

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,

I hope you are all well. I just wanted to share something with you that made me realise how amazing the Boteler Family really is.

As you know I am very proud of the school and the fact that I live and work in the Warrington area. I always want us as a school to 'make a difference' to a young person's life in whatever way we can.

This week I seemed to have come into contact with many Parents/Carers of past students and with past students themselves. What struck me was that just how much of a difference we make when we maybe do not realise we even do anything. What I mean by this the very way in which we act or behave towards each other actually shapes the thinking and actions of others.

The Parents/Carers spoke so highly of the support, care and guidance that we were able to offer and the fact that we still kept in contact after their child had left to make sure they were on the correct pathway. They praised us for the time we had for their child even when things were challenging and that had we as a school not behaved the way we did, that their child would now not be at college.

The students I came into contact with said that they did not realise what they had in terms of support from school and how they missed the positive relationships they had.

We had a visit from a past student who had just graduated from a Russel Group University and was adamant had we not given him the correct CEIAG then he never thought that University was even a possibility.

This is not about me saying 'look how good we are as a school', it is about me sharing with you real examples of how we do and go the extra mile for all our young people. We want to demonstrate that relationships are key and that whether they are in school or outside of school they can engage positively with us and are able to interact with other adults in a positive way. We want them to recognise their strengths and work on their areas for improvement. Whilst we also may not always get it right first time, we will always try.

Engaging young people and Parents/Carers is difficult at times in this busy world we live in, but the power of positive relationship and open and honest communication is key even when the messages are sometimes difficult. We are all on the same page as we want our young people to succeed.

Every interaction has an outcome and for that outcome to be positive we must continue to work together in the best interests of every child who is a part of our Boteler Family.



Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher

Homework

At Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School we value the importance of homework. However, we also understand how much homework our students receive should be well balanced and consider other commitments outside of school such as sport, music etc and the value of family and social time too.

With this in mind please see below our 'Principles of Homework'. This model outlines what you can expect your child to receive in terms of focus and frequency. You will notice much of the homework concerns 'retrieving knowledge' which is a cognitive process that helps embed learning in the memory. Much of this retrieval type work can be completed using the student 'knowledge organiser' which is a crucially important document to support both in-class and home learning. This method is important for all year groups. As students progress through school the duration of homework increases and also focuses more on exam preparation and revision. All homework will be set on 'Satchel One'.

If you have any questions related to homework then please contact Mr. C. Kinsey at ckinsey@boteler.org.uk.

PRINCIPLES OF HOMEWORK

Developing Learning Habits		Independent study to support classroom learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop independence ✓ Embed routines ✓ Develop revision skills ✓ Development of time management & organisational skills 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Retrieval of knowledge ✓ Retaining knowledge ✓ Developing recall as a foundation for classroom learning ✓ Building schema (knowledge web) ✓ Embedding learning in the long-term memory 	
Y7: Setting standards, developing habits	Y8/9: Build knowledge, increase application	Y10/11: Increasing exam focus	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Embedding routines ✓ Develop recall skills ✓ Knowledge retention ✓ Basic metacognitive skills ✓ Techniques to support retrieval ✓ COLD questions ✓ Y7 up to 15-20 mins per subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Knowledge retention ✓ Increased development of writing resilience ✓ Metacognitive skills ✓ COLD/HOT questions ✓ Y8 up to 20 mins per subject ✓ Y9 up to 25 mins per subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deepen knowledge ✓ Increased independent exam preparation ✓ Strong metacognitive skills ✓ Consolidate and extend ✓ Writing resilience ✓ Y10/11 up to 30/40 mins per subject 	

Safety Alert: E-Scooters

The number of children and young people riding E-Scooters is continuing to increase in the UK, and given this is illegal, the police have now issued some guidance.

The link below will take you to the legal position of the use of E-Scooters in a public place.

[www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/#:~:text=Electrical%20scooters%20\(also,insurance%20and%20tax.](http://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/#:~:text=Electrical%20scooters%20(also,insurance%20and%20tax.)



E-Scooters come under the category of 'powered transporters', which means they are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

This means that the rules that apply to cars, also apply to E-Scooters, including the need to have insurance, a license and tax. Therefore, as it is illegal for children to be riding them on the street, road or any public place, the school does not support their use by our students.

The Government announces mobile phone bans in schools

Recently the Government made the announcement about Headteachers being asked to ban mobile phones from school. The Department for Education wants children to be stopped from using devices at break times as well as in classrooms. The new guidance will be issued "shortly" but a specific date has not been announced for when schools should bring the ban into effect.

