

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 well and keeping safe in this nasty weather we seem to be having at present.

We have had a wonderful but busy week with some of the highlights being: Options Evening, Chester University Visit, Indoor Rowing Competition, Berlin Visit Information Evening, Sports fixtures etc. All of these have one important thing in common and that is you. Without your support and dedication to our Boteler Family these events would not work. You are integral to our success, and I just wanted to feedback my thanks but also to ask for your help.

We have a system in a morning where the students line up outside (weather permitting) and meet with their Tutors, so all the necessary standards checks take place. This takes away any barriers to learning and we make sure they are ready for the day.

Unfortunately, the punctuality of some does not represent our high expectations and some are not seeing the importance of being in on time. All students must be in School in their line at 08.25 or they face a sanction. We are always trying to give our students a 'toolkit for life'. If they were going to work and were late there would be consequences and school is no different. All the activities in form-time are important, from careers advice to visitors in assembly and they are carefully planned, as every minute in education counts.

All we want is the very best for each and every child and for them to succeed in both an academic and holistic way. Therefore insisting on punctuality is part of that. Please can you have a conversation at home reiterating this message. We understand that the Warrington traffic is horrendous at times and that buses are occasionally late, but we really do need to see an improvement from some. If there are issues, then please call the office and we will assist accordingly.

We really do appreciate all your help and support and I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes



Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher

Ready to learn

To echo Mrs. Scott-Herron's message about punctuality to school, my message is about reinforcing sharp starts in lessons. As soon as students enter their lesson they have a challenge on the screen. This is to be immediately engaged with on task time (no talking, pens out, start work). Often this task is some form of retrieval which means students are challenged to recall prior learning facts and processes. Part of this content will be fragile learning which the teacher has planned to revisit to ensure it is embedded in their memory.

It is important this task is engaged with effectively and efficiently to free more time up for students to work independently later in the lesson. This is a significant emphasis for us in preparing our students for their exams in which, when they get to Year 11, they will be expected to sit and focus for up to two hours for some exams. Building the skill, knowledge and resilience for this is a five year journey with an increasing focus on students working independently for longer. Our classroom practices are part of this preparation process.

Year 9 Options Evening

I would like to thank all those parents/carers who supported the Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday. 82% of parents/carers attended on the night. As Mr Koltan referenced in his presentation, the Options Evening is the start of the process.

Students have until Monday 26th March (deadline for completion) to think carefully about their option choices.

The following link will take you to the Options section of the school website www.boteler.org.uk/options. This page includes the Option booklet and the presentation Mr Koltan delivered outlining key dates and the Options process.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

A final call for parents/carers to make a booking for Year 9 Parents' Evening which is on Monday 29th January from 15.30. Booking is live on SchoolCloud.

As Mr Koltan mentioned at the Options Evening, this event is an excellent opportunity to talk to our foundation subject teachers about potential option subject choices.

Local and national support via Happy? Ok? Sad?

If you have not already, please do take some time to visit [Happy? Ok? Sad? | warrington.gov.uk](http://warrington.gov.uk), where there is lots of advice and guidance to ensure your family is safe and well.

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'warrington.gov.uk' for the 'Happy? Ok? Sad?' service. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the website name, a language selector, and search/menu icons. Below the header, the main content area is titled 'Happy? Ok? Sad?' and features three large circular icons representing different moods: a green smiley face, an orange neutral face, and a purple frowny face. A paragraph of text explains that everyone deserves to enjoy life but sometimes it can be tough, and offers guidance on where to find help. Below this text are several large, rounded buttons for navigation: 'I need help right now' (purple), 'I'm an adult and I need help with...' (orange), 'I'm a child or young person and I need help with...' (orange), 'Support directory' (green), 'I'm looking to improve my own or someone's health and wellbeing...' (green), and 'I'm looking for mental health training & resources...' (green). On the right side, there is a vertical sidebar with a list of links corresponding to these buttons.

