

head'sherald

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

VOLUME 4 DATE 6TH OCTOBER 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

The Head's Herald is where we communicate key weekly information, to keep you in the loop. I appreciate you are incredibly busy but if you were able to take the time to read it I would really appreciate it. If there is anything else you feel we should put in there, then please do let me know. It is so important that you feel you have all the information to hand. However, I also do not want to over load you, hence why I feel a weekly comms is appropriate.

I have communicated the issues we are currently facing regarding the School lunch provision, but just for clarity I will again explain the circumstances we are facing and how we are dealing with it.

The issues were/are:

- The meal deal used to be a meal, a drink and a cake/biscuit. Without prior warning this was changed to a meal and a drink OR a meal and a cake/biscuit, not both.
- The portion size of the main meals was not adequate to be classed as a meal.
- There were price increases without prior warning
- The Free School Meal allowance did not match the meal deal price.

We have an external catering provider we use and we are in the process of having meetings to see if we can resolve the issues. From the meetings the following has happened.

- Changes in staffing.
- The meal deal **WILL** now include a drink and a cake/biscuit but the meal deal price has gone to £2.45, this is the best compromise we could reach.
- Free School Meal allowance for the young people will go up to £2.45.
- The quality of the food has much improved.
- The company will communicate in advance with a rationale for any price increases, so I can inform parents/carers.
- Our Free School Meal allowance will match the meal deal prices.
- The portion sizes for the main meal have increased.
- All the chips are fresh and hot on 'Chip Thursday'.
- We do not run out of food choices. There is the same choice if you are first in the queue or the back of the queue.

The best solution is always to work together to ensure we provide the best service. Of course, we will look at longer term solutions as well but my priority is making sure my young people have access to good quality food at affordable prices. I really do appreciate your patience and I know how important it is to you.

On a further positive note, the dining room extension has been approved and work will start on this soon. This will mean that half of the quad area near the DT rooms will be another dining room. There will also be different 'food stations' available for the young people to buy food and have more choice. This will reduce the queue size so they can get to the Extra Curricular activities on time and it will also give us a huge space which can be utilised on wet days.

The picture below is so you can get an idea of what we would like, so you can visualise it.

If there is anything else I can help or support with then please do let me know.

Best wishes



Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher



STANDARDS: The importance of Independent Study Packs (ISPs) for all students

All students have been provided with a brand new ISP in September. This black folder contains all the Knowledge Organisers for each subject and also holds other key documents. At the front of every student's ISP should be their timetable. This ensures that students always know what lesson they have, where it is and therefore can be punctual.

If a student doesn't have their ISP, which is a basic requirement for form-time and every lesson, there will be a sanction. Being prepared, organised and punctual are key qualities of successful students and citizens and we will always strive to enable our students to achieve these qualities.

Y11 Academic Information Evening reminder:

Y11 Parents/Carers come and join us at 6pm on Tuesday 10th October for key guidance and information on supporting your child to best prepare for the GCSE examinations. Please see letter from Mr. Kinsey highlighting the key areas to be covered <https://tinyurl.com/eut4xt6v>.

Year 7 Form Tutor Parents' Evening - Monday 16th October

I hope you have enjoyed speaking to your child about their exciting experiences since joining the Boteler Family. The forthcoming Form Tutor Parents' Evening is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's Form Tutor to discuss how they have settled in at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School so far. You may have questions to ask that have arisen since your child has joined us which our Form Tutors will be delighted to answer.

This Parents' Evening will be **face to face in school** and all Year 7 Form Tutors are looking forward to having conversations in person. We will be using **School Cloud** as a booking system which allows you to book the appointment times that are convenient for you and is more efficient than your child having to book appointments with Tutors on your behalf.

Appointments will be available from **3:30pm-7pm**. The booking system is now live. Bookings can be made here: <https://boteler.schoolcloud.co.uk/> or by following the link in the letter sent out by Mr Koltan.

Personal Development

Final reminder about the Warrington Careers fair on Wednesday 11th October at the Warrington Youth Zone from 3pm - 6:30pm. This event is free and open to Years 9, 10 and 11.

Monday 9th October – Myerscough College are in school at 2pm to talk to Year 11 and Year 10 students who have shown an interest in the college. If you would like to come and listen to this session please email info@boteler.org.uk to confirm your place.

Tuesday 10th October 2023 – SEND Careers Fair. Parents/Carers of our Year 10 and Year 11 students are invited to attend our SEND careers fair. This will be taking place in the school library on Tuesday 10th October 2023 from 2-4pm. We hope to see you there.

