



Dear Parents and Carers

15 March 2017

I would like to thank all the Year 11 parents who attended the Intervention Evening last Thursday. This was a new initiative aimed at providing that last opportunity for a face to face meeting to improve communication between home and school so that we can all work together to help students and the feedback has been very positive. This week Year 11s have started their 2 day Art practical and Year 10 are getting ready for the Statistics controlled assessment. I wish them all good luck.

It has been another successful week on and off the field with the U16s rugby team in the Lancashire Plate finals next Sunday, The Y8 Basketball team Merseyside runners-up and Mr Jones' Technology Team coming 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Rotary Competition.

### ROTARY CLUB TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT 2017

Pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 entered the Rotary Club Technology Tournament again this year, competing against other schools from the Southport area.

The competition involved them competing, as a team of four, in a design and make activity. The task was to build a vehicle powered by a small motor, gears and batteries. The vehicle had to travel along an open pipe pushing 'gravel' then reversing out of the pipe. Marks were awarded for a design portfolio and how well the vehicle performed the task.

The team of Sam Cooper, Arran Messenger, Ben Harvey and Nathan Crewe were the winners in their age group for the second year running.

The team of Safwan Patel, William Cook-Haigh, Doug Hatton and Callum Donaldson were a credible third in their age group. Well done to all boys who took part.

Mr Jones



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## SOUTHPORT SCHOOLS' PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Next Tuesday 21 March 2017, we have three of our Year 11 students representing the school at the annual Meols Rotary Club Southport Schools' Public Speaking Competition. Red McCarthy, Daniel Hubbard and Edward Hammond will be debating the issue of 'Brexit' and what it means to today's youth. We wish them luck in this prestigious competition and we will let you know how they get on in next week's newsletter! Ms Daly

## ENGLISH REVISION

At the Key Stage Four Intervention Parents' Evening, quite a few parents asked me how their sons could go about revising English. I have attached a document which outlines a variety of activities which your son could undertake to assist with his revision. As your son will be gaining two separate qualifications in this subject and there is an increase in content on the new style examinations, revision is essential to ensure success. Mrs Follett

## PE/SPORTS NEWS

### Merseyside Schools Basketball Finals – Year 8 Runners-Up



Congratulations to the Year 8 Basketball Team for performing brilliantly yesterday in the Merseyside School Games competition in Liverpool.

Having won the Sefton Schools Basketball Tournament recently, they were representing the borough against the winning teams of the similar competitions held for Liverpool, St. Helen's, Wirral and Knowsley. The boys played six matches during the event and only lost to a really strong and very experienced side from Archbishop Beck Sports College.

The results were as follows....

- Group Game 1 versus Cowley High School (St Helens) – Won 26-04
- Group Game 2 versus Kirkby High School (Knowsley) – Won 21-01
- Group Game 3 versus St. Mary's High School (Wirral) – Won 15-02
- Group Game 4 versus Archbishop Beck Sports College (Liverpool) – Lost 24-06
- Semi-Final versus St. Mary's High School (St Helens) – Won 24-11
- Final versus Archbishop Beck Sports College (Liverpool) – Lost 11-03

The boys won a Silver Medal for their efforts by finishing 'Runners-Up' at the event.

The team members involved were; Dylan Haver, Dana Amaral, Jude Moore, Mikey O'Neill, Tommy Conway, Tommy Witterick, Dylan Taylor, Jack Halstead, Ben Shanley and Tom Carragher. Very well done!

Mr Quirk



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## Sefton Schools Cross Country League – Race Three



Last week, twenty eight of our pupils from Years 7, 8 & 9 travelled to Thornton to compete in the third and final Sefton Schools Cross Country Race of the season.

The boys performed incredibly well in awful conditions and although the final results have not yet been confirmed, the Year 8/9 combined team look set to become Sefton Champions, having already won the first two team races of the season.

Well done to everyone who took part on the day and congratulations to Fraser Cooke from Year 8 who picked up a silver medal by finishing in second place by the narrowest of margins.

Congratulations once again, boys!

Mr Quirk



## Merseyside Schools Year 8 Indoor Athletics Finals

Good luck to our Year 8 athletes who are set to travel to Liverpool on Friday to compete in this year's Merseyside Schools Indoor Athletics Championships.

Having won the North Sefton Tournament held at Greenbank a few weeks ago the boys will now compete as representatives of Sefton against teams from Liverpool, St. Helen's, Wirral, Knowsley and Halton.

Last year the boys finished in second place at the event so hopefully this year they can one better!

