



Dear Parents and Carers

22 February 2017

Thank you to all of you who have visited the school in the last 2 weeks for your patience whilst we put in place our new entrance. We do appreciate that it has been an inconvenience to many of you but it will be worth it and we are confident that the work will be finished by the weekend.

I would like, on behalf of Queenscourt Hospice, to thank you and the boys for donating generously towards the Southport Learning Partnership "Love My Community" day. We raised £607. This is now an annual event all of us in the partnership take part in jointly and it shows the power schools have to impact positively on their community, particularly when they work together as one. Beyond the fund raising, the partnership enables secondary and primary schools in Southport to collaborate, share ideas with only one objective in mind: improve the education we can provide for your child.

The last Friday before half-term we were lucky have Dr John Pugh MP in school. He came to talk to Mr Moss and myself about how we use the Xpression app to communicate what we hope is more up to date and more relevant information to parents. This term we have also added to the parental page predicted grades for Year 11 students that will now remain live up to the exam season so that parents can keep a closer check on progress. We also intend to expand this provision into other year groups before the summer. As working and busy parents it is important that we can access key information whenever we can in order to best work with the school and support our children achieving their potential.

To that end we have also added a final **Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 9 March**. This is initially by invitation and intended for the parents of students where staff have expressed possible concerns. However, should you have concerns yourself please feel free to request an appointment. We value that partnership with home above all else and we firmly believe that when we work together and communicate is when we most effectively support the boys encouraging them, pushing them but also ensuring their well being at this very stressful time.

500 WORD STORY COMPETITION – ENGLISH

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who sent me a story to enter into the 500 word story competition, a national competition with some fantastic prizes. The following students have had their work submitted: Edward Sinclair, Steven McIntosh, Harry Goulding, Peter Guest, Kyle Ferguson, Trystan Snellink, Jack Forshaw, Jamie Cook, Charlie Smith, Joe Rigby, Bobby Rimmer, Billy Robinson, Luke Atkinson, Charlie Robertshaw, Vincent Hartley, Jakub Gluszko and Thomas Howarth.

More information on the competition can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/submissions-fe/index.html#/writers-guide>

I have attached my favourite 2 stories to the newsletter - well done Luke and Vincent! Certificates will be sent home with students this week.

Mrs Jeffery

YEAR 10 AND 11 MOTIVATIONAL WORKSHOPS

On Friday 24 February we are pleased to be able to have the motivational and exam preparation group 'Maximise' in school with us for the day. They will be working with a large number of year 10 students in the morning (periods 1 and 2) and year 11 in the afternoon (periods 4 and 5). The aim of the sessions is to motivate the boys and offer them practical tips on how to prepare for and succeed in their exams both in the short term and long term. You will have received a text about this should your son be involved.

Mr Cunliffe

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2017

Next Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day for Years 7 and 8, who will be off timetable in the media hall for one lesson in the afternoon. Each student will receive a set of Birkdale Pounds to 'spend' on activities and prizes on offer. The number of 'pounds' they receive will be determined by their performance on the Accelerated Reading Scheme that we have been completing during lesson time. Some lucky students with high points and high average quiz scores for their class will be lucky enough to receive a Golden Ticket.

We will also be holding a QR book related quiz for all students to take part in. Students will need to find the 10 QR codes around the school and use their phone to scan the code and reveal the question. Students will need to hand in their 10 correct answers to Mrs Follett by the end of Friday 3 March to win a prize. Happy scanning! Mrs Follett

Registered office address:

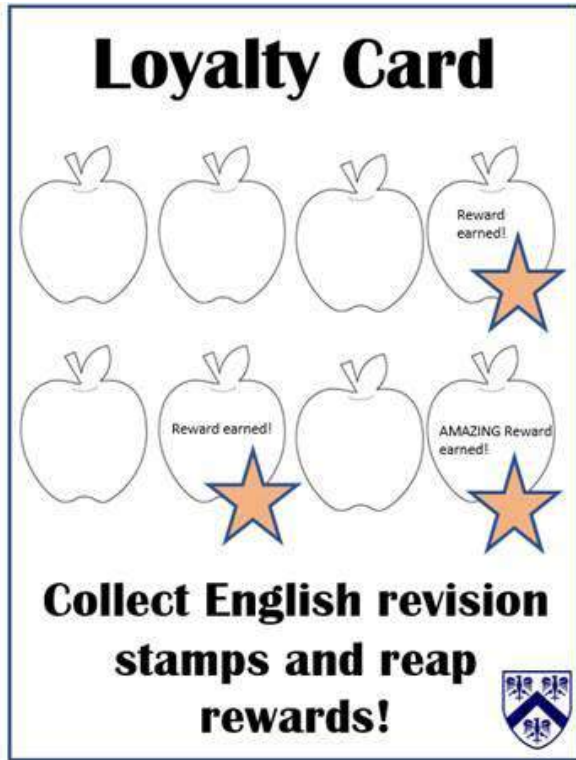
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LOYALTY CARDS YEAR 11 REVISION SESSION