However, this will not be anything new for us at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High, as we have enforced the below for a number of years:

Mobile phones, iPods and headphones are not allowed to be used or seen in the school building or on site during the school day.

- On entry to the school building, mobile phones, headphones or other electronic devices must be switched off and put in a school bag.
- Mobile phones and headphones should not be visible on a student. They are to remain in bags.
- Mobile phones will not be allowed to be used in lessons for research, or as a calculator or for telling the time. Students are not allowed to use mobiles as calculators in examinations and they need to have their own scientific calculator for this purpose.
- Mobile phones and headphones are not allowed to be switched on/used until students have left the school site at the end of the school day.
- In an emergency, please contact the school office and we will send a message to your child.
- Mobile phones or headphones seen in the building or outside during school time will be confiscated.
- Students will be able to collect the item at the end of the school day from the C3 room.

Where there are on-going concerns regarding the use of mobile phones, we will be escalating the sanctions. If a student has their phone confiscated from them on more than one occasion, arrangements will be made for the student to hand their mobile phone in to staff upon their arrival, each day, for one week. If this is to be the case for your child, we will contact you prior to ensure they are fully aware of plans, with your support needed in ensuring that your child knows and understands the rules.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all the parents/carers that attended our recent Year 11 Parents' Evening. The attendance was 72% on the evening.

Thank you also to the Year 7 parents/carers who attended the Year 7 Form Tutor evening. The attendance at this event was 75%.

Our next Parents' Evening is Year 8 on Monday 20th November. This will be in school with bookings being made on School Cloud. The link for booking will be sent out on return from half term.

Year 11

A reminder that Year 11 Mock Exams start on Monday 27th November which is just three whole teaching weeks away (three teaching weeks after half term). Students should be spending time preparing and revising for these exams. As Mr Koltan explained at the Year 11 information evening, students who perform well in the Mock Exams then go on to perform well in the real exams in the summer. It is so important that students create the positive habits now around independent study at home.

National Hate Crime Awareness week

This week is National Hate Crime Awareness week, with students receiving information during the tutor time programme, collective worship session and via an assembly delivered by Mr Leonard. The below is a link to that assembly, where the aim has been to ensure all students know what a hate crime is and also what we can do to combat it. The key messages of having a zero tolerance approach towards hate and the importance of reporting it if you witness it, or are a victim of it, is crucial. Students have been very mature in dealing with some very sensitive messages and should be highly commended.

<https://t.ly/vt1M>

Years 7 – 10 Childhood Flu Immunisations

Please click on the following link to view a letter from the School Immunisations Team regarding the upcoming Flu Immunisations (Year 7 – 10). If you have any questions, please contact the School-aged Immunisation Team on 01925 946808 <https://t.ly/mK1m4>

Personal Development

Year 11 Students should be now applying for their post 16 college or apprenticeship. If they have already done so they will receive an email inviting them for their course discussion, they must attend this to be offered a place. Students have received many college assemblies informing them of the course and subjects on offer and they have access to their prospectuses. Please support your child in making an informed choice about their future. Applications must be completed by Christmas. All applications can be made online.

Some Year 7 and 8 students received an engineering talk from Sellafield this week, introducing them to engineering and the differences between each discipline. It is important that students start to research which jobs they like and which they don't like. Please support your child in finding out as much as they can about careers. There is a lot of information on our school website here:

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

Next week we will be holding our first House assemblies of the year. Students receive house points for their attendance, attendance at wider curricular clubs and their attitude to learning in lessons as well as taking part in the house pop up challenges every week. Please encourage your child to go to the many wider curricular clubs as well as take part in the pop up challenges.

Please find the wider curriculum here: <https://www.boteler.org.uk/bwc/>

Our ambassadors have enjoyed taking tours this week in school as well as being involved in new staff interviews. They have shown that they are responsible young people with great skills needed for life.

Collective Worship

This week as part of Collective Worship, students have been focusing on National Hate Crime Awareness Week. We have used the scripture from Romans (15:7) to discuss the importance of accepting other people for their differences.

“Christ has accepted you, so you should accept one other.”

The Ethos Ambassadors are working hard to collect donations for the local food bank. Please send any non-perishable items to school next week so we can deliver them to the food bank before the half term break. We have also enjoyed celebrating our Harvest Service at Christ Church, thanking God for the blessing that we have and reflecting on the things we have been thankful for so far this term. Look out for photos and updates on this event via our social media.