Mr Quirk



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# Birkdale High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

Headteacher:  
Mr G Y Bourgade

## Water Polo

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

On Thursday 9 March 2017 Birkdale travelled to Northampton School for Boys to play in the u18's English Schools Water Polo Bowl Final 2016/2017. The other teams involved were KCS Wimbledon, Eton College, Bedford, Charterhouse, Marlborough

Birkdale won their matches against Eton and Marlborough however lost their matches against KCS Wimbledon, Charterhouse and Bedford. 5-0, 4-0 and 3-0. Birkdale played Charterhouse and although competed well and created a few opportunities to score unfortunately size and age prevailed as Birkdale lost 5-0. Next up was the eventual winners KCS Wimbledon. Again Birkdale competed very well but eventually lost 4-0. Lastly Birkdale played Bedford to see who would finish in third and fourth position. Birkdale played well and competed valiantly but went down 3-0 to finish fourth in the tournament. This technically puts them in the top 20 schools in the country for u18's water polo. Thank you to Mr Jenkins for his continued support. It is an absolutely fantastic achievement considering these boys are aged 14-16 and they qualified for an u18 National Water Polo Final and we do not have a pool. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with these Year 11 boys over the years going all over the country for water polo matches. Thank you and well done.

Mr Keary



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## Year 11 football

Squad: Squad: Ethan Fletcher, Jack Blundell, Josh Bailey, Max Burdon-Bailey, Andi Plana, Rustam Stepan, Tom Linaker, Nathan Davenport, Jake Graham, Brion Monaghan, Al Faiaz De Sousa Jussub Karim, Owen Highton, Ismael Akesbi, Baladi Chergui.

On Monday 13 February 2017 Birkdale played host to Holy Family in the Quarter Final of the Merseyside Cup. Birkdale were confident after their winning run but not over confident. Birkdale started slowly and Holy Family did take the lead through slack play by Birkdale. However Stanbrook and Plana started to link up well and managed to get a foothold in the game. Birkdale then drew level with a penalty from Stanbrook and then another from Stepan. This made sure Birkdale went into the half time break with a one goal advantage. Holy Family started the second half brightly but were thwarted by a resolute defence as Blundell and Linaker again proved difficult to get past, Bailey and Davenport adding good full back play and Fletcher played well saving Birkdale on a number of occasions. However, Holy Family continued to press and managed to get an equaliser 10 minutes from the end to force extra time. By this time it was end-to-end stuff with Stepan proving a handful again with his wing wizardry and cultured left foot and Jake Graham providing good balance on the right wing. Ismael Akesbi produced an inspired display, coming on late, as the lone striker holding up the ball well and linking up brilliantly with Stanbrook and Stepan and was unlucky not to score on his debut. Holy Family looked like they had scored the winner 3 minutes from the end until Stepan scored in the dying seconds of the match, with an overhead kick, to take it to penalties. Holy Family scored all of theirs and misses from Stepan and Akesbi meant that Holy Family prevailed in a game that Birkdale should have and could have won. Such a shame as the better team on this occasion definitely lost. Good luck to Holy Family in the next round. The crowd including Liam Henney, Matthew Tighe, Jacob Harrison, Liam Blake, Charlie Foster and Harrison Spencer were vocal and were in excellent voice throughout the match providing support for the boys. Good luck to the boys on Wednesday 22 March for the Sefton Cup semi-final.

Mr Keary

## Rugby

The Year 11 Rugby Team played against Liverpool College in the Lancashire Plate Semi Finals on Monday 13 March. The pupils put in a very good performance with lots of hard work and commitment and this resulted in a comprehensive 28-10 win with Birkdale's tries coming from Jake Pagan (3) and Conor Rylands. The conversions were accurately scored by Jacob Roberts (4).

This result sees the team compete in the Lancashire Finals Day which is held at Fylde Rugby Club on Sunday 19 March with a 2.30pm kick off. Well done to all the boys involved on a fantastic season and good luck in the final.

Mr Thorne

## ADVANCE NOTIFICATION – YEAR 11 GCSE DRAMA PERFORMANCES

These will take place on **Wednesday 29 March (am only)** and all Year 11 Drama students will perform to an external moderator from the Exam Board.

Please support your son in preparing for this exam by ensuring he attends all lessons between now and then and has learnt his lines. We are doing an adapted version of 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly.

Mrs Jeffery

## JOB VACANCY – EXAM INVIGILATORS

We have vacancies for the post of Examination Invigilator. Applicants must be available for the summer examination season, from the beginning of May to the end of June, and for the mock exam period for 2 weeks in December 2017.

Please ring the school and ask for the Exams Officer Karen Williams, if you are interested and would like any further information.

Ms Williams

## SCIENCE: TOTAL RECALL QUIZ LEAGUE

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Well done to all boys who are currently engaging with the "Total Recall" quiz league. The notice board will be updated this week so you can check your position after the 6<sup>th</sup> quiz. We have some new-comers to the top twenty in both Year 10 and Year 11, congratulations to them and to the boys who work hard to maintain their position.