Wednesday 11th October – we are holding TCAT Parliament in the school hall and will welcome Andy Carter to this event

Tutor time at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

Tutor time is a vital part of the school day and helps us to develop the 'whole child'. Each student is placed in a tutor group with students of the same age group, led by an assigned member of staff. Below is the overview of tutor time provision. We encourage you to talk to your child about the sessions they receive during tutor time and ensure that they arrive to school on time, so they do not miss out on the vital personal development and growth opportunities.

WEEK 1

Year	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	Reading for Pleasure (RfP)	Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Personal Development	Assembly/ Collective Worship
8	Personal Development	Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Assembly/Collective Worship	Reading for Pleasure (RfP)
9	Personal Development	Collective Worship	Assembly/ Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Reading for Pleasure (RfP)
10	Personal Development	Assembly/ Collective Worship	Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Reading for Pleasure (RfP)
11	Assembly/ Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Post-16 Pathways	Personal Development	Revision/Study Skills

WEEK 2

Year	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	Numeracy	Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Post-16 Pathways	Assembly/ Collective Worship
8	Post-16 Pathways	Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Assembly/Collective Worship	Numeracy
9	Post-16 Pathways	Collective Worship	Assembly/ Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Numeracy
10	Post-16 Pathways	Assembly/ Collective Worship	Collective Worship	TTRAT (Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together)	Numeracy
11	Assembly/ Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Post-16 Pathways	Personal Development	Revision/Study Skills

- 1) **Assembly /Collective Worship** – Year group assemblies are weekly and is an important time where students come together as a year group. Assemblies are led by the Head of Year, with SLT and both internal and external guests supporting the programme.

- 2) **Personal Development /Post-16 pathways** - Year group specific sessions designed to support students to become confident, healthy, resilient and respectful citizens, who are fully prepared for life and work and are ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow. Careers education will be a key feature of the programme as well as tailored intervention sessions.

- 3) **Collective Worship** – Collective worship is compulsory as a Church of England school, with the tutor group receiving a high-quality provision supporting our school's Christian Values.

- 4) **Reading for Pleasure (RfP)** – A literacy initiative to promote a love for reading, with students required to bring their own reading material and enjoy a period of silent reading.

- 5) **Tutor Time Reading Aloud Together (TTRAT) and Word of the Week** - the tutor and students will read aloud a carefully-selected fiction text addressing our school values and complex, relevant issues. Teachers model effective reading practices i.e. Reciprocal Reading so that all students can participate in reading, irrespective of their starting points.

- 6) **Numeracy** – Bespoke year group numeracy initiatives and programmes to support with the development of some basic mental numeracy skills.

- 7) **Revision/study skills for Year 11** – Dedicated time for students to practice evidence-based revision techniques and strategies.

Attendance Matters at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

Every School Day Counts		
Days absent	Which equals	Which means the number of lessons missed
5 days	1 week	25 lessons
10 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
20 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
25 days	5 weeks	125 lessons
30 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
35 days	7 weeks	175 lessons
40 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

It is vital that all students have excellent attendance here at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School. Research shows that even a few days of absence can have a negative impact on students' performance.

Here at Sir Thomas Boteler we are committed to working with students and parents/carers to achieve our overall attendance target for each student of 96% or above.

As set out in our attendance policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties. Early intervention will be a priority and we will always support where possible.

World Mental Health Day

It's **World Mental Health Day** on Tuesday, 10th October.

According to the NHS, [1 in 6 children](#) have identified as likely having a mental health problem, which is why it's vital that we continue to raise awareness of mental health. There will be lots of support, guidance and signposting for young people, not only next week, but every day.

We always advise children it is good to talk, and Kooth have provided **their five top tips** for talking with students about mental health. The simple and effective strategies can also be used in the home, please see here for any tips to support your child further.



Five top tips for talking with your students

1. Not alone

Not to be confused with 'normalising' too quickly, do remind the young person that they're not alone - just hearing this can be powerful and you can do this without minimising their experiences.



2. Here to help

Let the young person know that first and foremost you're here to help them and try to create an environment where there is space for them to talk or express how they are feeling.



3. No pressure

Shifting early questions away from 'what's wrong' to 'what's happened' can be a really useful way of helping young people to tell you about themselves without feeling pressured to respond to a certain question - asking 'what's wrong' typically leads to a 'don't know' response.



4. Hear me out

Try not to jump too quickly to solutions/advice giving' linked to 'Not Alone' it can actually be more helpful to spend time in the early stages focusing on the 'problems' - not only does this help young people feel heard; they often start to naturally talk about some of the solutions themselves and that sense of self discovery is important.



5. Open-ended

Asking more open-ended questions generally encourages meaningful conversation whereas questions with yes/no answers (whilst sometimes necessary) can shut young people down in the early stages.



