



Dear Parents and Carers

22 November 2017

We are all looking forward this week to welcoming back last year's Year 11 students for our annual GCSE Awards Evening. Last year's results were the best the school had achieved in many years, best for boys in Southport in all key measures and we think the best in Sefton for boys. It will therefore be a special evening and a chance to catch up and find out how they are getting on.

Talking of colleges, one of the most valued and sought after accreditations on any college or university application is a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. We are offering again this year the opportunity for boys to take the DofE award to Year 9s (Bronze) and Year 10s (Silver). We have had an excellent take up from the boys who did Bronze last year wanting to carry on with Silver but have had less interest regarding applications for Bronze than in previous years. This is a real shame as the DofE is a fantastic opportunity to develop skills, consolidate friendships and experience new things whilst getting one of the most recognised and valued extra-curricular awards. Should your son be interested or should you want to find out more about it yourself please email Ms Anslow at [kanslow@birkdalehigh.co.uk](mailto:kanslow@birkdalehigh.co.uk) who will send the details to you. I would hate for any of the boys to miss out on such an opportunity. Deadline for final registration and payment of deposit is 31 January 2018.

#### YEAR 8 POETRY BY HEART COMPETITION

All of Year 8 will be taking part in the English Department's Poetry By Heart Competition this half term. Your son needs to learn the poem 'War Photographer' by Carol Ann Duffy off by heart. Each Year 8 English class will select a class champion and each champion will go on to compete in a grand final in the library towards the end of this term – prizes will be awarded! Our judges will be looking for accuracy in reciting the poem as well as tone and gestures used to convey understanding. I have attached a copy of the poem if you wish to help your son and hear his recital. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Follett

#### War Photographer

In his dark room he is finally alone  
with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows.  
The only light is red and softly glows,  
as though this were a church and he  
a priest preparing to intone a Mass.  
Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slop in trays  
beneath his hands, which did not tremble then  
though seem to now. Rural England. Home again  
to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,  
to fields which don't explode beneath the feet  
of running children in a nightmare heat.

Something is happening. A stranger's features  
faintly start to twist before his eyes,  
a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries  
of this man's wife, how he sought approval  
without words to do what someone must  
and how the blood stained into foreign dust.

A hundred agonies in black and white  
from which his editor will pick out five or six  
for Sunday's supplement. The reader's eyeballs prick  
with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.  
From the aeroplane he stares impassively at where  
he earns his living and they do not care.

Carol Ann Duffy

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## HAVING A POSITIVE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Young people today are constantly reminded that the things they do and say online won't go away. Often we focus on the downsides of having a public and permanent digital footprint, but your child's online presence can be just as beneficial as it could be damaging.

You and your children have probably heard that compromising photos or inappropriate comments on social media could hurt their chances of finding a job or getting into university.

But while lots of employers and universities admit to looking up applicants online, it's better to have a positive digital presence than none at all. A thoughtful and carefully curated digital footprint that highlights your child's skills and interests could help them stand out in a good way. Here's how to help your child make their digital footprint work for them.

### 1. **Think before sharing**

It's not new advice, but thinking carefully before sending or posting is one of the most important parts of looking after your digital footprint. Instead of just holding back from posting inappropriate comments, your child should think about how everything they share fits into their online 'brand' – does it represent how they want others to see them?

### 2. **Use the right settings**

It's best to only post things you're happy to make public, but that doesn't mean there should be no separation between what you share with the world and with your friends. It's natural – and important – for your child to share some things publicly and restrict others to a smaller group of friends and family.

### 3. **Get involved**

Especially as young people get a bit older, a good digital footprint should reflect the things that are important to them. If your child is interested in writing, for example, they could start a blog to build up an online portfolio. They don't have to accept comments or posts from people reading it if they don't want to. And you don't have to share your own work to make your interests part of your digital footprint – the things you like and the people you follow matter too.

### 4. **Stay on top of things**

If your child is working to have a positive digital footprint they should check regularly to make sure it stays good. They can Google their name, or use tools on some social media platforms to see their activity or their profile from someone else's perspective.

### 5. **Be safety-conscious**

It's hard to have a positive online presence if you're not in control of what 'you' share. Your child should use good passwords and keep them private to keep anyone else from getting access to their accounts.

