

# head'sherald

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

**VOLUME 16    DATE 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well.

There has been a significant amount of work going on in school in terms of building operations. As you are aware, we are having a lot of work done to ensure we are energy efficient, which in turn reduces costs and therefore allows me to ensure money is spent on our young people. However, it is quite a logistical undertaking and we are doing our very best to minimise any disruption so I just wanted to keep you up to date.

The students and staff have been very accommodating to date and we appreciate their patience. We have had new windows installed and this programme is nearly complete. Regarding the insulation, this is a slightly bigger project and we are working as quickly as possible. This started at the beginning of January and phase 1 is well underway.

The yard at the back of school near the basketball courts is now usable again and please remind your child that this is where they line up if the fire alarm is sounded. Year 10 and Year 11 are also going to line up here in a morning rather than at the front of school and this starts Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. All the students have been informed, but if you could please remind them, that would be great.

We are having work done on the roof and guttering too to ensure it is safe in case you are wondering why there is extra scaffolding up. I am so sorry about this but the works are necessary and they are not having any detrimental effect on teaching and learning and that remains my priority.

The next step is the new dining room, which will be situated in the quad area near DT. This will ensure we have more indoor space for the young people at break and lunchtime and it will also provide space for more 'food stations' so that the queues are not as long. Saying that, I do get everyone though within 25 minutes at the moment although there is more pressure when it is 'chip day'. There is always food available and I try and work with the catering team to ensure there is always the same choice for those at the front to those at the end of the queue. I know there are still some issues, but I am working on them.

I want us to be the best we can be in terms of our learning environment and our educational provision and I am always looking at ways to improve our provision and invest in resources for our amazing young people.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Scott-Herron', with the first letters of each name being larger and more stylized.

Beverley Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**

## **Standards**

In assemblies this week Mr Leonard and Mr Kinsey have focussed on standards and safety in school. As our school has been steadily growing and is now at capacity, it is more important than ever that our systems reflect a safe and orderly environment. With this in mind we have communicated a number of tweaks and changes to our systems to the students this week. This includes:

- **Movement at lesson changeover:** To improve the flow of students around the building during transition times the students will use the back stairs only for moving 'up' to the first floor and the front stairs will be used for going 'down'. This will only be for the busy transition periods from registration to Period 1, Period 1 to Period 2 and Period 3 to Period 4.
- **Line-ups:** KS3 students have been lining up in year groups at 08:25 since September. Years 10 and 11 will now line up in their fire drill areas around the back of school from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. This is to provide a more orderly start to the day in a safer area given the space that will now be available to them.

During line-ups Heads of Year will blow a whistle at 08:25am. Students then line up in alphabetical order and show their tutor that they are ready to learn for the day in terms of uniform, bag and equipment. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will enter school in their usual place. Year 10 and Year 11 will enter school via the back blue doors.

If you have any questions about the above please contact Mr C Kinsey, Deputy Headteacher.

## Year 11 Update

Last Friday, Year 11 received their mock exam results in the school hall. This was a fabulous occasion and so lovely to see the faces of our students who were enjoying the reward of the hard work they have put in so far. Students were reminded in the assembly that the next set of Mock Exams will be more testing as they will be assessing a much larger amount of the content that has been covered since the start of Year 10. Year 11 now have five full school weeks until the second and final set of Mock Exams begin. The countdown has begun until the real GCSE exams begin in the summer term. Year 11 now have thirteen school weeks remaining until the first exams start.

Our extension of the school day (Period 6) is now underway. Just a reminder that on a Tuesday to Thursday there will be a day dedicated to a subject area where the students will attend a study session for the dedicated subject. The session will run from 15.15-16.00 Tuesday – Thursday. The Period 6 lessons will run on a two-week timetable in the same way as our normal school timetable operates. These sessions will run up until the GCSE exams are completed.



## Year 9 Options Evening

We would like to invite all Year 9 parents and carers to join Mr Koltan, senior colleagues and Heads of Department in school on the evening of **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, as Mr Koltan outlines the Options process for Year 9 students. This is a compulsory event as the Options process will determine what subjects your child will study at Key Stage 4 and will influence future career pathways and/or further training.

Heads of Department, our careers advisory service Careers Connect and further education establishments will be available to answer any questions and offer guidance about subject choices and explain details about specific courses. Students attending the evening need to be in full school uniform.

The evening will commence at **18:00** in the school hall. After this there will be the opportunity to talk to our Heads of Department about their subjects in separate areas.



Last year we announced our new partnership with MCKS Charitable Foundation UK (MCKS). They are a registered charity providing schools across the country with support for their most vulnerable students and families, by donating food, toiletries, and much needed sanitary supplies.

Due to their amazing sponsors and donations, we signed up to receive a fortnightly delivery, where we have been supporting a number of families. We recognise that times are tough at the moment, and with the support of MCKS, we have gone a small way to help families at this challenging time.