Black History Month

Black History Month began on Sunday 1st October and runs for the whole month of October. We have a rich and diverse curriculum throughout the school year at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School and Black History Month gives us an opportunity to raise awareness of individual themes and learn more about diversity in our community.

The theme this year is 'Saluting our Sisters' and is an opportunity for us to celebrate black women and their achievements. The Ethos Ambassadors are encouraging staff to research an inspirational black woman and promote their story with information on the classroom doors. This is an excellent way for us to learn more about the exemplary women in history.

In history lessons, Year 7 will be looking at how Rosa Parks was significant for the Civil rights movement, Year 8 will learn about the different Black Tudors uncovered by Miranda Kaufmann and in Year 9 will learn about what it was like to be Black in Nazi Germany. Students will also be asked to research a significant black woman in history or today who inspires them.

Veritas and Arbitrium have arranged an exciting pop-up challenge based on Black History Month and there will be more House Challenges over the coming weeks.

Other ways we can acknowledge Black History Month are by reading books written by black authors, watching a documentary or film about a black experience and supporting small local black owned business.

Look out for other activities over Black History Month. We are very excited to be celebrating Black History Month 2023!

International Club's Mid-Autumn Festival Cake Sale

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School have an established International Club at lunch times which is welcome to Students of all languages and backgrounds. Last week, our Students from Hong Kong wanted to share information about the Mid-Autumn Festival with their peers.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture, where families get together, solve riddles, make lanterns and enjoy the delicious moon cakes.

The Festival took place on Friday 29th September, the same date as the Macmillan Coffee Morning, so they decided to sell cakes alongside the moon cakes and raise money for cancer research. This event was an excellent example of how our International Club allows students to share their culture and traditions with others, whilst also raising awareness and money for important causes.

Well done to everyone who took part in the lantern competition and helped out on the cake stall that day!



Sir Thomas Boteler's Student Leadership Body attends the Conservative Party Conference

Members of the Student Leadership Body at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School had the amazing opportunity to attend the Conservative Party Conference on Tuesday 3rd October, following a nomination from local MP Andy Carter.

The students were able to attend talks, meet Ministers and walk the main hall in the Manchester Convention Centre. They spoke with companies and charities on the floor and discussed key issues facing young people today.

The trip successfully gave our Students an insight into careers in politics, public service and broadcasting. It was made clear that this trip was not intended to push a political agenda with our Students, but instead was a brilliant opportunity to allow them to see the inner workings of an active government at a political conference, experience a high profile and high security event and witness the networking and collaboration on the day.



Key highlights:

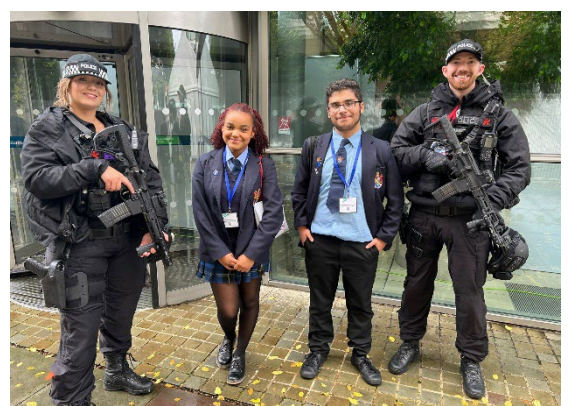


There were many famous faces on the floor of the convention centre, from Cabinet Members, Ministers and former Prime Ministers. Tyra and Colette were ecstatic to meet Chip Tsao, a Hong Kong-based columnist, broadcaster and writer who their families listen to regularly.

They spoke about attending our school and their part in running our International Club at lunch times. To quote Tyra, it was "better than meeting three members of BTS"!

Students were given the chance to explore the conference floor and speak with many groups about

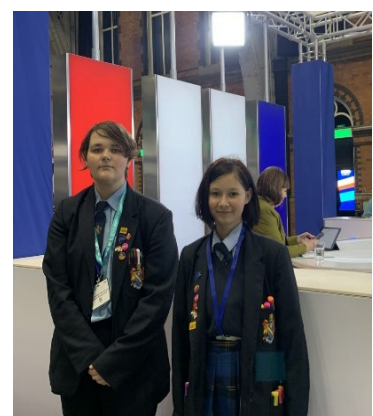
their products and work. We received lovely feedback from multiple people throughout the day regarding how engaged and articulate our Students were.



We are incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves and represented Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

Students were able to watch Sky News in action, with a sneak peek at the behind-the-scenes process and work that goes into broadcasting at high profile events.