### 6. **Delete old accounts**

Social media platforms go out of fashion quickly, and yesterday's craze might be out of favour with your child today. Nothing posted online ever disappears completely, but it's best to delete old profiles instead of leaving them unattended.

### 7. **Stay careful**

Your child shouldn't overshare online in the interest of having a good digital footprint. They still need to think about using privacy settings and avoid giving out too much identifying information.

It's also worth reminding your child that their digital footprint isn't just what they share, it's what others say about them too. As a parent or carer, you might want to keep this in mind for your own posts as well. A positive digital footprint is a bonus, not a requirement.

Mr Moss

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## SKI COURSE 2018 – COURMAYEUR ITALY

Many thanks to parents who attended the Information evening on Monday. We hope the information has been useful to help you prepare for our trip to Courmayeur in February. Please note that the completed consent/permissions booklet is to be handed to Mr Milner by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Milner

## SKI COURSE 2019 –PILA ITALY

Please find, attached to this letter, details for our next available ski course to Pila, Italy. Any queries, please don't hesitate to ask Mr Milner at [azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk](mailto:azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk). Mr Milner

## FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION – WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

Rehearsals are underway for this year's festive performance which will take place in the Media Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 13 December. The evening will comprise a range of entertainment including 3 'potted pantomimes' which the GCSE students are busy preparing and which will be great fun for all the family!

The BPA will be serving refreshments and running a raffle during the evening so if you have any prizes to donate then please send these into school marked for my attention.

Tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay and tickets collected from Mrs Jeffery. £4 for adults and £2 for children. A poster is attached to this newsletter. Mrs Jeffery

## PE/SPORTS REPORT

### Rugby

The Year 7's continued will their rugby development with the Sharks and the Storm playing against Manchester Grammar A & B. In two closely contested games the games were lost 8-5 and 7-5. The boys are making great progress and they continue to improve with every game.

The Year 8s were in action last Wednesday against St Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst. In extremely muddy and wet conditions the boys struggled to adapt their brand of rugby going behind by four tries in the first half. The boys regrouped at half time and rallied round to score a few tries back second half to make the final score 7-5 to St Mary's Hall. On a positive the boys enjoyed a hot meal after the game and they all enjoyed the hospitality on offer.

On Saturday Mr Thorne and Mr Boyce are taking 14 pupils down to Twickenham to watch the last of the Autumn International Rugby Union matches between England and Samoa. Any boys going on the trip need to be at school for 6:25am on Saturday morning as we are leaving at 6:30am prompt. There is a meeting for all pupils going on the trip during Thursday morning registration in the canteen at 9am.

On a final note we have managed to purchase 2 tickets to the England vs. Wales Six Nations Rugby Union match at Twickenham on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 with a 4:45pm kick off. We will be doing a raffle launching next week on ParentPay with raffle tickets priced at £5 each. Any money raised will go towards developing the rugby at Birkdale High School. Mr Thorne

### South Africa Rugby Tour 2018

There is another fundraising backpack organised for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December between 10am and 3pm in Sainsbury's. All proceeds are going towards the boys' kit and tour cost. Letters went out to all 25 boys who are going on the trip but so far we have only had 7 replies.

It should be a really good opportunity to raise a good amount of fund with it being so near to Christmas. It is only 2 weeks on Saturday so please can you return any slips if you'd like your son to take part. If you have not received a letter, please let me know and I will forward one to you. Many thanks. Mr Boyce

### Football

The Year 8 team continued their unbeaten start to the season with a hard fought victory over Mosslands in the Merseyside Cup. The game ended 1-1 after extra time but the boys kept their nerve to win 4-2 on penalties with two excellent saves from Lucas Goodman. It was no more than the boys deserved. Despite dominating the first half, the boys were trailing 1-0 at half time but they never gave up and were rewarded late on with a brave header from captain Vincent Hartley to send the game into extra time. Birkdale continued to create more opportunities to score but unfortunately couldn't get the winner their overall play deserved. So onto penalties and after two great

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saves from Lucas and four well taken penalties from Birkdale, the boys were through to the next round of the cup. Special mention to Vincent Hartley who was excellent again, despite getting a few kicks from the opposition. He never complains and shows complete respect to the referee at all times. Also a special mention for Ben Snape who played superbly in his first full match for the Year 8 team at left back. Well done boys! Onto the next round we go!

