

head'sherald

SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL, GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROAD, WARRINGTON, WA4 1JL | 01925 636414 | INFO@BOTELER.ORG.UK

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year. We have had amazing start to the School year and it is wonderful to see all our young people again.

A lot has been happening over the school holidays in terms of building work and there is still significant building works in the pipeline.

We are part of the TCAT decarbonisation programme and we are installing ground source heat pumps at the moment. This work is significant as we have to have 19 holes that are 150m deep. This work is taking place around the back of the building near the old air raid shelters. It is all cordoned off from a Health and Safety aspect and the young people know about their new fire drill positions. The noise the equipment make is minimal and the disruption to learning will be zero. There is no real infringement of the school playing fields and we do not lose any of our 'outdoor classroom' i.e.) the multiple playing fields we have. The only disruption will be to anyone who trains on our grounds, as parents/carers will not be able to drive around the back to park. Once the work is completed it will mean we are much more energy efficient and we will have significantly reduced our carbon footprint.

Our new state of the art gym is nearly complete. We are just waiting for the last of our specialised equipment to arrive. The gym also has a dance studio within in it to ensure all our students have the best facilities and opportunities. The staff are also excited as they will be able to use it after school. We are looking into the gym being available for community use, but we are just in the planning stages of this.

If you have been into school you will have seen our brand-new reception and beautiful glass doors. The reason for this change, is that we needed to open up the front corridor to students, because we are now oversubscribed and full. This is a lovely position to be in, but means that space on the corridors is at capacity. In order to open up the front corridor I needed to change the layout of the reception area to ensure that our students are safe and that people are not able to get into the building and corridors. This has been a huge success and the moment around the building has much improved. We still may need to have a one-way system in place, and now we have been back a full week and have seen how it runs in practice, we can see what would work best. The reception area is much more spacious, brighter and more welcoming and will have more seating available.

We are in the process of having a dining room extension. A large section of the quad areas near Technology will be turned into a new covered dining room space, which will have a 'grab and go' type food outlet within it, so to ease the pressure of the current canteen and dining space. It will also mean our young people will be able to get their lunch quicker, so they can access all the extra-curricular provision on offer. It will be a lovely space and somewhere students can go to socialise at break and lunchtimes.

We are having a complete refurbishment of both KS3 and KS4 toilets. We want to be as fully inclusive as possible, so we will be installing a suite of gender-neutral toilets too. The work on the toilets has not yet started, but is planned and I will keep you updated accordingly.

The Year 7 students have had a brilliant start to the term. Their attitude to learning, commitment and drive has been exceptional. They look smart and are ready for learning. They have displayed wonderful manners and are always ready with a smile. It has been a pleasure to get to know them.

Already we have had our Sports Awards Evening, which was held at the Halliwell Jones Stadium and our Whole School Awards Evening, which was held in our School Hall. It is always nice to celebrate success and recognise the many achievements of our young people. We are looking forward to our Inauguration Evening for all Year 7 students, which is on Tuesday 19th September at 18.00 at St. Elphin's Parish Church and our Open Evening which is on Thursday 28th September from 17.00 – 20.00.

Best wishes



Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher

NO MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

If your child feels unwell, they must speak to their Head of Year and not contact you directly. We will contact home. This is our school procedure which is in place for the welfare of the students.

Mobile phones must be switched off and remain in students' bags during the school day. If a mobile phone, electrical device, iPod or headphones are seen in the building or outside during school time they will be confiscated. This is a non-negotiable. Thank you for your continuing support.



Attendance matters at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

Here at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School we have high expectations of student's attendance and punctuality. We do this because we know that being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results.

We wholeheartedly believe that every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days in September, will have missed 15 lessons in total – that's 15 hours of lost learning at the start of their GCSE courses! The higher a student's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Further facts in relation to attendance and absence:

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently, which would likely lead to disengagement and frustration.
- Absence means missed opportunities to build and maintain friendships.
- Attendance improves when schools and parents work closely together.