## Year 10

rank	Set by:	JSW	SB	JCS	JCS	ZF	SZB	TOTAL
1	<b>Ethan Mobbs-Pursell</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	<b>600</b>
2	<b>Samuel Cooper</b>	96	100	100	100	95	100	<b>591</b>
3	<b>Vlad Ungureanu</b>	88	100	100	100	95	95	<b>578</b>
4	<b>Benjamin Harvey</b>	92	100	100	100	95	90	<b>577</b>
5	<b>Nathan Crewe</b>	80	100	100	100	100	95	<b>575</b>
6	<b>Scott James</b>	88	100	100	100	85	100	<b>573</b>
7	<b>William Scott</b>	76	95	100	100	95	100	<b>566</b>
8	<b>Nathan Scales</b>	80	85	100	100	100	100	<b>565</b>
9	<b>Kasraa Mohammadi</b>	88	95	92	90	100	90	<b>555</b>
10	<b>Nathan Bowden</b>	92	95	96	100	90	80	<b>553</b>
11	<b>Tom Porter</b>	84	90	96	100	85	90	<b>545</b>
12	<b>Ryan Stephens</b>	88	75	84	100	100	85	<b>532</b>
13	<b>Lewis Hill</b>	68	95	84	100	80	100	<b>527</b>
14	<b>Elliot Ratcliffe</b>	68	90	80	100	95	85	<b>518</b>
15	<b>Luis Spencer</b>	64	100	64	100	90	95	<b>513</b>
16	<b>Dawid Ligas</b>	52	95	92	100	80	90	<b>509</b>
17	<b>Solomon Palmer</b>	72	100	80	100	75	75	<b>502</b>
18	<b>Samuel Baldwin</b>	68	90	72	100	65	85	<b>480</b>
19	<b>Sebastian Mikolajewski</b>	60	85	44	100	90	100	<b>479</b>
20	<b>Benjamin Gaskell</b>	88	80	64	100	70	60	<b>462</b>

## Year 11

rank	Set by:	JSW	JSW	SHW	JCS	ZF	SBZ	TOTAL
1	<b>Max Hindle</b>	92	100	100	100	95	100	<b>587</b>
2	<b>Oliver Mutch</b>	80	95	100	100	90	100	<b>565</b>
3	<b>Laurence Fredricks</b>	92	100	95	75	95	100	<b>557</b>
4	<b>Angus Ball</b>	84	95	90	100	95	89	<b>553</b>
5	<b>Matthew Fraser</b>	88	90	95	100	80	100	<b>553</b>
6	<b>Ethan Watson</b>	68	100	95	88	95	100	<b>546</b>
7	<b>Joshua Wilkinson</b>	52	95	90	100	100	100	<b>537</b>
8	<b>Ethan Scrutton</b>	72	85	76	100	80	94	<b>507</b>
9	<b>Jake Marchant</b>	64	95	90	88	70	94	<b>501</b>
10	<b>Leon Storer</b>	80	85	95	100	65	72	<b>497</b>
11	<b>Luke Harbon</b>	64	90	90	63	95	94	<b>496</b>
12	<b>Johnny Bean</b>	76	95	76	88	0	94	<b>429</b>
13	<b>Liam Blake</b>	52	90	76	63	45	100	<b>426</b>
14	<b>Samuel Pennifold</b>	72	95	81	88	0	89	<b>425</b>
15	<b>Harvey Jackson</b>	52	85	67	50	75	94	<b>423</b>
16	<b>Will Berry</b>	76	75	67	63	70	72	<b>423</b>
17	<b>Ryan Jackson</b>	84	100	90	0	70	78	<b>422</b>
18	<b>Morgan Ashcroft</b>	76	85	71	100	0	89	<b>421</b>
19	<b>Daniel Hubbard</b>	76	90	71	88	80	0	<b>405</b>
20	<b>Adam Watterson</b>	84	95	95	100	30	0	<b>404</b>

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## GREEN MACHINE

Kaiden and Lewis have got the Green Machine Garden looking a lot better now, so we are just waiting for the plants to spring up. Pictured here: before and after!

On **Saturday 25 March**, millions of people, businesses and landmarks all over the world will be switching their lights off for **Earth Hour, which starts at 8.30pm**. It's been going on for the last ten years and has made a massive impact on the environment – helping to change laws, lives and our planet. By doing this little thing, switching our lights off for one hour, we are letting our leaders know that we want to protect our planet.