Further to this, please follow this link for a short video which talks you through the support available. <https://vimeo.com/882108412>

Mobile phones reminder

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 or inappropriate 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.**

This will also be the case if we deem the use of the mobile phone to be inappropriate and 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.

Personal Development

National Apprenticeship week 5th – 11th February

The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2024 is "Skills for Life". Everyone is encouraged to consider how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and employers to develop a workforce with future ready skills. Students will be learning about apprenticeships during the week.

Warrington Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair is taking place on the 7th February at the Warrington Youth Zone, 17:00 – 20:00.

With 60 employers booked to attend offering apprenticeships and roles across Warrington the event is an excellent opportunity for Year 11's through to adults to view a wide range of current opportunities along with being able to inspire the future decision making of younger students.

To book your place please use the link below:

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

Use the following sites to learn about apprenticeships:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3dkmbk#zv2qp9q>

Support for Parents on Apprenticeships can be found here:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians#>

Young Enterprise Day – On Tuesday 30th January Year 8 are taking part in a Young Enterprise day with the focus on 'Learn to Earn'

Robot Day – Some Year 9 Students will be taking part in a Robot Day at school on the Wednesday 31st January.

'Girls in Construction Day' – we are visiting Chester University for a 'Girls in Construction Day' on Friday 2nd February.

Collective Worship

This week as part of Collective Worship, students have been focusing on Holocaust Memorial Day. Holocaust Memorial Day falls on 27th January and this year's theme is 'The Fragility of Freedom'. We have used this as an opportunity to reflect on the freedom that is lost for many people as a result of all conflict and genocide, both in the past and today. We used the scripture from Isaiah (41:10) to discuss the importance of having faith in times of despair:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

The Worship Ambassadors led an assembly for Year 7 to provide opportunity for us to consider how we can learn from worldwide conflict and promote peace in our lives both at home and in school. The Ethos council have led a reflection opportunity at lunchtime for students to remember all lives that have been lost; both in the past and recently, as a result of genocide and conflict.

Please keep up to date with our weekly prayer and scripture via social media.



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

Warrington Wolves Ball Crew Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a player from your community club or school to become one of Warrington Wolves' Matchday ball operatives for 2024!

Ball operatives are an imperative part of matchday operations, helping keep the game flow by ensuring a ball is ready to be in play at all times! Anyone selected will be given full training and will be selected each week for one of our home male pathway fixtures- whether this is a scholarship, academy or reserves game at Victoria Park or a male Super League game at the Halliwell Jones Stadium!



Please click on the expression of interest link below if you are interested. We will make contact with selected candidates week commencing February 5th. Please understand this is a season long commitment.

<https://forms.office.com/e/vT93vi32e5>

Alex Bielby
11-18 Player Pathway Co-Ordinator

GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR THE 2024 SEASON

COME DOWN TO A TRAINING SESSION - BRING A FRIEND

Victoria Park/Crosfields/kings Academy- Warrington



MONDAYS (VICTORIA PARK)

UNDER 15'S AND UNDER 16'S
8PM TILL 9PM

FRIDAYS (VICTORIA PARK)

UNDER 12'S
6PM TILL 7PM

UNDER 13'S AND UNDER 14'S
7PM TIL 8PM

SATURDAY (CROSFIELDS) AND WEDNESDAY (KINGS ACADEMY)

OPEN AGE
10AM TILL 11AM (SAT)
8PM TILL 9PM (WEDS)



Get in touch to find out more warringtongirlsrl@gmail.com



Brick Festival

You are invited to join us at
St Elphin's Parish Church, Warrington, WA1 2TL

**Saturday 10th February 2024 from 10am-4pm
and Sunday 11th 12-4pm. Keep up-to-date via our FB page.**

Free-build area

Competitions

Design a mini-fig

Bible Stories in Bricks

Craft Stalls

Refreshments available