



Dear Parents and Carers

13 February 2019

This week is orange week! Every year, with all the other 30 primary and secondary schools in the Southport Learning Partnership, we take part in a fundraising event in support of a local cause. In the past we have raised funds for Queenscourt Hospice or for the local food bank. This year the student representatives on the SLP School Council project have elected to wear orange this Friday to support the Muscular Dystrophy Society as it is a degenerative disease that affects their friends in some of our local schools. The boys will be allowed on Friday to wear their own clothes with 1 item of Orange and will be asked for a £1 donation that will be sent to the Muscular Dystrophy Society. We hope that you will all be able to support this very worthwhile charity that does so much for children and adults affected by this terrible disease.

Our second set of mock exams are about to start after half term. All the Year 11 students now have a significant amount of revision to do and these mocks should provide them with a clear focus for the next few weeks. Please continue them to support them and to encourage them to do as much revision as possible over half term.

YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING – THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2019

The year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 28 February 2019 from 3.45pm – 7.00pm. Further details and instructions on how to make appointments online are attached to this newsletter. The system went live on Thursday 7 February 2019.

YEAR 11 ENGLISH REVISION SESSIONS

Following our targeted programme of English intervention, we are now opening up our Monday after school slot to all Year 11 students. Each week there are three sessions on offer for students to choose from covering both English Literature and English Language. Please discuss the attached timetable of sessions with your son and guide him in choosing the most appropriate sessions. All students will be issued with a loyalty card and can achieve 'amazing' prizes when they have attended the required number of sessions.

Mrs Keating

SCARISBRICK HALL SCIENCE TRIP

On Wednesday 6 February a group of Year 10 and Year 9 Triple Science pupils went to Scarisbrick Hall School to attend a lecture given in partnership with the University of Manchester. The lecture was entitled "Double Helix History" and was presented by Dr Jerome de Groot. Dr De Groot spoke about science, ethics, being human, the future of the species and identity. The experience was enjoyed by all, and the pupils who attended are to be commended for their excellent conduct and participation.

There will be further events run by the University of Manchester at Scarisbrick Hall this year. These will be advertised in the summer term.

Ms Flood

THE CLASSROOM

Attached to this newsletter is a snapshot of some of the effective teaching happening in our classrooms.

Mr Hudson

BPA NEWS

200 Club

Following the introduction of new GDPR rules, we have sent out forms to all those members of the 200 Club who have yet to complete the new form. The forms have been sent via email if we have your email address or via your son, so please be on the look out for it.

If you would prefer a paper copy of the form, please email BPA@birkdalehigh.co.uk and one will be printed and sent home with your son.

PLEASE, PLEASE return the completed form, we cannot contact you if you are a lucky winner without it.

Donations to BPA

As you are hopefully already aware, Birkdale Parents Association run a number of fund raising activities such as Cake Sales, Comedy Bingo Nights, 200 Club, etc...

We do appreciate, however, that everyone is very busy and school events are not the only demand on your time and may be low on your list of priorities. A few parents have contacted us, however, to tell us that although they

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are unable to attend or support us with their time, they would be more than happy to make small (or maybe even big?) donations to help our efforts and ultimately the boys. We have therefore set up a section on ParentPay for you to do just that, should you be interested. You can make a donation at any time during the year or in support of a particular event.

In the past the Parents Association has been able to supply the school with basketball hoops on the yards, CCTV equipment, Maths e-learning packages, books for the new library and sports equipment as well as many other "extras" for ALL boys at Birkdale High.

Please feel free to make a donation through ParentPay or attend our next event. Please follow this link for the parentPay page <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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THE WEEK IN TWEETS

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS Follow

Another visitor and future teacher impressed with the school and the Maths department: 'I really enjoyed the day! If I got Birkdale as one of my placements, I would be very happy.' Nice to make such a good 1st impression! #effectiveteaching #memorableteaching

9:32 am - 11 Feb 2019 From Birkdale High School

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS Follow

So pleased to have hosted @Cambridge_Uni University for a Choosing A levels and Accessing Competitive Universities session today. We've also welcomed @greenbankhs along. A year in October is application deadline! #happeningtofast

10:06 am - 7 Feb 2019 From North West, England

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS Follow

Next Friday we will be raising funds along with every other school in the @SouthportLP for our Love My Community annual event . We are hoping everyone will wear something orange for @MDUK_News muscular dystrophy society. More details on Monday

8:51 am - 8 Feb 2019 From Birkdale High School

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS · 31m

Birkdale High School completing the SMILE challenge with help from BOOTS, Greenbank High School and Stanley High School #payitforward

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS Follow

Birkdale High School making homeless people smile with colleagues from Gennbakk and Stanley #smile

Birkdale High Art @BirkdaleHS_Art Follow

Another finished piece today this time by Year 11 Ellis Watterson. #portrait #photorealism

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS Follow

A fantastic experience today organised by Mrs Edwards, our Careers Adviser, for our Y11 future legal eagles. They spent today finding out about routes into legal careers with @LpoolLawSociety . A lot of hard work ahead but the boys are ready for the challenge!!!