Well done to all those year 11's who earned their first stamp on their loyalty cards this week. Not only have you shown great dedication and a desire to succeed, but you are one step closer to earning your reward. Please encourage your son to attend the sessions that he feel he would most benefit from to earn his stamps. Mrs Follett



Monday 20 th 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 th 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 th 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 th 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 th 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 th March 3.20 - 4.00	'Macbeth' context Mrs Morgan U10	'A Christmas Carol' context Miss Daly G9	Writing skills - varied punctuation Mrs Brook G13
Easter Break			
Monday 24 th 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 th 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

YEAR 10 AND 11 'BLOOD BROTHERS' TRIP



Well done to all of the Year 10 and 11 students who came on the 'Blood Brothers' trip in half term. They were all brilliantly behaved and a credit to us all. Thank you to all the staff for organising the trip and giving up an afternoon of their holiday to accompany them.

Thank you to Mrs Jeffery for giving the boys the chance to meet one of the stars of the show. Sean Jones, who played Mickey, is pictured here with our Deputy Head boy, Martin Rimmer.

Mrs Follett

YEAR 9 PARIS TRIP – TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017

There is a meeting for parents/carers of the students going on the Year 9 Paris trip on Tuesday 28 February at 6:00pm in the media hall. Please bring along your son's passport, EHC card and details of any medication that will be taken on the trip.

Mr Glew

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COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

There are still about 30 pupils in Year 11 who have not yet made an application to college yet. I appreciate they are busy finishing courses and revising but this needs to be done as quickly as possible. Runshaw have already informed us they have received record numbers of applications this year. We are a partner school so as long as you apply by 1 April 2017 you will be guaranteed a place. However, leaving it so late will mean that you miss the interviews which are happening in school during the second week in March. It is vital that this next stage in your son's career is taken care of as soon as possible. If your son requires further guidance from Careers Connect please let me know as soon as possible. Likewise KGV and Southport Colleges have offered one to one guidance sessions for those still unsure.

Mrs Bailey

SPORTS/PE NEWS

Year 7 are Sefton Schools Basketball Plate Winners!



Yesterday, fourteen of our pupils from Year 7 travelled to Deyes High School in Maghull to compete in this year's Sefton Schools Basketball Tournament Plate Final against Maricourt High School.

From the very start, the boys dominated the match and were ultimately clear winners with an impressive 32-11 victory. The winning team included the following pupils;

Ollie Sharples, Jack Walmsley, Harvey Hillier, Chris Morris, Ben Snape, Harry Day, Adam Dimba, Jamie Brown, Ethan Armstrong, Leon Jones, Edward Sinclair, Lawrie Woods, Matthew Meredith, Harry Landy

All the boys made significant contributions to the game at various points which made the victory such a great all-round team effort. Very well done to all of you!

Mr Quirk

Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 Champions League Basketball Finals

Good luck to our other three Basketball teams from Years 8, 9 and 10 ahead of their respective Sefton Champions League Finals scheduled to take place at Deyes High School in the week ahead.

The dates, times and opponents at each event are as follows:

Year 9 Team – Wednesday 22 February 2017

Plate Final - 4pm Tip Off Meols Cop v Hillside

Main Final - 5pm Tip Off Birkdale v Maricourt

Year 10 Team - Thursday 23 February 2017

Plate Final - 4pm Tip Off Meols Cop v Maricourt

Main Final - 5pm Tip Off Birkdale v Litherland

Year 8 - Tuesday 28 February 2017

Plate Final - 4pm Tip Off Meols Cop v Savio

Main Final - 5pm Tip Off Birkdale v Litherland

Mr Quirk

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Cross Country – Year 8/9 Team on course for Sefton League Success!

A few weeks ago a number of our boys took part in the second of three Sefton Cross Country League races in Crosby. I received the final results this week and our 'A' Team finished in first place as our top four runners finished in 2nd, 4th, 7th and 8th place.

Our next four runners finished 12th, 13th, 16th and 20th and consequently finished as the second best team. With two races completed, we are currently sitting in first and second place in the Years 8/9 league and 5th place in the Year 7 league.