We have a whole school target of 96% and will be running weekly attendance competitions in recognition of outstanding attendance.

Please be reminded that if your child is going to be absent for any reason, you must contact your child's Head of Year or Mr Willcock.

Uniform Swap Shop

The Uniform Swap shop is now open and has been very popular this year.

A reminder that students can bring items of uniform, shoes, bags, coats that no longer fit them and swap for something else.

Personal Development

Next week you will receive our half termly Personal Development newsletter which will inform you about the PD curriculum that is taught, helpful sites and lots more.

Please take a look at our Personal Development booklet here:

<https://g02161.n3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PD-BOOKLET-23-24.pdf>

Year 11 will have their first college assembly this Monday and these will continue over the next few weeks. The following link is their careers curriculum and useful post 16 pathways sites:

<https://www.boteler.org.uk/pathways/>

All students have access to the Startprofile careers platform:

<https://careers.startprofile.com/page/home-page>

Please talk to your child about post 16 options and take a look at this site. Year 7 will receive how to log on next week. Take a look at what they study here: <https://www.boteler.org.uk/pathways/>

This Monday Year 10 and 11 are having a workshop from mental health speakers and trainers in association with Hays they are delivering 100 talks to schools in the Northwest over the next 20 days. <https://100talksforchange.com/>

School of Ocean Science Visit

On Tuesday, 20 students boarded a bus to take a visit to the School of Ocean Science, Bangor University, Menai Bridge on the Isle of Anglesey. They have all been taking part in our extra-curricular course in Marine Biology, hosted by the science department at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

They all complained that they had never been up so early on a school day as the weary eyed young scientists arrived for a day of scientific discovery. The bus was very quiet on the way down, so quiet that the only sound heard was the rain battering against the windscreen. However, as we drove over the bridge onto the Island the rain ceased, the excitement rose, and now awake happy students disembarked and gazed in awe at the huge university buildings.

We were met by Professor Yueng-Djern Lenn who with great enthusiasm led the day's activities. Firstly, we were shown into the teaching laboratories, where the students experienced first-hand what exactly a university environment was like, and what universities had to offer. Here we were given a talk on the climate crisis and how the oceans on a global scale were responding. Then it was time for some real first-hand field work.



Soon we were all on the pier and armed with a specialised net our students were dragging it in the water to capture microscopic phyto and zooplankton. After a few sessions the students were heading back to the labs with a bucket of water, to see what species had been sampled. Using fantastic equipment, we had a busy session looking down the microscopes and discovering a world that exists in the oceans that we never see with the naked eye.



After this we switched from marine biology to physical oceanography, and conducted a range of experiments to show how sea water reacts to different temperatures and salinities, then we were able to relate this to how the ocean currents move on a global scale, and how this transports oxygen and carbon dioxide from the surface to the cold deep sea. Our students were shown how with warming climate and warming waters, the heat absorbed by the oceans would cause the water to expand in size and thus contribute to global sea level rise.

After dinner our young scientists were able to contribute to a career talk by more scientists based at the university, a marine geologist, physical oceanographer, and marine biologist. All who gave their valuable time to discuss with our students what it is like to work in the world of marine science. The highs, the lows, and the work they perform, if the day had not been amazing enough, this really was the icing on the cake, truly inspiring with a truly captivated audience. – Mr Caine

Sports Awards Evening

Our very first Sports Awards evening was a cracker! The audience were inspired by our guest speakers from the world of elite sport. Dr Martin Littlewood a senior Lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University and a leading sport psychologist teamed up with Warrington Wolves star Stefan Ratchford to discuss and debate the how preparation and controlling the controllables can help to achieve the best outcomes in your own performance.

It was great to hear how even the best and most talented athletes have set backs. The most powerful message was hearing how Stefan stays resilient and values the role of rehearsal and positive self-talk. There was also a Key Note from Professor Zoe Knowles who spoke to the audience about the role of a Sport Psychologist and potential career pathways.