Ability Day at Orford Jubilee

On Thursday 12th October students from the Designated Provision attended an Ability day at Orford Hub. They took part in new age curling, table cricket, boccia and karate. Our students had a fantastic day trying all the different sporting activities and building their team work and communication skills.

"It was a really fun time, and I liked the people who taught us the new sports, and I can't wait to go back." Kian Robinson 7LG



This half term student in the Designated Provision have been inspired by the Artist Jackson Pollock. We had an enormous amount of fun creating our own Jackson Pollock inspired 'action painting'. We worked in the polytunnel so we could pour, drip and splash paint onto our canvas on the floor.

The students enjoyed moving to create the paintings and layering up the contrasting colours. They worked as a team to create two large piece of Art and some smaller individual works. Miss Horton provided our protective clothing although we still had to clean up a couple of people's shoes! The students loved exploring the abstract art process.

"I love the bright colours in my painting as they give out loads of energy and movement." Callum Browne 9NH







Exciting Sponsorship Announcement in Food Technology!

In Food Technology we are excited to announce we have been lucky enough to be sponsored by Sonia Bate, founder of Edit Development. Sonia has kindly offered to fund £1000 to be used toward extra-curricular activities in Food Technology!

Edit Development work with a number of high profile clients, and solve the following challenges 'building capabilities, realising potential, and paying it forward' All values which sit firmly with ours at Sir Thomas Boteler.

You can find out more about their business at www.editdevelopment.com

Firstly we have been able to use the fund towards purchasing ingredients for our after school cooking club. Meaning students do not need to provide their own, making it much more accessible for all.

Monday 16th October saw the first where 11 students across KS3 baked Halloween Gingerbread Cookies! These looked delicious and we cannot wait for the next session!

Thank you Sonia and Edit Development for your support!

Mrs S Callaway
(Food Lead)

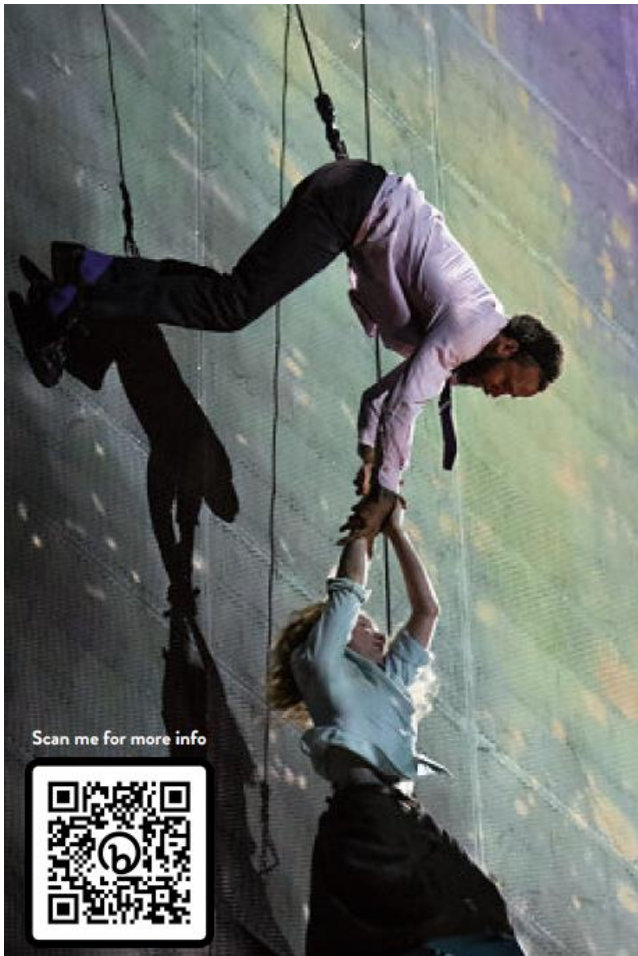


Year 11 Art

The Year 11 Art GCSE skills workshop took place this week.

Students learnt new techniques using oil pastels, and we are very impressed with their work.

Well done to everyone who took part!



YOU'RE INVITED!

As The World Tipped

wired
aerial theatre

WHEN:

Saturday
21st October 2023
6.30PM

WHERE:

Birchley Street Car Park
St Helens

FREE!

The 45-minute family-friendly show is part of St Helens Borough of Culture 2023 celebrations