

Dear Parents and Carers

8 January 2020

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year for 2020 and welcome the boys back for the spring term. Although this is just the first week back, we have a packed newsletter.

We also have a busy year ahead of us and I have summarised below the events which are taking place this term. Further details will be communicated to you in due course.

Thursday 16th January - Year 11 Intervention Evening

Monday – Friday (20th – 24th January) – Year 8 Internal examinations

Tuesday 21st January – Year 9 Tracking Report sent home (during the week)

Tuesday 21st January – Year 11 Interviews for Southport College and KGV

Thursday 23rd January – Year 11 Interviews for Runshaw College

Tuesday 28th January – Year 7 Tracking Report sent home (during the week)

Thursday 30th January – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Monday 3rd February – Year 8 HPV Injections

Wednesday 5th February – PSHCE Day (Year 8 going to Southport College for the day)

Thursday 6th February – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Half Term – Monday 17th February until Friday 21st February

Monday 2nd March (two weeks) Year 11 Second Mock Fortnight

Tuesday 3rd March – Year 8 Options Evening

Thursday 12th March – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 16th March (two weeks) Year 10 Internal Examinations

Sunday 29th March – Thursday 2nd April – Paris Trip

YEAR 8 EXAMS – MONDAY 20 TO WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020

All Year 8 boys will be sitting their internal exams the week after next. A copy of the exam timetable is attached at the end of this letter. Good attendance is, as always, imperative in ensuring that students make the best possible progress in school. During the examination period, we are hoping that we can have all boys in school, every day. If your son is unwell on the day of an exam and is unable to attend, he will be required to take any exam missed on his return to school. Please encourage your son to spend time revising, and remind him to bring all the equipment he will need for the exams in a clear, plastic wallet. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Mrs Duffy

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Your son received his mock exam results in school yesterday morning. He was asked to reflect upon them, and to identify both his strengths and any areas for improvement. He was also reminded of the importance of making every lesson count, and encouraged to take advantage of the additional support offered by his teachers over the coming months. Now he must embark on a structured revision programme in order to ensure that he does everything he can to improve, where necessary, in preparation for his final exams in the summer.

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Staff have also reviewed all results and, in the case of specific issues or concerns, are currently identifying students whose parents they would like to meet in order to discuss additional steps to support improvement. These parents will be contacted to arrange a meeting at the Intervention Evening on Thursday 16 January 2020.

If you as a parent have any concerns about your son's performance in a specific subject, or regarding his revision programme and the provision of intervention; please do not hesitate to contact the relevant teachers.
Mrs Duffy

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

A reminder to parents that our school uniform supplier has changed. Our new supplier is Monkhouse Schoolwear who have a shop at 138A College Rd, Liverpool L23 3DP.

Monkhouse are also opening a new shop in Waterloo, but unfortunately the opening of this has been delayed until Monday 20 January 2020. The old Kitted Out shop has now closed.

Parents can order uniform via Click & Collect or via the website. If parents order by Click & Collect, the items will be delivered to school and will be available for collection on Fridays. Please include names on these orders so they are easily identified when they come into school.
Mrs Manwaring

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

We just wanted to take a moment to remind parents about the mobile phone policy. The full policy is available online but below is the first section for your reference.

The use of Mobile Phones

Birkdale High School accepts that mobile phones (and other portable devices) are now part of young people's culture and way of life and can have considerable value, particularly in relation to individuals' safety. Whilst having clear benefits, they can also present a considerable distraction to students' learning and engagement. We understand that students may wish to carry a mobile phone in order to contact their parents in an emergency whilst travelling to and from school. Mobile phones can, however, lead to safeguarding and well-being concerns such as digital addiction, online bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate internet usage. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of mobile phones, the purpose of the policy is to ensure that the negative effect they can have is minimised within school and that we promote a healthy, balanced approach to mobile technology with our students.

For these reasons, students' use of mobile phones is not permitted during school hours. Mobile phones are expected to be **turned off** at the school gate and should **not be seen or heard** whilst students are on school property.

At the end of the school day, students are only allowed to use their phone once they have exited the site. Students must be beyond the school gates before their mobile phone should be in view.

