starting Monday night revision sessions which are open to all students. As you can see from the attached timetable, there are three sessions on offer each Monday, each covering a different aspect of either the English Language or English Literature GCSE Course. Please sit down with your son and discuss which of these sessions he would benefit from attending; the report you will be receiving imminently may well provide guidance on which topics he needs to focus on the most. These sessions are invaluable preparation in ensuring your son is as prepared as possible for the more challenging, content heavy, terminal GCSE papers. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Follett

## GCSE STATISTICS (YEAR 10 SETS 1 AND 2)

The following is the full schedule and key dates for the GCSE Statistics Controlled Assessment, which contributes 25% of the final grade, to enable you to monitor and support your son, throughout his completion of the task. Please be aware that the submission date is **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** and the timetable cannot be extended.

### **Monday 20th February**

The task will be 'launched', during your son's timetabled Maths lesson and he will be provided with all of the candidate information produced by the Examining body (Edexcel), and sheets which offer further support. This evening will be **Parents Evening** too for invited parents.

### **20th February – 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Independent preparation and planned class time for the 1<sup>st</sup> controlled element – The Plan write up. Mathematics staff will be available in school time, for support and guidance.

### **Wednesday 1st March (Periods 4 and 5) - EXAM**

Write up of plan, under controlled conditions - Collected for marking, no further time permitted or improvements allowable.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Independent data collection and analysis in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> controlled element – The Summary write up. Some lesson time will be allocated for this and Mathematics staff will be available throughout this period, for support and guidance. **Students are expected to work on this at home for the majority of this time**

### **Tuesday 14th March (Periods 4 and 5) – EXAM**

Controlled write up of summary. Controlled Assessment is collected for marking. No further time permitted or improvements allowable.

Mrs McGarry

## TRIP TO SOUTHERN INDIA 2018/19 – INFORMATION EVENING 8 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.30pm

We are proposing a trip to Southern India in 2018/19 and further information is attached to this newsletter. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Marshall on [pmarshall2@birkdalehigh.co.uk](mailto:pmarshall2@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

Mrs Marshall

## SOUTHPORT COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS OPEN EVENING EVENT – TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2017

This will be of particular interest to Year 11 pupils who are facing their final decisions in the coming months, and will offer them a real insight into options available with Southport College. Other year groups are also welcome, of course!

Pupils and parents are cordially invited to the purpose-built Performing Arts block, to see students rehearsing and performing, and even to join in! You can chat with students and staff about the courses, activities, productions they do and all aspects of student life, as well as what opportunities await after completion.

Mrs Jeffery

## SKIING

We are happy to report that our trips to Pendle Ski Club for skiing lessons in March are proving popular. Please note that there are now limited spaces remaining so if you would like your son to take part in this opportunity, please ensure that reply slips are handed in to Mr Milner as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Mr Milner

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## OUR SCHOOL NOW HAS ACCESS TO BRAINPOP!



This digital learning resource is available to staff and students at school and home. Engage your children's natural curiosity at school and home with the award winning BrainPOP®. It has fantastic animated resources, educational games and mobile apps that explain concepts from across the curriculum. Use BrainPOP to support homework; improve understanding; and encourage safe, independent learning.

It covers [Science](#), [Humanities](#), [English](#), [Maths](#), [Design & Technology](#), [Personal, Social & Health Education](#), [Economics](#), [Citizenship](#), and [Arts](#).

Username: **Birkdale**; Password: **high**; Website: <http://www.brainpop.co.uk>

### PLEASE NOTE:

- Please keep the username and password safe – our school has paid for access and it is for our school staff and pupils only.
- BrainPOP is delivered entirely online, there's nothing to install or download. Use it on desktops, laptops, tablets or smart phones.
- Our BrainPOP username and password **unlocks full access on BrainPOP's free Apple and Android mobile apps**. Please search the app store relevant to your device for "BrainPOP UK". Once installed, open the app, tap the LOGIN button on the home screen and enter the above login.

If you have any feedback on BrainPOP please do let us know!

Mr Moss



### GREEN MACHINE - Rubbish Trip!

The Green Machine is going to the Data Destruction and Shredding Service in Cemetery Road, Southport after school on Friday, to see how paper and cardboard recycling operates in practice.

There are some spaces left in the minibus, so if your son would like to go, please see the attached letter for further details, fill in the reply slip and return to Mrs. Bradley in the Hub tomorrow.

Mrs Bradley

### BPA NEWS

#### Cake Sale

The BPA are holding a cake sale on Friday 3 February 2017. Cake donations are always very welcome and would be gratefully received. Please remember to give your sons some extra spending money to support this fundraiser. Many thanks.

#### BPA Meeting

The next BPA meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 March 2017 at 7.30pm. We meet at school and new members and fundraising ideas are always very welcome.