The current results and tables are shown below. Well done on your superb efforts and performances once again boys! Mr. Quirk

Sefton Cross Country League – Race 2 Results

YEAR 7 BOYS				YEAR 8/9 BOYS			
pos.	School		scores	pos.	School		scores
1	Formby 'A'	28	2,7,8,11	1	Birkdale 'A'	21	2,4,7,8
2	Sacred Heart 'A'	48	1,4,14,29	2	Birkdale 'B'	61	12,13,16,20
3	Merchant Taylors'A'	57	5,9,15,28	3	Range 'A'	71	6,18,22,25
4	Chesterfield	88	20,21,23,24	4	Formby	76	9,10,15,42
5	Birkdale 'A'	92	16,17,25,34	5	Stanley 'A'	78	3,19,27,29
6	Range 'A'	113	6,10,47,50	6	Merchant Taylors	122	5,24,46,47
7	Maricourt	119	18,30,35,36	7	Birkdale 'C'	125	28,31,32,34
8	Maghull High	121	13,19,41,48	8	Hillside	131	11,39,40,41
9	Stanley 'A'	154	3,38,45,68	9	Savio Salesian	146	14,33,45,54
10	Merchant Taylors'B'	173	37,40,43,53	10	Holy Family 'A'	149	23,35,43,48
11	Birkdale 'B'	206	44,46,56,60	11	Maghull	158	21,37,38,62
12	Range 'B'	230	52,58,59,61	12	Chesterfield	165	17,44,51,53
13	Holy Family 'A'	231	33,55,71,72	13	Stanley 'B'	204	30,57,58,59
14	Merchant Taylors'C'	250	57,62,65,66	14	Range 'B'	226	49,50,63,64
15	Sacred Heart 'B'	265	51,63,70,81	15	Holy Family 'B'	257	60,61,67,69
16	Birkdale 'C'	292	67,69,74,82	16	Holy Family 'C'	286	70,71,72,73
17	Stanley 'B'	326	77,80,84,85	17	Holy Family 'D'	302	74,75,76,77
18	Merchant Taylors'D'	327	75,76,79,97	18	Holy Family 'E'	318	78,79,80,81
19	Holy Family 'B'	354	78,91,92,93				
20	Stanley 'C'	382	88,96,98,100				
	Incomplete Teams				Incomplete Teams		
	Savio Salesian		32,73,86		Sacred Heart		36
	Hillside		39,54,83		Maricourt		1,26

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Current Sefton Cross Country League Tables

YEAR 7 BOYS				YEAR 8/9 BOYS			
pos.	School		scores	pos.	School		scores
1	Formby	2	1,1	1	Birkdale 'A'	2	1,1
2	Chesterfield	8	4,4	2	Birkdale 'B'	7	5,2
3	Range 'A'	9	3,6	3	Stanley 'A'	8	3,5
4	Birkdale 'A'	10	5,5	4	Formby	10	6,4
5	Merchant Taylors'A'	11	8,3	5	Range	12	9,3
6	Sacred Heart	12	10,2	6	Merchant Taylors	13	7,6
7	Stanley 'A'	15	6,9	7	Chesterfield	15	4,11
8	Maricourt	16	9,7	8	Savio Salesian	19	10,9
9	Maghull	23	15,8 (368)	9	Holy Family 'A'	22	12,10
10	Range 'B'	23	11,12 (427)	10	Stanley 'B'	23	11,12
11	Birkdale 'B'	25	14,11	11	Holy Family 'B'	28	13,15
12	Merchant Taylors'B'	26	16,10	12	Holy Family 'C'	30	14,16
13	Stanley 'B'	30	13,17 (552)	13			
14	Holy Family	30	17,13 (554)	14			

SKIING

Ski Course 2017 – Winter Park, Colorado USA

37 pupils and 4 staff are currently preparing for our trip at Easter. Time spent at the fitness sessions (Monday evenings 3.10 – 4.00pm) are proving valuable and pupils are making good progress with fitness, stamina and working key muscle groups needed whilst skiing. With only 6 weeks until we depart (yes we are counting down!) and with all arrangements being finalised, please encourage your son to attend the weekly meetings (Wednesday 12.25 pm in B4).

Mr Milner

Lessons at Pendle Ski Club

37 pupils are looking forward to skiing lessons at Pendle ski club in Lancashire over the coming weeks (3, 10 and 17 March). Pupils should have received a permissions letter today. Please could these be returned by Friday 24 February.