There are no justifiable reason why students should have their phone out at any point during the school day. If students are caught with their phone out during the school day, whether actively using it or not, their phone will be confiscated. If there is an emergency which requires communication with home, students must speak to a member of staff (teaching or support) who will deal with the matter. Likewise, if parents need to contact their son they must do so through the school office.
Mr Pryor

KGV MASTERCLASSES FOR YEAR 11

KGV's Masterclasses are once again taking place this January on Wednesday afternoons from 4.00pm – 5.00pm. To book their place, Year 11 students need to go to KGV's [website](#), and fill out a form. (There is a button on the Masterclasses event page that says 'Book now'). They can attend all or any of the sessions. Further details are attached to this newsletter.
Mr Marshall

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POETRY BY HEART COMPETITION

During the next 2 weeks all Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in POETRY BY HEART. Over the Christmas holiday they should have learnt ONE poem from the 2 choices below (they are short!) ready to perform to their ENGLISH teacher during their lesson.

Year 7

'Time' by Valerie Bloom <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/time/>

OR 'Five Years Old' by James Tate <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/five-years-old/>

Year 8

'Language of Cat' by Rachel Rooney <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/the-language-of-cat-2/>

'December' by Carol Ann Duffy <https://www.poetryarchive.org/poem/december>

The BEST performers will go through to a SEMI -FINAL in the Drama studio - this will take place after school on Tuesday 21 January.

FINALISTS will be asked to learn a SECOND poem to perform in the FINAL (date to be confirmed) and the OVERALL winner will have a video of their performance entered into the National competition - deadline is 14 Feb 2020.

More info available here: <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/about-the-competition/>

Good luck!!

Mrs Jeffery

GERAINT WOODTHORPE – JU JITSU



Geraint Woodthorpe attended the Preston Dojo in December for his latest Ju Jitsu grading.

He gained his Junior Black Belt in July and has just gained his Senior White Belt.

Congratulations and well done Geraint!

READING CLUB

Following on from the Christmas Holidays, Reading Club will re-commence on Monday 13 January 2020 with the same arrangements as previously: every Monday after school 3.15pm - 4.00pm in the library. Attendees receive a merit and term-long regular attendees are rewarded with an invitation to the end of term reward party. Juice and a snack are provided, pupils can bring their own reading material, continue with reading their class reader or borrow a book from library stock. Any queries - please see Mrs Bradley or Mrs Stirling (Teaching Assistants based in the Hub.) We look forward to seeing our regular attendees and any newcomers will be made very welcome.

Mrs Stirling



THE GREEN MACHINE

Maybe some of our boys have made a new year's resolution to do something to make a difference in the world. If so, that's fantastic! If not, **joining The Green Machine** could be something to consider! Our next meeting is on Monday 13 January in Mrs Marshall's room at lunch time. All welcome.

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May I remind everyone that if they have any **old Christmas cards** they don't want to keep, please bring them in to Mrs Bradley in the Hub. Also, any **used postage stamps** can be brought in - they will be trimmed, sold to dealers and the money raised will help The Leprosy Mission in their vital work of rehabilitating people whose lives have been ruined by the disease. Every boy at the school should have a box for **used batteries**. If, somehow, your son has not got one, please let me know and we'll put that right. It's important that batteries don't get thrown out with normal rubbish, as the harmful chemicals will make their way into the water system and contaminate it. If we all make little changes, they mount up and make a big difference!

Mrs Bradley

SCHOLASTIC SCHOOL BOOK FAIR – 15 JANUARY 2020

The Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving on Wednesday 15th January, featuring the very best books to inspire and entertain readers and earn free books and resources for our school. The Book Fair will run from the 15th to the 22nd of January and be available during lunchtimes in the library. Books will be sold at a discounted price and include a wide range of authors and genres. We will also receive new books for the library as Scholastic reward purchases with free books for the school.

Mrs Keating

BIKE MAINTENANCE COURSE

Woodvale and Ainsdale Community Association are running a 6 week bike maintenance course for young people aged between 12 and 19, which starts on 21 January 2020. Further details are attached to this newsletter.

Miss Nightingale

CHEERLEADING CLUB – 'EDDY'

Vortex Cheer run a cheerleading squad (called Eddy) for boys aged from 11 in our school on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is an opportunity to experience competitions, teamwork, discipline and extreme sport. Further details are attached to this newsletter.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

THE WEEK IN TWEETS – To view all our Tweets, please visit Twitter at @BirkdaleHS

Birkdale High School
@BirkdaleHS

Looking forward to all our students starting back today after the festive break. Wishing all our parents, carers and families a happy and prosperous New Year.

Chef de Party
@chef.de.party

@Frisinf @Shoreside1234 @birkdaleprimary Cooking Academy starts Saturday 11th January at Birkdale Boys High School. Book your place .. call mobile 07984153798 #cooking #food #chef #cook #healthyfood #healthy #foodies #littlechefs #learning #primaryteacher #homecooking #baking

CLASSES IN BIRKDALE AND CROSSBY

CHILDREN'S COOKING ACADEMY Starts 11th January 2020

5 WEEK COURSE Book your place!

PLEASE EMAIL FOR LATEST COURSES 7-12 YEARS ONLY

Extend your healthy Chef's on life's all about course. They will learn how to work together with the preparation of a recipe and make simple healthy recipes. Try new foods, explore current food trends and have lots of exciting healthy adventures!

