

# head'sherald

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

## VOLUME 17 DATE 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As a school we are on our journey to being 'outstanding' and in the last Ofsted (2021) we were very nearly 'outstanding' in the area of Personal Development. I just want to give you a few updates regarding the awards we are working towards over the next 12 months which will help strengthen our Personal Development offer and more importantly demonstrate our successes within key areas of focus that we feel are important.

### **Leading Parent Partnership award (LPPA)**

We really value the excellent relationship we have with you as our parents and carers and we want to build on this. This award will help our school to work in partnership with all of you. By increasing parental/carer participation in school life evidence suggests this leads to improved student progress, punctuality, attendance and behaviour. The framework encourages parents and carers to be involved in their children's learning, which in turn will lead to improved outcomes in all aspects of school life. We want you to be involved and feel that you help us make a real difference. This award will be led by Mrs Mawby – Assistant Headteacher.

### **Well-being Award**

This award focuses on developing the long-term culture of the whole school to have a focus around wellbeing. Using an evidence-based framework to drive change, it will help to deliver staff and student wellbeing, review staff training, and revise our policies. This award will ensure that mental health and wellbeing sit at the heart of our school life. We are passionate about providing the best care for our young people and want to ensure they are able to thrive. This award will be led by Jemma Chilton – Safeguarding and Mental Health Lead.

### **Rainbow Flag Award**

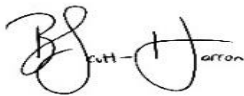
The Rainbow Flag Award is a national quality assurance framework, that focuses on positive LGBT+, (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other related identities), inclusion and visibility. The award encourages a whole organisation approach to LGBT+ inclusion, as well as developing strategies to effectively challenge and combat LGBTphobic bullying. Miss Roberts - LGBT+ Lead and Mrs Butcher – Personal Development Lead will be in charge of this award.

All the preparation for the awards will take place over the next 12 months. Staff, students', parents and carers and other key stakeholders will be asked for their input at various stages over that period.

We will be using self-assessment and utilising external support to monitor and feedback on our progress. We will have access to a variety of resources and interventions to make sure we are the best we can be in all the areas. We want to demonstrate our best practice and ensure we have access to resources and materials so we can provide the best support for our young people and families.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Scott-Herron'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name 'Beverley' and the last name 'Herron' clearly visible, and 'Scott' in between.

Beverley Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**

## 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 **6:00pm** in the school hall. After this there will be the opportunity to talk to our Heads of Department about their subjects in separate areas.

## Year 9 Parents Evening

Year 9 parents' evening is on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January** from 3.30pm. Booking is live on SchoolCloud. If you have made a booking yet, please do so asap. This evening is an excellent opportunity to talk to our foundation subject teachers about potential option subject choices.

## Year 10 Working At (WA) Assessments

Year 10 students will be starting their Working At (WA) assessments in all of their subjects during assessment fortnight (**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**). This may take the form of a test or an assessed piece of writing/practical piece of work and will assess the content students have been taught since September.

All tests will be classroom based and undertaken under exam conditions. It is important that students are used to working in this environment so they are fully prepared for their examinations in Year 11. Students are expected to be fully prepared for all assessments with the **correct equipment** which includes:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Pencil case
- Scientific calculator

# INTERNAL TRUANCY: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

**Internal truancy** is defined as: when a student is present in school but is deliberately avoiding attending lessons.

As a school we insist on High Expectations. High Aspirations and High Standards in everything we do in order to succeed. Unfortunately, there are a very small number of young people who are not adhering to our vision and are internally truanting lessons. Students who truant cause disruption to school, miss valuable learning and are a safeguarding risk because they are not where they should be. Please discuss the table below with your child so they fully understand of the consequences of not being in lessons.

Our students can only succeed if they are in lessons learning. Your support is vital and I thank you in advance as we both want them to get the best outcomes possible.

The student once challenged will always be expected to go to the lesson. This is the minimum expectation.