Mr Milner

Ski Course 2018 – Courmayeur, Italy

Places are still available for our trip next year. Please find details on the attached letter. Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mr Milner

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band visited St Teresa's School in Everton Road on Tuesday 21 February. The Band performed superbly for the children and staff so much so that we have been invited back for another visit.

Mr Waring

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FEBRUARY MATHS CLASS CHAMPIONS

The following boys are the current class champions for their class in maths. Most of these hold the record for the highest module test score. Mrs Thompson

	Mrs McGarry	Mrs Thompson	Miss Cain	Mrs Woodcock	Mrs Duffy	Mr Marshall	Mrs Brook
Y7	Joe Rigby	Anthony Waite	Ethan Marshall	Mackenzie Mault			Antony Hindle
Y8	Chris Rolfe Reece Blackley	Adam Scrutton	Michael Ascott Harvey Fletcher	Alfi Monaghan			Lyon Kuzmin
9	Ivan Aras	William Cooper	Finn Cromack	Ben Huyton Meadows		Leighton Woods	
Y10	Sam Cooper	Lewis Hill	Stanley Cannon	Joe Jones	Alessio Francis Rafiq Tennah		
Y11	Harvey Favager Josh Thistlewaite Leon Storer	Josh Partington	Luke Sharrock	Laurence Fredricks	Joe Andrews	Max Hindle	



GREEN MACHINE – GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN!

Last year, members of the Green Machine did quite a bit of litter picking around the school grounds, during Bart's absence and along Windy Harbour Road for the "Clean for the Queen". This campaign was such a success nationally, that it was decided to do it every year. This year, as well as cleaning up the country, they want us to record what types of litter people are finding. The Green Machine will be taking part in this Great British Litter Count.

Please would you save your milk bottle tops, especially the green ones, and hand in to Mrs Bradley at the Hub. They will be melted down and made into garden furniture and sold in aid of charity. Mrs Bradley

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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What's that noise? I recognise that noise but what is it? Is it a police car? An ambulance? I can't see anything but I can hear it really clearly. Why can't I see? And I can't move; what's going on? Where am I? It feels like I'm lying down in the dark. I want to get up but I can't. I don't know what's going on. My body can't do what I want it to do. I don't understand. That siren is really loud. What is happening right now? There's somebody there. Someone beside me. Who is it? I don't know why they are there but I can hear them saying something. I try to listen closely. I can hear them talking to someone. It sounds like they are talking on a headset. I can hear a man's voice.

"We've got a teenage boy probably about 13 or 14 years old, he's been in an RTC, he's got a massive injury to his skull probably fractured, probably broken ribs, and is unconscious. We're not getting any reply from him. His blood pressure is too low. We'll be at the hospital in 5 minutes sharp."

Is he talking about me? Where am I going? I'm frightened for my life. The siren instantly stops and I can't hear anymore.

I can hear my mum's voice. She sounds depressed and unhappy.

"I'm so upset I'll stay all night and all day until you get better, but I did tell you not to take the car with them. I know he was your friend but sometimes you've got to spend some time with your family," sobbed Mum.

Suddenly another voice says, "Are you ok?" I recognise the voice it's my buddy Mark. But I can only listen. Mark is normally so cool and calm but now he sounds like he's panicking. I wish I could tell them I'm fine. I just can't explain or make my mouth work. I hear them talking some more but soon their voices fade away.

I can hear something like a beeping noise, I don't know what it means but all I know is that it doesn't sound right. Then I hear a beep, beep, beep, going quicker than ever. What does it mean? What's going to happen? There's a crashing noise and I know it is doors bursting open and I can hear people coming in all talking at once. Someone starts shaking me in desperation and shouting my name but I still can't say anything. They keep on talking, moving stuff around and tugging me at the same time. After a while they stop and their voices get quieter. One of them says "I don't think he's going to last. Maybe its time for life support to stop because it isn't helping at all."

I scream NO! But no words come out. Someone says "Will he survive if we turn the machine off?" and another voice answers "We will have to wait and see."

A Fair Ending?

You're probably wondering why I am in a hospital in Japan, well it all started when I was chosen to go to a... I won't say that bit until the end.

I was rushing to the massive double decker plane, it was taking off in 5 minutes! I dashed to the front of the queue so I could be certain I was going to go.

As I boarded the plane I glanced ahead looked for my seat. I found it and put my headphones on, finally arriving at the beautiful city of Tokyo, Japan.

I knew what I had to do, train as hard as I possibly could for this once in a life-time competition!

The competition is in 4days... 3days... 2days... 1day... competition day!

The day had come I had been training for, for the whole of my life.

