



Dear Parents and Carers

11 October 2017

Birkdale High is indeed reaching for the sky after launching a balloon into space last week as part of a team of schools collaborating on a STEM project. There are more details below regarding our boys' involvement in the STEM Scholars Project, and do take the time to click on the link to watch the footage of the balloon. It is not often our school logo features with the earth as a background!!! <https://youtu.be/GezuHldoiME>

Last week we welcomed our new Year 7 students' parents and carers for their Meet the Tutor Evening and it was a real pleasure to see so many students proudly taking their families around the school and giving them the guided tour. This week is our **Year 11 Parents' Evening**. This is a crucial opportunity for students, parents/carers and staff to get together and discuss how best to ensure that each and every one of our boys achieves his potential in the summer and particularly what needs to be done to make sure that they are fully ready for the mocks in December. At this stage of the game, every lesson counts and every bit of revision done at home will make a difference. The key is to start early and stick to a programme. In order to support constructive discussions at parents evening, **all Year 11s have been issued with their first tracking report today.**

Next **Thursday at 6.00pm** is our biannual **Parents' Forum** and one of the items for discussion will be **how we can as parents support our children in the run up to GCSE exams**. We will start at 5.45pm with a brief **introduction to our flightpaths system for tracking and reporting progress** and will also cover at 6.00pm a **summary of the changes to the GCSE specifications and how this is likely to affect students**.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Birkdale Parents Association for all their work. I attend most of their meetings and I am so grateful for their effort and the financial support it brings into the school. They are meeting this Thursday at 7.30pm (no longer on a Wednesday) and their first event is the Year 7 joint school disco with Greenbank on Wednesday 18 October and I know that it will be a great evening. If your son hasn't got his ticket yet please get him to do so as soon as possible as any remaining tickets will be offered to Greenbank and there will be no ticket sales next week.

Finally, I would like to pass on to all our Years 10 and 11 students the following thanks from the Merseyside police. Unfortunately the Southport fireworks event has been marred in recent years by instances of antisocial behaviour and this year the police asked to come into all the Southport schools and deliver an assembly. The event was a great success and Merseyside police have sent all schools the following message:

*'On behalf of the Southport Local Policing Team, we would like to thank all pupils of the school for their co-operation in making this year's Musical Fireworks event one of the safest and most successful in the event's history.*

*The events from Las Vegas, and the example of how quickly a large event can change with tragic effect and circumstances, displays the complexities and scale of issues for police and security services in managing events and being prepared to deal with any situation that may occur. Your help, in making our event of close to 30,000 visitors run without incident, is very much appreciated.*

*We will be back in school over the coming months to get input from pupils on some other key issues that affect young people, in order to try and reduce threat, harm and risk to young people in the town. We look forward to seeing you then and getting your ideas on how we can tackle these issues to keep people safe. Thanks again'.*

#### GCSE SPANISH – YEARS 9 AND 10

Would you like your son to go to Spain as part of his GCSE Spanish course? We are currently running a trip to Avila, North West of Madrid, in June 2018 for all pupils studying Spanish in Years 9 and 10. The trip includes Spanish lessons on a daily basis, visiting places of interest, Spanish cookery sessions, a visit to Madrid including the Bernabeu Stadium and lots more! Please encourage your son to collect a letter from Mrs Wadhwa. All reply slips need to be returned by Monday 16 October 2017. Mrs Wadhwa

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## STEM SCHOLARS PROJECT

Over the last six months 10 pupils from current Year 8 and Year 9 have taken part in the Scholars Project run by the Brilliant Club. As part of the project they have been studying "Is Ebola the next global pandemic?" with help from current PhD student Leanne Burton of Liverpool John Moores University, who has acted as their tutor. The final task saw the pupils having to write a 1,500 essay on Ebola.

On Monday 9 October the pupils attended Liverpool University to graduate from the Scholars Project. The results were excellent and three pupils from Year 8 gained the equivalent of 1sts for their project – Sean Barry, Jasper Berry and Theo Davies. Well done, great work boys!



The pupils who graduated the Scholars Project are  
Year 8 - Sean Barry, Jasper Berry, Theo Davies, David Tear, Tristan Siebert  
Year 9 - Louis Searle, Henry Maw, Mackenzie Price, Manolis Poniris, Daniel Morgan  
Congratulations to the pupils involved. They all worked really hard on the project.