<b>Incidence of internal truancy</b>	<b>Sanction</b>
<b>First instance</b> student is reported of internal truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student directed and escorted to the lesson</li> <li>• Parents/Carers will receive a text informing them their child is internally truanting lesson</li> <li>• Students issued with a 30-minute detention for the same day after school.</li> <li>• Text message of detention will be issued</li> <li>• Your child's Head of Year will call you to discuss the incident</li> <li>• If the child does not comply with the first bullet you will be asked to attend school immediately. If we are unable to contact you this will raise a safeguarding concern as we need to be able to contact you in an emergency.</li> </ul>
<b>Second instance</b> student is reported of internal truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student will be internally isolated for 1 day including break and lunchtime.</li> <li>• Parents/Carers will receive a text message informing them that their child is truanting lessons</li> <li>• Students issued with a 30-minute detention for the same day after school.</li> <li>• Parents/Carers must meet with the Head of Year within 48 hours of the truancy.</li> </ul>
<b>Third instance</b> student is reported of internal truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student will be internally isolated until a parent/carer can come in for a meeting.</li> <li>• Parents/Carers will receive a text message informing them that their child is truanting lessons.</li> <li>• Parents/Carers must meet with the Head of Year within 48 hours of the truancy.</li> <li>• Students will be placed on a 4-week monitoring plan with their Head of Year.</li> <li>• Students will attend a 60-minute SLT detention on a Thursday.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Fourth instance</b> student is reported of internal truancy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents/Carers will receive a phone call informing them that their child is truanting.</li><li>• The student will be internally isolated on the day.</li><li>• The student will be placed at an off-site provision the following day. The Headteacher will decide on the length of time.</li><li>• Reintegration meeting with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher</li><li>• Catch up work to be completed at home and returned to school.</li><li>• Where appropriate a disciplinary panel may be convened to discuss the student's future at the school.</li></ul>
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## A TEAM EFFORT TO REDUCE SCHOOL ABSENCE IS NEEDED

Further to the previous communication in relation to attendance, reducing school absence remains a school priority and will continue to be high profile in future communications with parents. All schools across the country have seen a drop in attendance and, in some cases, an attendance crisis since the pandemic.



As a school, at 92% attendance, we outperform local and national averages, however, we cannot be satisfied with this. We have high aspirations for all students in relation to attendance, and we know we can achieve more. Attendance statistics and averages mean little other than to illustrate the current challenges we face, what really does matter to you, is your own child's attendance.

Please consider the below, ensuring you are doing all you can to prevent any days of absence:

- Missing two weeks for a family holiday taken in term time will mean that your child has missed 50 hours of new learning. This leads to significant gaps in learning, particularly significant for Year 11 who are preparing for their final examinations.
- Having broken attendance (a day off every week or fortnight, on random days) means that students will miss five hours of new learning each time. They will struggle to understand the work they do the following week because lessons are taught in sequences which rely on prior knowledge.
- As previously mentioned, there is a significant correlation between absence and exam results. As parents/carers, ensure you reflect with your child in relation to the assessment and exam results, where outcomes will be heavily impact on what attendance they have achieved.
- 90% is a test is good but not for attendance. As we write this, if your child has 90% attendance, they will have missed around 40 hours of learning time.
- If your child has 95% at this moment, they will have still missed in excess of 17 hours of learning time.
- A student who has 90% attendance from Year 1 up to Year 11, will have lost over 1000 hours of learning.
- Work with school if you see patterns emerging, where your child is claiming to be ill on regular occasions, particularly the same day over the fortnight.

Every day really does count and we are here to support. Please track your child's attendance via the Arbor App and speak to school ASAP if you have any concerns.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## **Personal Development**

### **Year 11**

Warrington & Vale Royal College's first **College Experience Evening** is taking place on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January** from **5.00pm – 7.00pm** at **Warrington campus**.