Our specialist Academy Chefs in Quality Refresh courses often ensure your children will not be disappointed. We're committed

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Year 8 Exam Timetable 2020

| Date | | | Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 3 | Period 4 | Period 5 |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Week 2 | Monday | 20th January | English Writing | | | RE | |
| Week 2 | Tuesday | 21st January | French Writing | | French Reading | Geography | |
| Week 2 | Wednesday | 22nd January | History | | | English Reading | |
| Week 2 | Thursday | 23rd January | Spanish Writing | | Spanish Reading | Science | |
| Week 2 | Friday | 24th January | English Knowledge | | Maths (non-calculator paper) | Maths (calculator paper) | |
| Week 1 | Monday | 27th January | | | | Computer Science 8TE | Computer Science 8TA & 8TC |
| Week 1 | Tuesday | 28th January | | Computer Science 8TD | | | |
| Week 1 | Wednesday | 29th January | | | | Computer Science 8TB | |

Computer Science exams will take place in normal lessons
 French and Spanish speaking exams will take place in normal lessons the week following the formal exam period

EXPERT TEACHING FOR ASPIRING STUDENTS

KGV's Masterclasses are taking place this January! With lots of exciting subject areas delving into some fascinating topics that will really get you thinking, you're bound to discover something new and be enthused to learn more!

These fun and interactive sessions are a great way to find out what it is like to be a student here and offer pupils in Year 11 a chance to experience the fantastic teaching and facilities that are available.

If you would like to join us for this unique opportunity, then make sure to book your place by going to our website and filling out an online form.

**BOOK
NOW VIA
OUR WEBSITE**

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW AT WWW.KGV.AC.UK

KGV MASTERCLASSES WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS FROM 4-5PM

The classes will be taking place after school from 4-5pm, with *free pizza and snacks* available from 3:30pm. You can choose to attend all three weeks, or just come for one or two - whatever suits you! All Year 11 pupils are welcome and you can go to whichever class you would like; you don't need to have studied it before.

WED 15TH JAN

Fashion Photography
Photography & Textiles

Harry Potter Potions
Chemistry & Applied Science

Lawyers of Tomorrow
Law

"You're Hired!"
Business

Coaching Academy
PE & Sport

WED 22ND JAN

"Well, I may be super, but I'm no hero" - Inside Deadpool
Film, Media & Drama

Medical Diagnostics
Biology, Chemistry and H&SC

Is Climate Change fake news?
Geography & Politics

Cyber Security
Computer Science & IT

Ancient History in Hollywood
Ancient History & Classics

Does society dictate your world view?
Sociology & Philosophy

WED 29TH JAN

Hand Rendered & Digital Image Making
Fine Art & Graphic Design

Fundamentals of the Universe
Physics & Maths

Criminal Minds
Psychology

The trouble with English
English Lit & Lang

Hidden Histories
History & Politics

"Vamos al cine" - Talking about movies
Spanish

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

VISIT WWW.KGV.AC.UK AND FILL OUT A FORM



6 WEEKS OF PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS INCLUDING:

- How to mend a puncture
- Replacing a snapped chain
- Replacing gear and brake cables

TUESDAY EVENINGS

21ST JANUARY - 25TH FEBRUARY

6:30-8:30PM | £12 | AGE 12-19



To book on to this course email us at sarah.woodvalecentre@btconnect.com
or call us on 01704 573084

Held at: Woodvale Recreation Centre, Off Orchard Lane, PR8 3RG

VORTEX CHEER

WANT TO TRY A NEW SPORT? WANT TO BE PART OF A SUCCESSFUL TEAM? WANT TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND LEARN NEW SKILLS?

JOIN EDDY – THE BRAND NEW ALL MALE CHEER TEAM FOR AGES 11+

LEARN TO TUMBLE, STUNT, DANCE AND JUMP

TAKE PART IN COMPETITIONS

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

JOIN A NEW SPORT WHICH IS PERFECT FOR THOSE WITH DANCE OR GYMNASTICS EXPERIENCE WANTING A CHANGE

SATURDAYS 12-1PM AT BIRKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

CONTACT SIAN WHITELEY TO ENQUIRE:

M: 07881276309

E: SWHITELEY1006@GMAIL.COM