Mr Ascough

### Quest Open Championships – Sheffield



Declan Sherrington, Jack Swain and Jack Britton competed in both Poomsae and Kyrogi (fighting) at the Quest Open Championships in Sheffield at the weekend.

Declan achieved a Silver Medal in Poomsae in the individuals category and after 3 fights he won a Silver Medal, narrowly missing out on Gold in the last 2 seconds to a GB team member.

Jack Britton won Gold in both the individual and pairs U17 categories and Jack Swain got a Bronze Medal in the individuals and a Gold Medal in pairs. Well done to all the boys!



### GREEN MACHINE

The Green Machine organised a presentation about Fracking after school yesterday. Those who attended found it really interesting – and concerning.

If you weren't able to attend, please ask your son to see me for some information about it.

Also, members of The Green Machine made Christmas gift tags, which we are offering for sale in aid of Red Squirrels, our chosen charity for this year, so from Monday onwards, these will be on sale. Please see Mrs. Bradley in the Hub.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November in Mrs. Marshall's room at lunch time. All welcome!

Thank you to all those who have faithfully brought in the milk bottle tops for recycling/making garden furniture for charity, especially Oliver in Year 8! Unfortunately, the people have stopped doing it. There are other initiatives using the tops, but I can't find any **locally**. The cost of posting is much greater than the bottle tops are worth. As they only make about a penny for every 80 tops, I don't really think it's worth it! So, I am sorry – no more bottle tops, thank you! If you DO know of anything locally, please let me know as soon as possible!

Mrs Bradley

### PARENT CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

A relaxed weekly drop-in meeting for parents or carers of children with additional needs and disabilities is held at the Southport and Alchemy Centre in Mornington Road, Southport on Wednesdays during term time from 9.30am until 11.10am. Further details are attached to this newsletter.

Yours faithfully

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

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November 2017

**SKI COURSE 2019 (FEB HALF TERM - PILA, ITALY)**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Following the fantastic success of this year's ski trip to Winter Park (Colorado) and 2018's trip to Courmayeur (Italy) now being fully booked, I am happy to inform you that we now have places available for February half term 2019. By booking this far in advance, we have managed to secure a price match for our current trip and we also appreciate that many parents value the extra time to budget for such experiences for their son(s).

We have provisionally booked the resort of Pila, located in the Aosta valley in the North West of Italy. We have skied there as a school group a number of times and know the area and its facilities well. The ski company's 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 fun 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 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 total cost of the trip is £1029 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 in a modern hotel 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 from the company or purchased at fairly low costs online and locally) or evening entertainment packages.

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

- Initial (non refundable) deposit of £100 with returned reply slip or via ParentPay.
- Second (non refundable) deposit of £100 **by 26 January 2018**
- Third (non refundable) deposit of £100 **by 23 February 2018**
- Remaining balance of £729 **by 8 November 2018**

After the deposits are paid, you can obviously pay via instalments to suit you either via cheque or Parentpay (payment cards are available upon request). Please write 'Ski Trip ITALY 2019' 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 2019 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](mailto:azmilner@birkdalehigh.co.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Milner (Ski Course Organiser)

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**REPLY SLIP: SKI COURSE 2019 – PILA, ITALY**

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

I would like my son \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_  
to be included on the 2019 ski trip to Pila, 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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BIRKDALE HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS



# A VERY MERRY PANTO

DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2017 – MEDIA HALL

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM/SHOW STARTS 7PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA PARENTPAY

£4 ADULTS/£2 CHILDREN



**Birkdale  
High School**

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

## Special Time

# Parent Carers Support Group

A relaxed weekly group for  
parents and carers of children with  
additional needs and disabilities

**Southport and  
Alchemy Centre,  
The Lodge,  
Mornington Road,  
Southport, Merseyside  
PR9 0TS  
Tel: 01704 380047**

**Drop-in**  
Every Wednesday  
09:30 - 11:30  
Term Time  
Southport

- Information
- Peer Support
- Therapeutic Sessions
- Yoga
- Guest Speakers

Sefton Carers Centre, 27 - 37 South Road, Waterloo, L22 5PE. 0151 288 6060. [www.sefton-carers.org.uk](http://www.sefton-carers.org.uk) [help@carers.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:help@carers.sefton.gov.uk)

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