They witnessed Beth Rigby set up following her interview Rishi Sunak earlier that day, before reporting live from the conference floor.





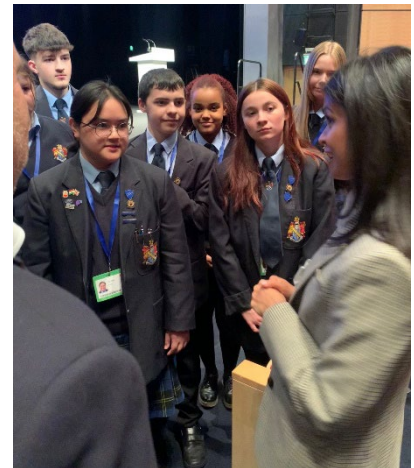
Students had the chance to catch up with Andy Carter MP to thank him for nominating Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School to attend the trip.

They were able to share their experiences from across the day, including their personal highlights from speaking to different groups and representatives, and ask him further questions about working in politics.

A big surprise on the day came in the form of Akshata Murty, wife of current Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who joined us for a quick talk and Q&A.

She was very impressed with the questions posed and took the time to speak with our Students individually about issues and current affairs impacting them.

She too praised their questions and engagement, which was a fantastic end to our day.



Latest PE News

Strong start for our sports teams!

We have already had fixtures and competitions since starting back to school a few weeks ago. Here are some of our highlights:



Year 7 Boys Football results – 3-1, 2-0, 7-1 in the Warrington Schools League.

Year 8 Football results – have won all of their games so far, 7-0 and 3-0!

Year 9 Football Results – won 3-1, drew 3-3 and lost 3-2.

Year 10 Football Results – won 2-1, 3-2, 2-2 draw

Year 9 Girls Football – narrow 3-2 loss against Cardinal Newman Catholic High School

Year 8 Rugby – 13 a side Legends qualifying round secured one win and one loss, putting us second in the group.

Celebrating the success of our students

Our KS3 Cross Country Team finished 3rd at the Warrington Schools' 2.8km race at Walton Hall and Gardens. Excellent finishing place for T. Darbyshire in Year 9 .They go again this Saturday at the 2nd of 3 league meetings. Good luck to all our runners!

E.Barker (Year 10) and W.Kenwright (Year 10) both finished in 2nd place at the first of 3 Warrington Schools Cross Country League on Saturday at Walton Hall and Gardens

Five students in Year 7 have been invited to attend the Warrington and District Football Trials. This is to select the best players across all the schools in Warrington schools to make up one squad who will compete with other districts within the North of England. Good luck to Myles, Ali, Seb, Archie and Blake!

Luke (Year 9) makes Taekwondo Team GB!

Incredible achievement and we look forward to hearing how you perform at the Munich Open Taekwondo competition on the 7th October.



National representation for our Rugby Teams!

Congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 8 Rugby Teams who have qualified for the Schools National Rugby League Cup. We await our first set of matches!

Up and coming events:

The Neville Jones Schools Cross Country League (Walton Hall and Gardens, Warrington)

-Saturday 7th October 2023, Saturday 18th November 2023

Tuesday 10th October = Year 10 and Year 8 Football fixtures in the Warrington Schools League

Wednesday 11th October – KS3 Netball Fixtures in the Warrington Schools League

Applications for Into Film's Youth Advisory Council are open!

Interested in learning more about the screen sector and helping to shape the work of Into Film? Apply to become a member of the Into Film Youth Advisory Council!

This is a fantastic opportunity for any young film fan, it also enables the young people to develop key skills, such as communication, teamwork and problem solving. Members also get the chance to take part in events that help with their job or university personal statements.

As part of the application, you will be asked to select your top area of interest out of 3 Into Film programmes Filmmaking, Screen Careers and Film for Learning.

<https://www.intofilm.org/youth-advisory-council>

Upcoming School events

- All week – Mental Health assemblies
- Monday 9th October – Year 11 Myerscough Assembly
- Tuesday 10th October – SEND Careers Fair
- Tuesday 10th October – Year 11 Information Evening (18:00 start)
- Wednesday 11th October – TCAT Parliament
- Wednesday 11th October – Warrington Careers Fair, Warrington Youth Zone (3pm - 6:30pm)

ESOL Initial Assessment Day

If you're looking for an ESOL course, please come to this initial assessment day where we will check your level of English and get in contact with you for the best course for you!

This is the first step to learning English, let's take that first step together!

When:
Wednesday 11th October

Where:
Whitecross Community Centre
Lexden Street, WA5 1PT

Time : Drop in between
10am- 2pm

The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1120750) and in Scotland (no. SC202028).



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ESOL courses

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**14th October
6:30pm**

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