

head'sherald

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Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum and Assessment

Year 11 Mock Results Day

On Friday 6th January, Year 11 had their Mock Results assembly in the school hall. It was lovely to see how seriously Year 11 were taking their Mock results. Their anticipation as they entered the hall was clear to see. Mr Koltan delivered a presentation at the start of the assembly giving the year group some clear key dates. Year 11 only have 10 school weeks until Easter. After Easter students only have 4 school weeks until the real GCSE exams start. Mr Koltan set a challenge for the Year group. All students need to aim to achieve one grade higher in each of their subjects in the **next set of Mock exams** which take place from **Monday 27th February until Friday 10th March**. This is absolutely achievable with hard work and independent revision at home. This will be the final set of Mock exams before the real GCSE summer exams.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

On Monday 9th January we held our Year 11 parents' evening. The focus of the evening was discussing student performance in their mock exams including what they need to do to continue to improve further. Thank you to all our parents/carers who attended. The attendance on the evening was an impressive 80% so thank you for your support.

Year 9 Options Process

On **Wednesday 25th January at 6pm** we will be holding our **Year 9 Options evening**. Mr Koltan will deliver a presentation about the options process, how it works and the subjects on offer. Parents/carers and students will then have the opportunity to talk to our Heads of Department in detail about the courses and subjects we offer, what they entail and where the subject could take them. Mr Koltan will be writing to parents separately with more details about the evening.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Following on from the Year 9 Options evening, we will be holding our Year 9 parents' evening on Monday 30th January. Bookings are now available on School Cloud. This is an excellent opportunity for students and parents/carers to ask teachers about potential option choices as well as how students are currently working in each of their subjects.

Teaching and Learning Application of Skills and Knowledge

I know many Parents/Carers are keen to know about our classroom practices and how we deliver our teaching and learning principles. There has been much shared about retrieval

and the importance of recalling knowledge. This is a firm foundation of our practice. More recently there has been a significant focus on 'application'. i.e. Students applying their skills and knowledge independently with decreasing levels of support. This process of removing scaffolding for learning over time requires careful skill and consideration on behalf of the teacher. It is also a process that is very specific to the needs of the individual student.

Successful 'application', underpinned by secure knowledge, is ultimately what a student should be aiming to achieve. It is important that schools avoid 'spoon-feeding' students as this would not readily prepare them for assessments/exams. With this in mind we have adopted a more purposeful approach to time spent on 'application' in class. This period of learning is also in what we call 'task time' which means silence. This enables students to develop a work ethic which reflects what will be required in both key piece assessments and exams.

Supporting your child to be successful in school

- Our mantra of High Expectations, High Aspirations, High Standards, You Will Succeed, is something we very much believe in. We also know that this takes hard work, and by working in partnership with parents and carers, we believe all students can succeed. Below are a number of strategies that can be adopted with your child in the home and in conversations regarding their education:
- Make high levels of school attendance a priority. Do you know what your child's attendance is? Do they know? Are you monitoring it on the parent App on Arbor? Remember, high levels of attendance go hand in hand with strong outcomes and personal development.
- Contact school every day that your child will be absent
- Remember, the school target is 96% (which allows for the average amount of illness).
- Ensure your child has good punctuality to school and inform school of any concerns on the day. Leave early enough to avoid any Warrington traffic issues.
- Talk to your child about the importance of their education. Be positive (even if your experience of school wasn't a positive one) and have sky high expectations for your children.
- Encourage your child to attend extra-curricular clubs and enrichment activities. Such activities support your child's development, particularly social development in many cases.
- Talk to your child about their homework and encourage them to catch up with any missing work they may have.
- Ensure your child has a regular bedtime and routines. E.g. Electronic devices turned off one-hour before bedtime.
- Check to ensure your child is prepared. Check their bags before they leave the house. It is good practice to have everything prepared the night before, also helping to relieve the stress that morning pressures can bring.
- Promote a love of reading. Don't forget, we have a school Library that the students can use.
- Support school in decisions that are made or the opportunities your child may have e.g attendance at awards events or ensuring your child completes a sanction.
- Create opportunities for your child to experience new things outside of school, this could include: joining a club, joining the Library, visiting a museum or attending an event.

Further to this, can we take this opportunity to thank you for your support, particularly since the return in the new year, where we have had a focus on behaviour and standards. We have seen a real focus and preparedness for learning from the majority of students, however, we feel we can still improve further, with your continued support very much appreciated.

Careers/ Post 16 Education

Over the coming weeks Year 10 will be having assemblies from the local colleges in preparation for choosing their next steps in September.

STEM

In the summer, students in year 7 completed their CREST discovery award as part of a STEM project. Their work was then entered into a competition with All about STEM and we are very excited to reveal that some of our students won a prize for their work!

We are very proud to have delivered the Key note address at the Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Conference this week at Daresbury Digital Park. Mrs Scott – Herron, Mrs Mawby, 3 students and 1 alumnus delivered a speech on Careers Education at Sir Thomas Boteler Church Of England High School. Our students spoke wonderfully and were a credit to us and their families. We received excellent feedback from Headteachers and career leads about our students and also about the work we are doing.



Today some Year 10 students started their career intervention with Higher Horizons and Chester University. This is a 7 week programme to inspire them for their future.

A current careers platform with up to date jobs and apprenticeships can be found on the following link. This is excellent for all to use to gain knowledge of jobs in our local area and across Cheshire. It is updated every 30 minutes.

<https://www.candwopportunities.co.uk/>

Next Thursday some Year 9 students will be taking part in a Science STEM event.

We have a **vacancy** to be a Governor at our school. It is for a Foundation Governor to represent Liverpool Diocese. If you feel you could serve god in this way or know of anyone who meets the criteria and would like to apply, please visit the school website for more information and an application form. <https://www.boteler.org.uk/governor-vacancies-2/>

Sport

Futsal Club	All years	All students	Tuesday 3-4pm
Boteler Sports Social	All years	All students	Thursday 3-4pm

With very best wishes

Beverley Scott –Herron
Headteacher