Not to forget all our amazing young people who attended to collect their awards for a very successful 2022-2023 season at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

Mr Burbidge



Annual Awards evening



Our Annual Awards evening took place this week, where the school community came together to share in the celebration of the student successes from the last academic year.

It was a very special night for all in attendance, particularly as the young people had been selected to receive a prestigious award, where the winners had been selected out of the whole school population.

We took the opportunity to thank our parents/carers for all of the support we receive. We see the partnership we have with parents to be one of the crucial factors in ensuring success for young people, and this night proved to be evidence of this in action.

On the night, we welcomed guest of honour Gary House. Gary is a trail/mountain runner who has been a leading coach for athletes for over 10 years now. Gary loves to train hard, but also have fun while doing so and creating content for social media allows him to do this best!

Being born and based in North Wales means that being in the hills and mountains quickly became his playground. As a dad with a young family, Gary now enjoys sharing this passion for exploring this area with them too.

Gary's achievements include:

2022 - Third Place Limitless Trails Mountain Marathon - Brecon Beacons

2019 - Completed Dragons Back Race (despite serious injury), Equinox 24hr Ultra – 1st place x 2 and 2nd place x 2 and Liverpool to Leeds 135 Mile Race – 2nd place in 23:30hrs

Gary is the proud founder of 'The House Running Club', getting high level results for all runners with their unique and individual online coaching. If you would like to find out more about Gary, please visit: www.houserunningclub.com



A further article will follow, which will include some photographs of our amazing winners.

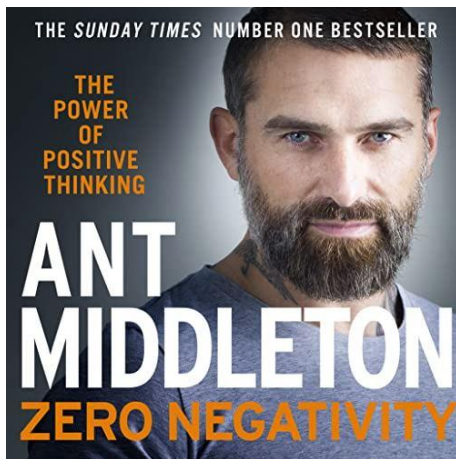
Mr Leonard

Student Photography

Well done to Year 11 student Callum Cameron who took these great photos this summer, at Delamere Forest and Pick Mere Lake



September's Student Book Recommendation



September's student book recommendation is Zero Negativity by Ant Middleton.

"This is a non-fiction book about believing in yourself and not letting negativity get to you. I really enjoyed how it takes a deep dive into Ant's personal life and explains how he coped with difficult challenges. One memorable part for me describes when he was younger and joined the parachute regiment. He had to leave his family behind which was not easy. If you like learning about aspects of the military and about how to develop a positive mindset, this book is for you."

Liam Hinds - Year 9

Upcoming School events

- Year 7 CAT Tests
- Monday 18th September – Year 11 Priestley College Assembly
- Tuesday 19th September – Year 7 Inauguration Service
- Friday 22nd September – London Parliament Visit (Student Council)

Calling all Jigsaw enthusiasts

*St Elphin's, St Barnabas & Holy Trinity Churches
invite you to join them at St Elphin's Church,
Church Street, Warrington, WA1 2TL for a*

Jigsaw Festival

22nd - 24th September 2023

Friday: 12.00 - 5.00pm

Sat: 10.00 - 4.00pm

Sunday: 1.00 - 5.00pm



Other Stalls include:

Refreshments

Chocolate Tombola

Knitted goods

Stained Glass

Cake Stall

Jams Stall

Candles

Body Shop

Admission £2.00 - includes free raffle ticket
(free re-admission with programme over the 3 days)

Proceeds to be split between the 3 churches