Birkdale High School @BirkdaleHS Follow

Well done to the @BirkdaleHS team on winning the inter-schools Kyrpton Factor science challenge at @RunshawCollege today #proudtoteacher

Birkdale High Maths @BirkdaleMaths Follow

A great morning @StPhilsCofE! Well done to year 5 on taking part in the @BirkdaleHS Maths challenge! We look forward to seeing the winning team at Birkdale High for an Escape Room Challenge!

1:28 pm - 12 Feb 2019

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Birkdale High School

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06/02/19

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Year 9 Parents evening is on February 28th from 3.45pm to 7pm

As this is a critical year for your son's education, please make every effort to attend with your son in full uniform.

Go to <http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/birkdalehigh>

PLEASE NOTE: You need to type this address into your website browser's 'address bar'. Do not try to 'Google' this website address or use a search engine as that will not work. This is a common mistake on phones and tablets especially.

Login to see which appointments are available and select the one that is convenient for you.

You will need:

- Your child's first name and surname
- Your child's date of birth

The system will go live for bookings to be made on Thursday 7th February at 12.00 and will be open to take your bookings until February 28th at 12.00.

Once you have logged in, we suggest you use the 'Automated Booking' wizard to make your appointments. You will be asked to enter your availability and choose which teachers you want to see before being shown the most efficient order for visiting those teachers on the night.

Troubleshooting Tips –please read before booking!

- To log in you need to enter the details we have on record for you and your child. If you have recently changed your title or surname, for example, and not informed us, we will be expecting you to log in with the details we have on record
- The email address you enter is only used to receive a confirmation of your appointment. If the system gives you an error when you log in, it will not be the email address that is the problem
- If you have several children to make bookings for, use the 'Change Child' button on the blue bar (above the school's name) in the very top left corner of the Parent's Booking Page to swap between your children. *This does not apply to the Booking Wizard, where your children are tabbed above the teacher names*

If you are unable to book at home, please call the school office where a member of staff will help you.

Thank You

Mr B Thorne
HOY 9.

GCSE English Language & Literature Revision Sessions



Monday 25 th February 3.20 – 4.00	‘Kamikaze’ and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The Structure Question Mrs Keating G16	Descriptive Writing Ms Hunter G9
Monday 4 th March 3.20 – 4.00	‘Macbeth’ Character analysis Miss Kelly U10	‘A Christmas Carol’ Character Analysis Miss Daly G13	Writing skills – vocabulary Mrs Keating G16
Monday 11 th March 3.20- 4.00	‘London’ and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The Evaluation Question Mrs Keating G16	Leaflet Writing Ms Hunter G9
Monday 18 th March 3.20 – 4.00	‘Macbeth’ Themes Miss Kelly U10	‘A Christmas Carol’ Themes Miss Daly G13	Viewpoint Writing: Developing a convincing argument Ms Wynne U12
Monday 24 th March 3.20- 4.00	‘Remains’ and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The Synthesis Question (summarising two texts) Mrs Keating G16	Narrative Writing Ms Hunter G9
Monday 1st April 3.20- 4.00	‘Macbeth’ context Miss Kelly U10	‘A Christmas Carol’ context Miss Daly G13	Writing skills – varied punctuation Ms Wynne U12
EASTER BREAK			
Monday 22 nd April 3.20 – 4.00	‘Poppies’ and how to compare Mr McCarthy U14	The comparing the writers’ views Question Mrs Keating G16	Letter Writing Ms Hunter G9
Monday 29 th April 3.20- 4.00	‘Macbeth’ exam technique Miss Kelly U10	‘A Christmas Carol’ themes Miss Daly G13	Writing skills – varying sentences Ms Wynne U12

The Classroom (Spring 1)

A half-termly snapshot of some of the effective pedagogy happening in our classrooms:

Reading along = cognitive overload? (Mrs Follett)

David Didau argues that asking students to follow along a text as we read it out loud can cause cognitive overload as both visual and phonological loops are working hard. He argues that working memory capacity is tied up with decoding so there is little room left to think about meaning - especially if they are then trying to block out the reader's voice to process it. Having reflected on this, I am trialling students reading in silence first, then quizzing them or asking them to form their own questions based on the reading. This is not to say there is not a place for reading out loud as lower attaining students in particular massively benefit from hearing the rhythmic patterns and pronunciations. Didau questions whether expecting these students to follow along at the same speed as we are reading is realistic, or as essential as we might assume..

Variation theory and modelling - silently (Mrs Thompson)



The concept is that when I do an example on the board I do it **in silence**. This way the boys have to really concentrate and ask themselves the questions as to why I am doing each step. It also makes me really think about what I need to write down.

I will then ask someone in the class to talk through each line of working and we discuss as a class before the boys complete a very similar example by themselves.

After that the boys complete a series of questions where each one **varies only slightly** from the one before sometimes increasing in difficulty, sometimes it is how the question is worded.

For more enthusiasm for silent teaching
[click here](#)

RESEARCH IN OUR ROOMS

Mrs Thompson's advice to use silence when modelling links heavily with Cognitive Load Theory (CLT) and in particular research on removing inessential information.

I've put [a link here](#) to a great resource on CLT in the classroom. Strategy 4 is relevant to what we're discussing here. By being silent Mrs Thompson is not only encouraging engagement but also prevents Working Memory Overload i.e. her students aren't trying to make sense of both auditory and visual information