This exciting event is open to **Year 11 students who have applied** to study with WVR in September, offering them the exclusive opportunity to gain first-hand experience of what it's like to be a student on their chosen course. They will spend two hours in the state-of-the-art classrooms with their tutor and future classmates, taking part in engaging subject activities and perhaps even making some new friends ahead of starting college! Parents and carers are also invited to join on this evening and attend a presentation by the Principal & Chief Executive. Feedback from both prospective students and parents/carers following the event is unanimously positive, in that it is invaluable to supporting school leavers with their transition from high school, and feeling more confident in their choices.

Invitations were sent to thousands of applicants via email last week, encouraging them to register their place. As you can appreciate, they do have limited spaces due to classroom capacities, so it is essential that students register as soon as possible to secure a place on the night.

To register, simply have to complete the form on our website:

<https://wvr.ac.uk/events-news/cee>

*\*Registrations for the event will close at 12.00pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.*

### **Applications still open for September 2024!**

The WVR Admissions Team are currently processing school leaver applications for this September. If any students have not yet applied but would like to attend the College Experience Evenings, please urge them to apply as soon as possible so that their application can be processed and the college can ensure that they receive an invitation to their events in January and March. To apply, students can easily do so on the website:

Apply online: <https://wvr.ac.uk/16-18>

Request a paper application form and pre-paid returns envelope in the post: <https://wvr.ac.uk/apply>

## **National Apprenticeship week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Year 10 and 11**

Warrington Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair is taking place at Warrington Youth Zone on 7<sup>th</sup> February 5pm – 8pm

Currently there are 60 exhibitors with apprenticeships, employment in full and part time roles and training represented with last year's attendance of over 1000 people.

Please register using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/warrington-apprenticeship-and-jobs-fair-public-sign-up-tickets-776874100347>

## Year 7 – 11

Please use the following link to learn more about apprenticeship. This live webinar is on 5<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm

This webinar is for all parents and carers whose young person may wish to consider an apprenticeship at 16. Join us as we dig deeper into what an apprenticeship is and how to find one. The team will be available on the Chat function to answer any questions you might have. Attendees will receive a recording of the session after the event

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_E-BCEQuCTjC0odpPp4WMvQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E-BCEQuCTjC0odpPp4WMvQ)

all about  
**FUTURES**



 all about  
**STEM**

[Welcome! You are invited to join a webinar: Apprenticeship Pathways - Parent and Carer Information Session. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar.](#)

This webinar is for all parents and carers whose young person may wish to consider an apprenticeship at 16. Join us as we dig deeper into what an apprenticeship is and how to find one. Our team will be available on the Chat function to answer any questions you might have. Attendees will receive a recording of the session after the event.

us02web.zoom.us

Next week Year 10 start their college assemblies. Here they will learn what courses are available to them post 16 and what the colleges offer. Please start speaking to your child about their Post 16 plan.

Year 9 have their Options Evening next week, please use their Start profile account to learn about the option process.

[https://careers.startprofile.com/identity/Login?ReturnUrl=%2Fidentity%2Fconnect%2Fauthorize%3Frequest\\_id%3DsDvJjNpM8ogbEQFKPYG0JfCqzN7zRiEc4bGVEQZK38c%26prompt%3Dcontinue](https://careers.startprofile.com/identity/Login?ReturnUrl=%2Fidentity%2Fconnect%2Fauthorize%3Frequest_id%3DsDvJjNpM8ogbEQFKPYG0JfCqzN7zRiEc4bGVEQZK38c%26prompt%3Dcontinue)

Don't forget to sign in with the Microsoft office button.

**Careers Interviews** – Year 9 will start to have a careers interview with our careers advisor during school time. If you would like your child to meet with them, please email [pbound@boteler.org.uk](mailto:pbound@boteler.org.uk)

**Young Enterprise** – On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Year 9 will be having a workshop with Young Enterprise. **The Launch Pad work shop is a fast paced, engaging enterprise challenge which provides an introduction to employability skills.**

<https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/programmes/launchpad/>

**Chester University** – Some students from Year 9 will be attending Chester University on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January to develop their revision skills and critical thinking.