We know that it can be hard to ask for support at times, however, we really encourage those who are in need of support at this time, to contact Mr Leonard ([jleonard@boteler.org.uk](mailto:jleonard@boteler.org.uk)). All requests for support will be treated sensitively.

A big thank you to MCKS.

## **Personal Development**

This term there are many events on to support our students Personal Development. We are working on projects for Year 8, 9 and 10 with Young Enterprise developing their employability skills. We have a Year 9 trip to Chester University to develop critical thinking skills, a Girls in Construction Day for Year 10 at Warrington Vale Royal and some STEM events for Year 9 and 10 students.

During Children's Mental Health week we have the Indie band "The Mercians" performing to Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 followed by a talk on Mental Health, Discrimination / Misogyny & a Q&A with our students. We also have The Amy Winehouse Foundation in school delivering talks to Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 on resilience.

The Amy Winehouse Resilience Programme is designed to cover a wide range of issues, so that young people receive the most comprehensive and useful education around drugs, alcohol, mental health and emotional resilience.

## **Year 11**

Year 11 - please ensure you have attended your post 16 course discussion and accepted your college offer. If you need to make a careers interview please see Mr Horne on Monday as Rose from Careers Connect will be in school next Wednesday.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Further to the previous school communications to parents and carers in relation to the importance of school attendance, the Department for Education have released further guidance for schools in this area. This includes:

Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together. From 8 January, Government is launching a national

campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide schools with off-the-shelf products they can use to support the campaign and create a national moment around attendance. The campaign strapline is "moments matter, attendance counts".

The Chief Medical Officer and leading health professionals have also written to schools to provide a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance. The letter can be seen here below, where you can click on the links to take you to some key advice and guidance, including, when and when not to send your child to school.

*Dear Headteachers and trust leaders,*

*As you begin to welcome children and young people back for a new school year, we have been asked by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide you with a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance.*

*We are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident with assessing whether their child is well enough to be in school so we have laid out some information which we hope you will find helpful.*

*There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.*

*It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to share the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) with parents and carers in your schools and communities which has further information.*

*In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. DfE has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#) and those who are experiencing persistent symptoms can be encouraged to access additional support.*

*Thank you for your efforts so far to facilitate immunisation sessions within schools. As we head into winter, encouraging high uptake of seasonal flu vaccination and routine immunisations for eligible children and young people will help to reduce absences and the disruption they cause.*

*You, and the teachers you lead, are already supporting families to build up children's confidence to attend school regularly. The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) recently approved [5 principles to promote school attendance](#). We hope this guidance will support GPs in having sensitive and reassuring conversations with parents, carers and pupils.*

*Thank you and your colleagues for your continued commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, England*

*Pat Cullen, General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing*

*Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners*

*Dr Camilla Kingdon, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health*

*William Roberts, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health*

*Dr Lade Smith, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists*

### **Key facts relating to attendance:**

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup> And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:
- More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years. But attendance is important for more than just attainment:
- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



## **Save the date – Safeguarding Evening**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – 17:30. Parents/Carers will be invited to school for a Safeguarding evening with PC Andrew Kevan. To sign up to the event please complete the online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/pF6QWXypWb>

This is a 'no nonsense', frank look at what happens when children are given unfiltered access to the internet/social media platforms, without strict guidelines and parental/carers support. The presentation is supported by current legislation and statistics.

More detail to follow in our 'Keeping Boteler Safe' bulletin out Monday – 15.01.24



## **Library re-launch**

Our library is now available at lunch times for any student who would like to read, study or play board games in a quiet, supportive environment.

Students, who have a school dinner, can obtain a pass from their English teacher for the dinner queue. Miss Owen will be on hand to support any student who would like to borrow a book.

## **HPV Vaccine Programme – Year 9, 10 and 11**

Please click on the following link to view a letter from the School Immunisations Team. The letter advises of a change in the HPV vaccine programme which has changed from a two dose to a one dose vaccine schedule for eligible adolescents.

<https://t.ly/Xulnu>

If you have any questions, please contact the School-aged Immunisation Team on 01925 946808.

# DANCE EXPLOSION



**Showcasing  
a variety  
of year  
groups  
and dance  
styles from  
across the  
decades**

**22nd February 2024 ★ 6pm**

**At Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School**

**£2 per ticket**

**Tickets available from the main school office**

---





## Parent/Carer Autism Online Workshops

Whether your child is awaiting a diagnosis or has already been diagnosed, these workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about Autism & ask questions within a supportive group of other parents & carers.

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February - An introduction to Autism**  
An opportunity to explore what Autism is, the many strengths and the differences that make each child so wonderfully unique.
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Communication**  
Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Sensory Processing**  
Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual's sensory needs.
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Pathological Demand Avoidance**  
A look into the interesting subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

**Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom.**

£25 per workshop for each family.

**To book your place...** Email [enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com](mailto:enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com)

Or scan the QR code