Mr Burcher

## YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING – THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2017

Reminder that it is Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 12 October 2017 from 3.30pm until 7.00pm. It is very important that Year 11 parents attend with their son.

Mr Bennett

## YEAR 7 BIKEABILITY

Last week 44 of our students completed either level 2 or level 3 Bikeability. The instructors were very impressed with all our students and commented on both their manners and their willingness to learn. The boys will be receiving their badges and certificates shortly. Well done boys – I am proud of you.

Mr Cunliffe

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**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2017/2018 – INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

There will be an information evening for parents and students who are interested in taking part in Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards on **Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 7.00pm in the Media Hall.**

Attached to this newsletter are full details of the arrangements for the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions including schedule of dates, costings and an enrolment form.

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2016/17**

Reminder that the deadline for participants to complete and upload their Skill/Physical and Volunteering sections is 31 December 2017 if they hope to receive their award at the Sefton Presentation evening which will take place in March 2018 - and progress to Silver level. If your son requires support with uploading reports, he can come to O16 after school from 3.15pm – 4.15pm on the following dates:

**Wednesday 11 October; Wednesday 18 October; Wednesday 8 November; Wednesday 22 November; Wednesday 6 December; Wednesday 13 December 2017.**

If he hasn't already done so, please encourage your son to log on to his edofe account very soon to enter his personal details/sectional information and evidence.

Log in details of username and password will have been sent by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to the email account provided on your son's registration form. If these have been mislaid or forgotten you can email: [patrice.ycp@live.com](mailto:patrice.ycp@live.com) who will be able to assist.

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

School photograph proofs have now been handed out to boys and orders need to be returned by the end of October please.

Mrs Ellis

**PE/SPORTS REPORT**

**WLM Open Taekwondo Championships**

Declan Sherrington and Jack Britton, both Year 10, fought at the WLM Open Taekwondo Championships at the weekend. They both earned a well-deserved Gold after two fights. They are pictured with Aaron Cook (Olympic Taekwondo athlete) and Bianca Walkden (Double World, Double European champion and Olympic medallist), together with a picture of Declan in action. Well done to both boys for this great achievement!



**Year 9 Football**

Our Year 9 team have put behind them the disappointment of losing their cup final in June last year and started this season well. Comprehensive victories over Stanley away 7-0 and Christ the King at home last night 7-2 mean the team are in a confident mood ahead of their upcoming cup matches at Range away and Mosslands away in the Merseyside Cup.

Mr Cunliffe

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## GREEN MACHINE

17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October is Energy Saving Week, which is a national campaign. The Citizens Advice, the Energy Saving Trust and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with the support of numerous organisations, charities and companies work together to help people. There are lots of simple ways to save money on your energy bills – like installing LED bulbs or getting your loft insulated. For more ideas about saving energy and therefore money, please go to their website.

Mrs Bradley

## BPA (BIRKDALE PARENTS ASSOCIATION) NEWS

### Cake Sale - Friday 13th October 2017

The BPA are holding a cake sale for the boys on Friday during morning break. Any cake donations can be sent into school on Friday morning to be given to the office. Please remember to send cash in with your son so he can taste a few!

REMEMBER - All profits go towards equipment/activities that benefit all boys at Birkdale High.

### Meeting and AGM

Reminder that the AGM and BPA meeting take place on Thursday 12 October at 7pm in room O12. Biscuits, a cuppa and a warm welcome will be waiting for any parent or carer. All new ideas are very gratefully received!!

### Year 7 Birkdale High & Greenbank Disco.

The BPA have arranged a Year 7 disco for Birkdale High boys and Greenbank girls.

This will take place on Wednesday 18 October at Birkdale High between 7pm - 9pm. Tickets are £3 each.

Tickets are on a first come first served basis, so to avoid disappointment, return your slip and payment as soon as possible. All boys should have received a form but in case this has been mislaid, please find one attached.

## SEFTON CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND FAMILY CENTRES

You may have already read in the press that Sefton Council are proposing changes to the current services and location of Sefton Children's Centres and Family Centres. If you would like to take part in the consultation on these proposals, details are attached to this newsletter. The consultation period ends on 17 November 2017.

## HOLY TRINITY YOUTH CLUB

Holy Trinity Youth Club are currently looking for Youth Group Leader Volunteers for their Youth Club in Southport. Details are attached to this newsletter.