## Fresh

Fresh is an after-school club is for all year groups to come along, play games, make friends, eat doughnuts, and discuss the big questions of life and faith.

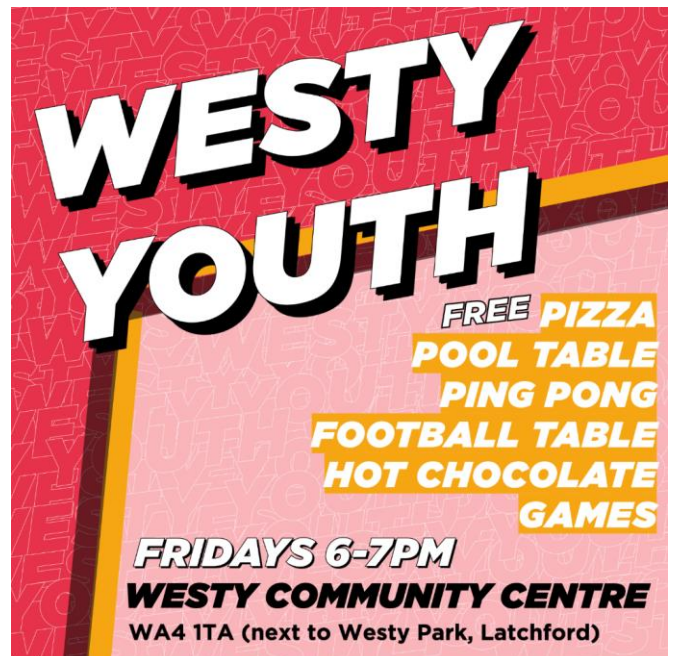
Fresh is run by our Youth for Christ worker Kim and all students are welcome to come along in the library every Friday after school.

## Westy Youth

Westy Youth is a free drop-in for all high-school aged young people at Westy Community Centre.

They're open from 6-7pm every Friday evening in term-time, offering a safe, warm place to be, with free pizza and games.

They'd love to see you there!



## Form Tutor Changes

We have had some changes to form tutors and tutor group names this term.

- 8BC will now become **8PT**, with Mr Thompson taking over from Mr Conradie's form group
- 11EH will become **11JS**, with Miss Stalmach taking over from Mrs Hoey's form group

## SEND Survey

Please click on the link to access the annual Warrington SEND Survey for parents and carers