Yours faithfully

**Mr G Bourgade**  
**Headteacher**

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# GCSE English Language & Literature Revision Sessions



Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 3.20- 4.00	'Kamikaze' and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The Structure Question Mrs Follett U12	Descriptive Writing Mrs Keating G16
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 3.20 - 4.00	'Macbeth' Character analysis Mrs Morgan U10	'A Christmas Carol' Character Analysis Miss Daly G9	Writing skills - vocabulary Mrs Brook G13
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 3.20 - 4.00	'London' and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The Evaluation Question Mrs Follett U12	Leaflet Writing Mrs Keating G16
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 3.20- 4.00	'Macbeth' Themes Mrs Morgan U10	'A Christmas Carol' Themes Miss Daly G9	Writing skills- discourse markers Mrs Brook G13
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 3.20 - 4.00	'Remains' and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The Synthesis Question (summarising two texts) Mrs Follett U12	Narrative Writing Mrs Keating G16
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 3.20- 4.00	'Macbeth' context Mrs Morgan U10	'A Christmas Carol' context Miss Daly G9	Writing skills - varied punctuation Mrs Brook G13
<b>Easter Break</b>			
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 3.20- 4.00	'Poppies' and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The comparing the writers' views Question Mrs Follett U12	Letter Writing Mrs Keating G16
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 3.20 - 4.00	'Macbeth' exam technique Mrs Morgan U10	'A Christmas Carol' themes Miss Daly G9	Writing skills - varying sentences Mrs Brook G13



1 February 2017

Dear Parent,

Your child has been offered the opportunity to take part in something amazing – a school expedition to **Southern India** in **2018/19** with Outlook Expeditions; the leading independent provider of youth expeditions.

Taking part in an expedition is so much more than a school trip. This is a journey that will stay with your child forever. Eye-opening, challenging and truly life changing; participants experience different cultures and environments whilst developing an array of life skills.

Universities and employers are increasingly looking for evidence of personal and social skills. Expeditions take young people out of their comfort zone and expand horizons whilst boosting independence, confidence, teamwork and many other qualities that have a lasting impact on the lives (and CV's) of each participant.

Outlook Expeditions will be holding an Information Evening on the **8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 6:30pm** and we'd be delighted if you and your son/daughter could join us. It will be held at **Birkdale High School** and is your chance to find out more and ask any questions. The evening is for your information to help decide if joining the expedition is right for your child. There is no obligation at all associated with attending the Information Evening.

To register your attendance or if you are unable to attend but still wish to receive the information please visit [www.outlookexpeditions.com](http://www.outlookexpeditions.com) and click on the 'Parents and Students' bubble.

Yours faithfully,

**The Outlook Team**

Tel: 01248 672760

Email: [info@outlookexpeditions.com](mailto:info@outlookexpeditions.com)

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25 January 2017

## SKIING LESSONS AT PENDLE SKI CLUB

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We have arranged an opportunity for pupils to attend a series of skiing lessons at Pendle Ski Club for the 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. This is an ideal chance for pupils to experience the sport for the first time or for pupils to brush up on technique if they can already ski. The total cost for the sessions is £44. This includes 3 hours of professional tuition (over the 2 nights), all ski equipment hire, full insurance, including ski breakage, medical and personal liability, plus all transport costs to and from Pendle hill.

We will leave school at 3.20pm and return home at approximately 8.30pm on each night. **Your son would need to wear warm, waterproof clothing and gloves to take part.** We have run these trips to Pendle Ski Club for a number of years and can assure you that the facilities and tuition is excellent value for money, especially when compared with prices of other local artificial slope venues.

If you would like your son to take part, could I ask that you complete the attached permission slip below and return to school by 10 February please.

If you have any queries concerning the arrangements for this trip please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or email ([azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk](mailto:azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Milner (Ski Trip Organiser)

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**PENDLE SKI TRIPS – PERMISSION SLIP (To Mr Milner, Ski Trip Organiser, Birkdale High)**

I would like my son \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_ to be included on the Pendle skiing lessons trips on 10 & 17 March 2017.

Shoe size (UK) ..... Height..... (cm) Weight.....(kg)

I enclose payment of £44 cash / cheque (please delete as appropriate). Please note that cheques should be made payable to Birkdale High School and should have your son's name and Form on the reverse. I understand that any fixed costs are non-refundable should I choose to cancel his place and it cannot be filled by another pupil within school.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

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Dear Parent/ Carer

The Green Machine is organising a trip to the Data Destruction and Shredding Service in Cemetery Road in Southport after school on Friday, 3 February 2017, to see how paper and cardboard recycling operates in practice.

We will meet at the school office at 3.00pm and travel there in the minibus for a 3.15pm start. The tour should last about an hour. We plan to leave at about 4.30pm returning to school by 4.50pm. If you prefer, your son could make his own way home from Cemetery Road.

If your son has any medical condition, please make sure that he has any medication needed. If he does not have it, he will not be able to go on the trip.

Please would you fill in the reply slip at the bottom of this letter and return it to Mrs. Bradley (in the Hub) no later than Thursday 2 February 2017.

I look forward to hearing from you

Mrs Anne Bradley

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**Reply slip for Recycling trip**

Name:..... Form:.....

I give/ do not give permission for my son to attend the trip after school on Friday 3 February. I understand that my son will have to behave impeccably and I will instruct him to do so.

Please tick one of these options:

- I would like my son to come back to school in the minibus    or
- I am happy for my son to make his own way home from Cemetery Road.

I give/ do not give permission for photos of my son to be used. (They will not be passed on to any companies)

Does your son have asthma or any other medical condition we need to be aware of?

I will make sure that he has any medication needed and understand that he will not be allowed to go on the trip if he does not have his medication.

Signed.....

Please print name.....

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