



Dear Parents/Carers

Just like that, the GCSE exams have arrived! Good luck to all the boys sitting exams over the next 6 weeks. Remember that all staff in the school are here to support you throughout. Parents should be aware that all year 11 pupils were given a copy of the exam and revision booster timetable, as well as a separate booklet containing all the relevant information about exam regulations and arrangements. If any pupil still needs a copy of either booklet they can be obtained from the exams office.

This week our assembly theme has been Young Carers. The definition of a young carer is broad and we are encouraging all pupils who think that this might include them to make themselves known to the safeguarding team and specifically Mrs Rowlands. Please see further information below.

Finally, we have seen some great examples of charity awareness and fund raising in the last couple of weeks. This includes a large number of staff completing the StarTrek night walk in Southport for the Constantine house local charity, Queenscourt. Well done everybody!

YOUNG CARERS

This week our boys have had an assembly with Andrew from Sefton Young Carers. At Birkdale High we want to ensure that our boys feel supported, therefore we would like any boys who have any extra caring roles at home to come and see either Mrs Rowlands or Mrs Cassidy. We will help them to set up a group, which will offer a safe, non-judgemental and understanding space for those who wish to take part. See attached poster. Mrs Rowlands

BEDROCK VOCABULARY – TERM 3

Year 7 and 8 pupils continue to work hard on improving their vocabulary this term! Bedrock Vocabulary is a fantastic online resource used across Year 7 and 8 to boost vocabulary knowledge and retention. Pupils earn points for each of the activities, quizzes and units completed. Logging in is straightforward as pupils can use their Google log in details, rather than needing a separate username and password. We reset the points each term and publish a range of achievements including most improved, highest progress and highest points scorers. This **term - since the 15th April - our highest points scorers and most improved students** are as follows:

The **highest points** achievers **so far this summer term** are:

- Year 7: Tyler Mawdsley (233 points), Seth McNamara (188 points) and James Snape (166 points)
- Year 8: Tennant Parry (204 points), Charlie McLoughlin (152 points) and Owen Marlowe (150 points).

Our **most improved** students **so far this summer term** are:

- Year 7: Alfie Logan, Daniel Thomas and Eddie Thompson
- Year 8: Oliver Minto, Jeeno Tinrach and Jack Brown

Some superb scores and improved attainment! Very well done!

Pupils aim to achieve at least 20 points each week to ensure that they maximise their learning potential. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 are showing a real commitment to improving their vocabulary by completing their weekly lessons and homework. The current Bedrock competition of the academic year finishes on the 26th May. To be in the running, students need to earn an average of **20 points on**

Bedrock each week. Students who meet these criteria will be automatically entered into the draw.
Good luck!

Mrs Keating

YEAR 11 PROM

We are looking for donations for raffle prizes for our Year 11 prom. Any items you may have, big or small, would be much appreciated. Please hand to the school office for Mrs Cassidy. Mrs Cassidy

QUEENSCOURT HOSPICE STAR TREKK – FRIDAY 3 MAY 2024



Thank you to the 20 members of staff who took part in the Queenscourt Hospice Star Trek last Friday 3 May 2024, and to all those people who sponsored them via our Just Giving page https://www.justgiving.com/page/birkdalehighschool2024?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fbirkdalehighschool2024&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

We have raised £405 via the Just Giving page and £400 through registration fees, giving a total so far of £805 for Queenscourt Hospice, one of our House charities. Mr Marshall

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY – HELLDIVERS 2

With a peak simultaneous player count of almost 500,000, it's safe to say that Helldivers 2 has taken the games industry by storm, attracting a wide array of fans from all over the world and – more importantly – from various age groups. Many young gamers are actively playing this title, both with friends and with strangers via online multiplayer – despite the game's 18+ rating

Unfortunately, the gore and violence of Helldivers 2 (combined with its in-game purchases and the ability to play with unfamiliar people online) present significant online safety concerns for its younger players. This Wake up Wednesday, our guide (attached) explores these issues in detail and advises on minimising the risks to children and young people.

RECYCLING

School is no longer accepting used tablet blister packs for recycling. These can currently be recycled at all Superdrug stores, and Tesco, Boots and Aldi are looking to recycle them also. Any unused tablets should always be returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. Mrs Donker

PERIOD X – ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Full details of after school clubs and activities are attached to this newsletter, including the sports X timetable for this term.

DO WE HAVE ANY PARENTS WHO WORK IN IT, COMPUTER SCIENCE/COMPUTING, DIGITAL MEDIA, WEB/GRAPHIC DESIGN, MEDIA PRODUCTION OR ANY SIMILAR BUSINESS/INDUSTRY?

We would like to give the boys the opportunity to learn more about jobs in these areas so they can see how their work in school relates to future careers, and to support knowledge they need for their exams in Computer Science and iMedia. If you would be willing to give a short talk and Q&A session to groups of boys about your job role, either in person or remotely, we would be really interested in hearing from you. Please get in touch with school and Miss Watson will get back to you to arrange.

Thank you.

Miss Watson

Yours faithfully



Mr Gareth Banks
Headteacher