

Dear Parents and Carers

11 September 2019

Welcome to the new academic year and our first newsletter. As always it has been a tremendously busy week but an incredibly enjoyable one as the new Year 7s seem to have settled very quickly and made a great impression on all of us. This was the first time the school has been oversubscribed in many years and the new boys have all arrived eager to learn and settle into their new environment. Well done! The Year 11 prefects and Year 8 peer mentors have made a very committed start to their new roles and all the students seem to have come back with renewed focus and maturity. Again, well done and keep it up!

I cannot start the year without mentioning results and how proud we are of last year's cohort. Results' day was a very positive event with more boys arriving early than ever before to share in each other's celebrations having achieved the grades needed for their respective post-16 destinations. We continue to outperform boys nationally and have improved on last year's performance in almost every headline measure, and all indications are that, with continued hard work, next year's will be even better. As we do every year, we have also identified areas for continued improvement and we will focus all our energies on addressing them in order to provide your sons with the best possible educational outcomes in order for them to secure their future pathways and lifelong success.

This week is dominated by next Monday's Open Evening. This is an important event in the school calendar as it showcases the work we do to prospective parents. It is also a key opportunity for students to support their school by acting as our ambassadors on the night. As parents, you will know yourself that one of the main deciding factors when selecting a school is the opportunity to meet students and ask questions on Open Evening. Please continue to encourage your son to attend and take part as a tour guide or in an individual subject area. One of the proudest moments of my year as Headteacher is to hear the comments visitors come and share with me on the night about the confidence, manners and engagement the boys have impressed them with. Year after year they are a credit to our school and to you as their parents and carers. Years 7 and 8 students can also use Open Evening as one of their Leadership tasks to be logged against their final LORIC award!

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 12.15pm FOR STUDENTS FOR OPEN EVENING ON MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2019.

UNIFORM

As we have already started with some wet and cold weather please remember to check our uniform rules before making any purchases. We keep rules very simple to help parents and carers but we do expect all students to abide by them. Coats, for instance, have to be plain black or blue and no other colour is acceptable. Shoes have to be black with no other colour showing, leather or leather looking, without any logos of any kind. There is full guidance on our website.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Year 7 Individual and Form group photographs will take place at 1.10pm on Tuesday 17 September 2019
Years 9 and 11 photographs will be done on 24 September 2019.

BARSTONDALE TRIP FOR YEAR 7 – MONDAY 23 AND TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

Monday night was the Year 7 parents/carers meeting for the Barstondale trip. It was lovely to meet so many new Year 7 parents again but even better to be able to praise the new students for the incredible way in which they have settled in the school. Well done all!

Mr Carter

THE CLASSROOM

Please find our most recent copy of 'The Classroom' attached to this newsletter. These will provide an insight into some of the pedagogy used at Birkdale and the educational research behind it.

Mr Hudson

Registered office address:

Windy Harbour Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 3DT
Tel: 01704 577253 Fax: 01704 570451
mail@birkdalehigh.co.uk www.birkdalehigh.co.uk

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REVISION GUIDES FOR YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Parents and Carers of Year 10 & Year 11 students have the opportunity to purchase a 'How to Revise Guide' for the discounted price of £2.50 - this is half the usual retail price. The guide includes lots of tips about studying, organisation and planning your time, memory techniques and creating revision timetables.

If you would like to purchase one of these books please use ParentPay to make payment - the deadline for orders is 1 October 2019.

Mrs Nightingale

SPORTING SUCCESS – HENRY WATKINSON

Congratulations to Henry Watkinson who competed in Poomsae on Saturday and earned a Bronze medal - brilliant considering the tough category; kyorugi (fighting) on Sunday - first Open competition. We look forward to hearing about your next success. Well done Henry!

Mrs Nightingale



THE GREEN MACHINE



For the benefit of our new boys and their families, I would just like to mention our School's Green Machine, a group for any boys and staff who are concerned about looking after the environment and encouraging others to take an interest too.

We meet every other Monday at lunch time in Mrs. Marshall's room (O2) A list of dates will be available in next week's letter, together with examples of some of the things we've done. New members are always welcome. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for activities, or speakers on green-related topics, please let me know (ABradley@birkdalehigh.co.uk)

September is Swap for Good September. Details are attached.

Mrs Bradley

CELEBRATE

Celebrate, formerly known as 'The Christian Club', is a drop-in style club held every Wednesday at lunch time in G15. It offers a safe, welcoming atmosphere for all boys from Year 7 to Year 11, whatever their religion, faith or ethnic background. You don't have to be a Christian to attend!