Yours faithfully

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

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High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

**BPA**

**BIRKDALE PARENTS ASSOCIATION**



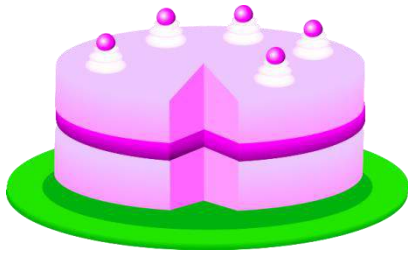
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TEL: 01704 577253

EMAIL: [BPA@BIRKDALEHIGH.CO.UK](mailto:BPA@BIRKDALEHIGH.CO.UK)



# Cake Sale

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October

## Morning Break

## In the Canteen

Don't forget to bring your cash!

Cake donations welcome Friday morning  
too.



Birkdale High School

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BPA

BIRKDALE PARENTS ASSOCIATION



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EMAIL: BPA@BIRKDALEHIGH.CO.UK

18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have organised an Autumn Disco for all Year 7 students from Birkdale High School and Greenbank.

The Disco will be at Birkdale High school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 7pm-9pm.

The cost is £3 and numbers are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis.

If your son would like to attend, he should take his money and form directly to the school office in an envelope marked Disco BPA. A register of who has paid will be taken and entry on the night will only be granted if you are on the register.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY REQUEST:**

- Please can all parents use the Liverpool Road entrance and park in school.
- No child will be allowed to leave the hall and quad area without an adult accompanying them unless they have written permission. Any letters are to be sent into school with your ticket request.

The Birkdale Parents Association will be running a tuck shop on the night so your son may require a small amount of money for snacks or beverages.

If you would like your son to attend please complete the reply slip below.

Yours sincerely,

Birkdale High School Parents Association

I give permission for

My son.....

Form group.....

to attend the Disco at Birkdale High School on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and enclose £3 payment. (Cheques payable to BHS BPA) and will make arrangements for him to be dropped off at 7pm and collected promptly at 9pm.

Signed.....(Parent/Guardian)

Emergency contact phone number (on the night).....



## URGENT – PLEASE GET INVOLVED

Dear Colleagues

You may have already read in the local press that the council are proposing changes to the current services and location of Sefton Children's Centres and Family Centres.

Proposals being considered are to redesign and potentially relocate services with the creation of three main Family and Wellbeing Centres across Sefton.

These proposals have the potential to impact on the current services we provide at :

**Linaker Children's Centre**

**Canning Road**

**Atkinson**

The only way to influence the services/location is by taking the time to fill in Sefton's Consultation on [engagespace.co.uk/sefton](https://engagespace.co.uk/sefton) or by attending one of our focus groups being set up during the consultation period from September 24<sup>th</sup> – November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Linaker Children's Centre has been open since 2006 and many of you will have accessed and supported families into the centre over the last few years. Sefton Council need to know why these services are so valuable at Linaker and what impact our support may have had on your families.

Currently these are just proposals and the council assures us no decision has been reached yet so we have an opportunity to influence what happens in the future.

The document is for parents, staff and professionals so please skip over any parts that are not relevant to you. However, your comments and feedback may make the difference to how services look in the future so please take the time to go online and contribute to the consultation.

Please get involved and share the link and information to friends, colleagues and families.

**Thank you**

**The Children's Centre Team at Linaker**

Linda Sue Kerry S Debbie Nicky Kristy Jenny Michelle Cathy Louise Alison  
Helen Kerry P Julia Joanne Lana Jan Dana & Donna



## **We are currently recruiting for Youth Group Leader Volunteers for our Youth Club in Southport**

This is a great opportunity to work with children / young people, gain experience and develop skills. Full training is available and you will be working as part of a wonderful team, and a fabulous bunch of children / young people.

Our aims are to provide a safe, secure and structured environment rooted in Christian values for children and young people to go to outside of school, at low cost, which offers them a sense of belonging, opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence and resilience for the future and have fun.

**We need volunteers to help run our Youth Club on alternate Friday's between 6.30pm -9.30pm.**

**If you are interested in joining us to work with our young people at HTYC Holy Trinity Youth Club  
Please contact Karen on 07902 798001**

**Or — [htycsouthport@gmail.com](mailto:htycsouthport@gmail.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/holytrinityyouthclub/](http://www.facebook.com/holytrinityyouthclub/)**

**HTYC, Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Hoghton St, Southport**