Mrs Bradley



By doing this little thing, switching our lights off for one hour, we are letting our leaders know that we want to protect our planet. If you go on the WWF website, you can see some of the ways this has made a difference, eg **funding projects** like providing communities with climate-smart boats after a typhoon and bringing solar power to farmers in India; **advocating for change**, eg for more climate-friendly laws and policies and **changing lives**, eg providing farmers in Nepal with fuel-efficient stoves. If you and your family decide to join in with this on 25 March, please let me know how you celebrated Earth Hour. Maybe we could share the good ideas for next year!

Yours faithfully

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

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## How to revise for English



*Active revision is of paramount importance - sitting and copying out probably won't help you. You need to access what's in your brain and then add to it through other elements.*

### English language -

**Knowing the key elements of language and structure** - you have to have a toolbox of things to look for. Test yourself to write down lists of key techniques from memory. Ask your teacher for a list and then learn it - test yourself or get someone else to test you.

**Complete a writing task from your writing booklet** - ensure that you hand them in to get marked so that you know what you need to improve on.

**Create a revision poster about what you have to do for each question of the exams** - if you're stuck, ask your teacher - you can always email if unsure.

**Come up with a bank of really impressive vocabulary** - learn the spellings and ask someone to test you on them.

**Go through your book and identify your commonly misspelled words** - learn them and ask someone to test you on them.



## Literature

**Plot time line** - it is essential that you know that plot of a text - from memory wrote down the plot of your text. Then check it with help from the text or a revision website such a BBC bite size or lit charts. Highlight the different themes on your timeline in different colours. Make some sections larger to suggest their significance.

### **Knowledge vomit concept maps - brain, book, buddy, boss**

Take a character, or a theme, or aspect of context and write down everything that you can remember about it. Once you have done this you should get your exercise book and add in anything you can from that, then ask a friend studying the same for anything else you have missed, then finally ask your teacher or a revision guide for anything else. You soon start to build up a comprehensive understanding. Repeat the same process a week later; how much more can you remember?

**Quotations** - select a killer quotation for each aspect of a text - for each character, theme, key moment etc - analyse them for language and structure, then try to remember them. Ask your teacher to give you some killer quotations if you're stuck and test yourself on them.

**Exam questions** - ask for extracts, and other questions from your teacher. Like for the concept maps, do as much as you can from memory first. Then add in ideas from your exercise books or resources given to you from your teacher, then do some additional research - websites, revision guides, etc - finally remember to hand them in for marking - you can get feedback on what you have missed.

## Additional for Revising Poetry:

### Poetry Map

- On a large piece of paper write down all the poems that you need to know.
- In different coloured pens, draw lines to link poems by theme.
- *E.g. My Last Duchess and Ozymandias are linked because they both draw on the ideas of Control over someone. Etc.*

### Killer Quotes Squeeze

- Select a killer quote for each poem.

- Write the quote in the middle of a piece of paper and create a mind map squeezing language and linking words to bigger ideas and themes within the poem/anthology.
- This will ensure you are focussing on language.

### **Poem Mood/Pinterest Board**

- Choose a poem and create a mood board, choosing images from the Internet or drawing your own images that represent the poem.
- This will make you explore the imagery in the poem in lots of detail, and the images you find will help you to remember key points of the poem.

### **Comparisons**

- For each poem, think of at least three other poems you could use to compare on various themes.
- If you already have this in mind when you get into the exam, selecting an appropriate poem for comparison will be much easier and quicker.

### **Write the Questions**

- Try setting yourself an exam question. Questions should name a poem, a theme and a focus.
- *E.g. Compare how the writer's present painful consequences of conflict in Exposure and one other poem of your choice.*
- Try and write an essay plan for each question. Completing this will focus your thoughts on the major themes in the collection, and which poems are particularly useful to revise well, for covering lots of different themes

## **Novel/ Play Specific Revision Ideas**

### **Character Study**

- Draw an outline of each character. On the inside, write how the character thinks about themselves. Around the outside, write how other characters react to this person.
- If possible: Use quotes as well as your own description.
- **Extra Challenge:** Try linking two characters and write about their relationship.

## Revision Dice

- Create a die with questions about the different characters, themes or plot on each of the faces.
- You could do a die for each character or theme.

## Obituary Writing

- Consider any of the characters who die in your texts.
- Write the obituary for each character as it might have appeared in the newspaper but written as another character.
- Consider who would write it?
- This will make you think about how the characters were perceived by the other characters, and their relationships.

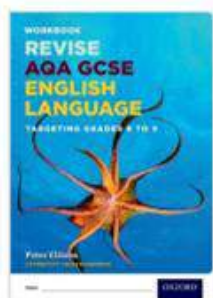
## Online resources:

- Use the PixLit App to revise key literature texts.
- Use GCSE Pod to revise key literature texts.

## Recommended Textbooks:



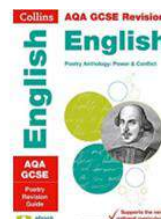
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