We begin by chatting and getting to know each other. We play games such as Dobble and Jenga. During the session, there is the opportunity for boys to ask questions about life and important issues. Towards the end of the session, we have a TMT (three minute thought) when one of the leaders gives a short message, often based on something in the news or their own lives. Sometimes there is a challenge to do during the week. Boys are often invited to Youth events - silent discos, concerts etc. at which they can meet up with youngsters from other similar groups and hear more about the faith.

Sometimes, we reach out to the rest of the school community by sharing God's love, usually around Valentine's Day, when we give out sweets and fruit with the message "Because you're loved".

All boys welcome!

Mrs Bradley

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Birkdale High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed



Headteacher:
Mr G Y Bourgade

BPA NEWS

Hello and welcome back. We hope that you all had a great summer. The first meeting this term will take place on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 7.00pm. Please come to the main reception where a member will meet you. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on offer.

This meeting will also include our AGM. We expect both meetings to be finished by 8.30pm at the latest. Any new ideas for fundraising and any new helpers will be gratefully received!!!

We look forward to seeing you. If you'd like to get in touch beforehand, please contact us on BPA@birkdalehigh.co.uk

BACK TO BASICS YOUTH CLUB

YCP are running a Back to Basics Youth Club at Meols Cop Youth Centre on Wednesdays from 6.00pm-8.00pm, starting today. Further details are attached to this newsletter.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

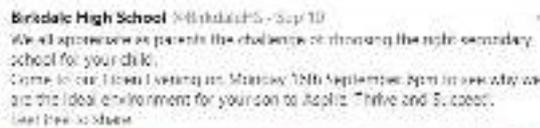
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THE WEEK IN TWEETS



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The Classroom

Sharing some of the effective pedagogy happening in our classrooms and how this can be used by parents and students to improve outcomes

Opportunity to learn: No mobile phones



From a teaching and learning perspective there is no doubt that access to small computers within a lesson has great potential; they allow students to research, complete quizzes and many more things which would assist in learning. HOWEVER the negatives, in terms of long term development of knowledge, considerably outweigh the positives and, as the research below details, simply being in the vicinity of mobile phones is clearly detrimental to the outcomes of our boys. At Birkdale we are dedicated to maximising the *opportunity to learn* that our students have - indeed in my own classroom you will see my favourite quote from Daniel Willingham: 'Memory is the residue of thought'; what this tells us is that if my students are going to have any chance of remembering the relevant piece of knowledge they need, they must *at least* have thought about that thing when being taught it. It is a huge support to me as a teacher to know that, despite the other distractions which I will try to minimise in lessons (I know only too well the comotion a rogue wasp can cause), I will not have to contend with a buzzing or simply thought of a mobile phone. Much of the material I cover in lessons is complex and difficult to embed in long term memory but we've just had one more obstacle removed.

What does the research say?

- There are numerous and wide ranging research into the impact of mobile phones in outcomes.
- Thornton et al. (2014) found that the mere presence of a mobile phone led to a 20% reduction in attention. At Birkdale we believe that attention to the task is the first stage of learning and so even the smallest reduction in focus is concerning.
- In a recent survey 81% of students reported never turning their phones off. That means that the thought of their phones was a continual distraction.
- Wood et al. (2013) found that time in mobile phones at night resulted in 20% less melatonin being released. Good quality sleep is one of the best and easiest ways to increase performance.
- Beland and Murphy (2015) stated that students who attend a school that have banned phones receive on average a 6.4% increase in exam results. This rose to a 14% boost for struggling students.

What can parents do?



- Recognise that limiting time on mobile phones at home and replacing them with educational time (quizzes, detailed discussions about topics, asking your child to link one topic with another etc.) will significantly improve the likelihood of success for your child - this may not be what your child *wants* but it is what is best for him.
- Read the research around mobile phone usage and the impact on outcomes.
- Support teachers in our approach - we are all working for the same outcome: improved life chances for your child.

What can students do?



- Revise a topic / complete homework with your mobile phone **TURNED OFF** and see the difference.
- Follow the school rules on the use of mobile phones closely - they are there for your benefit.
- Reflect on how much time you spend on your phone and consider how much progress you would make if you used that time to study.
- Instead of looking on the internet about a topic complete a self-quiz and then read through your exercise book / reading material to see how you did.

CGP



How to Revise

for GCSE

New!



Study Skills &

Revision Planner

Unbeatable advice from the revision experts!