Nothing was going to stop me, it's now or never, all the kids that said I couldn't do it, I will prove them wrong.

I slowly walked out with my suited gear on, I was scared stiff when I walked out, the humongous crowd roared with excitement. The battles have commenced, round one was me vs the reigning German champion. The bout had started, he threw the first punch, I blocked it!

Suddenly I saw the opportunity, a round house kick to the head; ONE POINT TO ME!!

I was over the moon when I realised I had one point, but with this distraction the referee shouted 'FIGHT!' and he punched me in the gut 'UGHHH' I was winded.

I couldn't breathe but I was determined not to give up and let everybody down.

Dragging myself up, I was determined to win this tortuous fight, my heart was pumping like a stampede of elephants; I could barely get up... the referee checked to see if I could go on, I said "yes", the next thing I heard was 'FIGHT!'

I only need one point to win!

He threw so many punches I felt like I should give up, but out of nowhere I saw a gap!

One point to win!

My first fight of the knockout competition, with butterfly's in my stomach, I summoned everything I had left into this one punch.

BANG!!!

It landed in his neck, he could not breathe whilst gasping for air the referee raised my arm in victory... 'I WON!'

The competition progressed and luck certainly was on my side as I won all of my fights.

The finale fight was here; I was taking on a tough unknown fighter. I was exhausted, but so was he.

All of our energy had gone; I had never fought so hard!

10 minutes to go we both threw what would be our final punches, I landed a beauty.....

But the problem was, *SO DID HE!!*

Everything went black!!!

The next thing I knew I woke up in a hospital bed beside my opponent both of us holding the trophy... *Had I won?*



February 2017

SKI COURSE 2018 (FEB HALF TERM - COURMAYEUR, ITALY)

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am happy to inform you that we still have places available for our ski course to Courmayeur (Italy) for February half term 2018. The trip is open to all pupils in school, whether they have skied before or are complete beginners wishing to experience it for the first time. The resort has something for everybody in abundance!

We have booked the resort of Courmayeur, located in the Aosta valley in the North West of Italy. We skied there as a school group in 2015 and know the area and its facilities well. The ski company infrastructure and organisation is very impressive, with the mountain providing superb conditions to learn to ski or to develop techniques as a competent skier. The evening entertainment facilities, for us to fill the week with lots of things to do, are also impressive.

The resort is suited to skiers of all abilities, with magnificent views sweeping the Alps, from Mont Blanc to Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn. There are 100 kms of perfectly maintained pistes, modern ski lifts, 250+ snow cannons (meaning superb snow-making) and a tempting mix of tree-lined runs and vast, wide, open spaces.

The total cost of the trip is £999 and will include the following: -

- Executive coach travel, from school to resort and return, including ferry crossing and road tolls
- 6 nights 3* half-board accommodation with private facilities in all rooms.
- 24 hours (6 x 4 hours) of instruction by fully qualified English-speaking snowsport instructors.
- Fully supervised hot snack lunches at a choice of mountain restaurants (effectively full-board basis).
- Hire of top quality carving skis, boots, poles & helmets.
- Comprehensive winter sports insurance for all members of the party.

I must take this opportunity to stress that the price **does not** include ski clothing (which can be rented or purchased at fairly low costs) and evening entertainment activities.

Payment will be by instalments according to the following schedule: -

- Initial (non refundable) deposit of £100 with returned reply slip.
- Second (non refundable) deposit of £100 by April 20, 2017
- Third (non refundable) deposit of £100 by May 18, 2017
- Remaining balance of £699 by November 9, 2017

After the deposits are paid, you can obviously pay via instalments to suit you either via cash, cheque or Parentpay (payment cards are available upon request). Please write 'Ski Trip ITALY 2018' and your son's name and form on the reverse of all cheques and return them directly to **me (not the school office)**.

If you would like your son to be included on the 2018 trip to Italy, please return the reply slip and initial deposit to me (in the Technology Dept) as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or email (azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Milner (Ski Course Organiser)

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REPLY SLIP: SKI COURSE 2018 – COURMAYEUR, ITALY

To Mr Milner, Ski Course Organiser, Birkdale High School.

I would like my son _____ Form _____
to be included on the 2018 ski trip to Courmayeur, Italy.

Please circle the appropriate payment method below;

I enclose cash / cheque for £100 (made payable to Birkdale High School).

I have paid the sum of £100 via ParentPay.

I understand that this initial (and subsequent) deposit is non-refundable if I choose to cancel his place and it cannot be filled by another pupil within school.

Signed

Parent/Guardian

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