<https://t.ly/0u8eP>



**SEND Survey 23-24**



# 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**

# BOTELER WIDER CURRICULUM

	ACTIVITY	TIME	WEEK	YEAR	LOCATION
<b>MONDAY</b>	THE CRUNCHIES SINGING GROUP	FORM	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	FOOTBALL	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL/ TENNIS COURTS
	HISTORY CLUB	LUNCH	1	ALL	ROOM 11
	SCHOOL COUNCIL	LUNCH	2	ALL	ROOM 11
	BOTELERTONIX	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	FURTHER MATHS	LUNCH	1 & 2	INVITED 11	ROOM 1
	COOKING CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1	ALL	ROOM 17
<b>TUESDAY</b>	ACTIVITY	TIME	WEEK	YEAR	LOCATION
	FLUTE & BRASS GROUP	FORM	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	DRAMA CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	7 - 10	DRAMA STUDIO
	BTEC SPORT COURSEWORK	LUNCH	1 & 2	10	ROOM 29
	POST-16 ADVICE	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	LIBRARY
	CODING CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	7 - 9	ROOM 12
	INTERNATIONAL CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	HALL
	FURTHER MATHS	LUNCH	1 & 2	INVITED 11	ROOM 1
	FOOTBALL	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL/ TENNIS COURTS
	BOTELERTONIX & YEAR 11 PERFORMANCE WORK	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	DODGEBALL CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL
	FUTSAL CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	7 - 10	FIELD
	GIRLS NETBALL TRAINING	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:15	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL
	YEAR 10 MARINE BIOLOGY CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:10-16:00	1 & 2	10	LAB 5
	HOMEWORK CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	ALL	PROGRESS HUB
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	9 & 10	8	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	ACTIVITY	TIME	WEEK	YEAR	LOCATION
	THE CRUNCHIES SINGING GROUP	FORM	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	ECO COUNCIL	LUNCH	1	ALL	ROOM 8
	WELLBEING COUNCIL	LUNCH	1	ALL	ROOM 19
	WELLBEING DROP IN	LUNCH	2	ALL	ROOM 19
	POST-16 ADVICE	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	LIBRARY
	SCHOOL BAND – ANYONE WHO PLAYS AN INSTRUMENT IS WELCOME	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	FOOTBALL	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL/ TENNIS COURTS
	STAGECRAFT	LUNCH	1 & 2	7 - 10	DRAMA STUDIO
	MATHS REVISION & HELP	LUNCH	1 & 2	11	ROOM 1
	MATHS CLUB	LUNCH	2	7 - 9	ROOM 2
	BADMINTON CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL
	TRAMPOLINING	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL
	GCSE MUSIC FOR YEAR 11	LUNCH	1 & 2	11	MUSIC
	GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:15	1 & 2	ALL	VARIOUS
	GIRLS WEIGHTLIFTING CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:15	1 & 2	7 - 10	GYM
	DT (LIMITED NUMBERS DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY AND NUMBER OF WORKSTATIONS)	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	ALL	ROOM 15
	KS3 GRAPHIC DESIGN & KS4 DT/GRAPHIC DESIGN COURSEWORK CATCH UP (LIMITED NUMBERS DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY AND NUMBER OF WORKSTATIONS)	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	ALL	ROOM 16
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	9 & 10	8	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	ACTIVITY	TIME	WEEK	YEAR	LOCATION
	SAMBOTELER	FORM	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	INTERNATIONAL CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	HALL
	MUSIC COMPOSITION CLASS	LUNCH	1 & 2	11	MUSIC
	MATHS HOMEWORK HELP	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	ROOM 13
	CHESS CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	ROOM 12
	SCHOOL BAND	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	MUSIC
	FOOTBALL	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL/ TENNIS COURTS
	BOYS DANCE CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	GYM
	GIRLS DANCE CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	DRAMA STUDIO
	FRENCH CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	ROOM 6
	PHILOSOPHY BOOK CLUB	LUNCH	1	7 - 9	28
	SPANISH CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	ROOM 5
	BTEC SPORT COURSEWORK	LUNCH	1 & 2	10 - 11	ROOM 29
	BASKETBALL TRAINING	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:15	1 & 2	7 - 10	BALL HALL
	BOYS RUGBY FIXTURES & TRAINING	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:15*	1 & 2	ALL	FIELD
	DANCE CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:15	1 & 2	ALL	GYM
	ART CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1	7 - 9	Room 26
	HOMEWORK CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	ALL	PROGRESS HUB
GUITAR CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1	ALL	MUSIC	
YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:10-16:00	1 & 2	7	LAB 3	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	ACTIVITY	TIME	WEEK	YEAR	LOCATION
	HOUSE POP UP CHALLENGES	BREAK	1 & 2	ALL	VARIOUS
	LGBTQ+ COUNCIL	LUNCH	1	ALL	ROOM 26
	FOOTBALL	LUNCH	1 & 2	ALL	BALL HALL/ TENNIS COURTS
	MFL GCSE SPEAKING CLUB	LUNCH	1 & 2	11	ROOMS 5/6
	ETHOS COUNCIL	LUNCH	2	ALL	ROOM 19
GUITAR CLUB	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	2	ALL	MUSIC	
FRESH CHRISTIAN UNION	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00	1 & 2	ALL	LIBRARY	

**THE LIBRARY IS OPEN EVERY LUNCH TIME FOR QUIET READING**

\*Times relate to training sessions only. Fixtures will finish approximately 17:15.