Includes **Free** Online Edition

*Free
Sample Copy*

CGP



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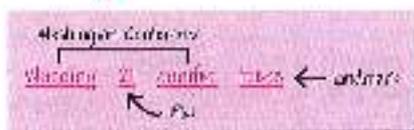
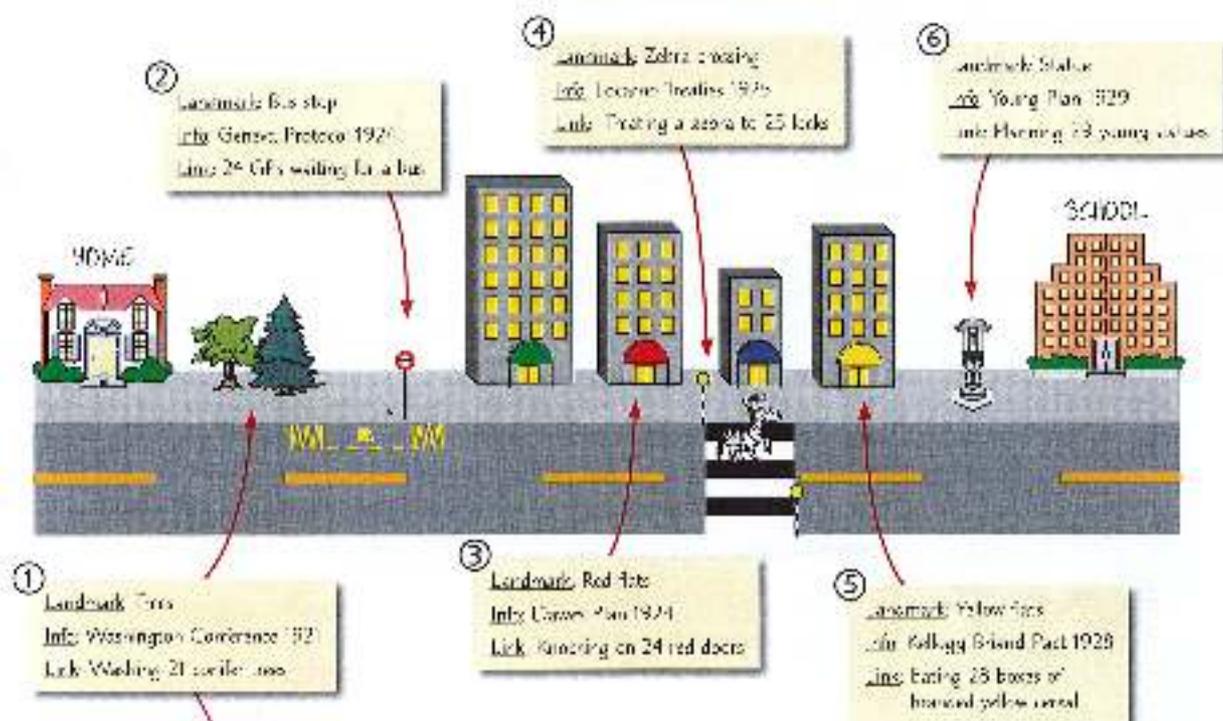
The Memory Journey

EXAMPLE:

Here are the names and dates of some historical agreements that were made in the 1920s.
Underneath is a memory journey which uses my walk to school to remember them:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Washington Conference 1921 | 4. Locarno Treaties 1925 |
| 2. Geneva Protocol 1924 | 5. Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928 |
| 3. Dawes Plan 1924 | 6. Young Plan 1929 |

The journey is there to link your memory but you still need to learn the topics they're about in depth.



This shows you how the links can be made — the different parts of the sentence link together so that your mind can recall the information.

Now if only I could remember where I put my passport...

Plan each journey carefully and go over it until you don't make any mistakes. Keep it simple though or you might confuse yourself — washing 24 zebras because they are boxes of yellow GPs won't get you any marks...



Waste less, Live more is back

This September, we want to help you discover all of the simple ways you could make a #SwapForGood.

We'll be sharing simple sustainable swaps we could all be making to help reduce single-use.

By wasting less and reducing our impact on the environment, we can improve our own (and others) health and happiness.

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)

Before we go...



#CUPCHARGE PETITION

Can you please spare two minutes to sign our urgent petition for a surcharge on single-use cups?

[**SIGN OUR PETITION**](#)



COMPETITION TIME

Find out how you can enter our competition to win some sustainable goodies!

[**ENTER THE COMPETITION**](#)



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BACK TO BASICS

YOUTH CLUB

WEDNESDAYS

6 – 8:30PM

SCHOOL YEAR 8 +

MEOLS COP YOUTH CENTRE

£2 PER WEEK

MEET WITH YOUR MATES IN A SAFE PLACE

HAVE FUN / PLAY GAMES / GET INVOLVED

**OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF WHICH
SCHOOL THEY ATTEND!**

STARTS 11th SEPTEMBER 2019

CALL US FOR MORE INFO: 07855 296 759