

head'sherald

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

VOLUME 21 DATE 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and are refreshed after the half term break, in particular those students and staff that took part in the visit to Berlin. We have had a busy first week back in school with Year 11 Hospitality exams, Year 10 students taking part in a CV writing workshop, sports fixtures and of course our fantastic Dance Show last night.

I would to communicate with you some updates. Our wonderful Head of Year 9 Miss Bound, has moved to pastures new and relocated. Whilst we wish her all the very best, I do not want any Parents and Carers worrying about support for Year 9 students.

We have been through a full recruitment process and the field was very strong. I am delighted to let you know that Mr Wilcock was successfully appointed and will begin a period of transition to the role from his current position as Attendance Officer. Therefore, he will not formally start as Head of Year 9 until Wednesday 20th March 2024.

I will be the initial point of contact for Year 9 for Parents/Carers in the absence of the Head of Year and Mr Leonard and Mr Horne will support from a Pastoral point of view. If you do wish to contact myself, Mr Leonard or Mr Horne directly in the next 4 weeks then please do not hesitate to get in touch. If your query is about anything to do with SEND then please contact Miss Power or Mr Large and they will be able to help you directly.

If you have communicated to Miss Bound's email address in the past week, then please can you resend the communication to one of us so that we can ensure it has been addressed. I do not want you thinking we have not responded to you.

We really do appreciate your support and understanding. Mr Wilcock is very excited about his new position and of course the Year 9 students can see him and speak to him when he is on duty in the building. However, he just will not have capacity to pick up the full Pastoral commitments at this time.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the team.

Role	Name	Email address
Headteacher	Mrs Scott-Herron	bscott-herron@boteler.org.uk
Associate Deputy Behaviour and Welfare	Mr Leonard	jleonard@boteler.org.uk
Senior Pastoral Lead	Mr Horne	rhorne@boteler.org.uk
SENDCo	Miss Power	fpower@boteler.org.uk
Inclusion Lead teacher and coordinator	Mr Large	blarge@boteler.org.uk
Head of Year 9 (March 20 th)	Mr Wilcock	dwilcock@boteler.org.uk

Best wishes



Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher

Year 11 Mock Exams

I would like to wish all our Year 11 students good luck in their Mock Exams which start on Monday. Students have had their personalised revision timetables so it is really important they refer to these to know what exam/s they will be sitting each day and their seat number for each exam.

The exams last for over two weeks, so it is really important students look after themselves in addition to revising each evening. There will be no formal Mock Results Assembly like we had for the December Mocks. Instead, results will be released to students as soon as they are readily available and exam papers returned to students to support with their revision. Mock Result Reports will be emailed to parents on Friday 22nd March.

As I have communicated previously, we will be postponing the Period 6 sessions during this Mock Exam period. Teachers will still make themselves available on the scheduled days where students may want to ask their teachers questions about the Mock Exams or questions on specific topics.

The same teachers and subjects scheduled for Period 6 will be available on the specified evenings each Tuesday to Thursday.

Period 6 will return to normal from Tuesday 12th March.

All students (Year 7 – Year 11) will be on early lunches for the duration of the Mock exams.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 10 parents' evening is on **Monday 26th February** 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 your child's subject teachers about their progress so far this year.

Further to previous parental guidance and requests for support regarding children's use of mobile phones, we include some additional tips that can be considered at home. We know parental guidance with mobile phones is crucial in today's digital age to ensure children use their devices responsibly and safely, and if you need any further support, please contact the safeguarding team here at school.



1. **Set Limits and Boundaries:** Establish clear rules regarding when and how long your child can use their mobile phone each day. Consider implementing screen-free times, such as during family meals or before bedtime, to encourage healthier habits.
2. **Monitor Usage:** Keep an eye on your child's phone usage to ensure they're not spending excessive amounts of time on their device or accessing inappropriate content. There are various parental control apps available that allow you to monitor and manage your child's smartphone activities.
3. **Educate About Online Safety:** Teach your child about the importance of internet safety, including how to protect their personal information, recognise online threats like cyberbullying and phishing, and navigate social media responsibly.
4. **Lead by Example:** Be a positive role model by demonstrating responsible phone usage yourself. Limit your own screen time and prioritise real-life interactions over constant digital engagement.
5. **Encourage Open Communication:** Create a safe and non-judgmental environment where your child feels comfortable discussing their online experiences and any concerns they may have. Encourage them to come to you if they encounter anything inappropriate or upsetting online.
6. **Establish Tech-Free Zones:** Designate certain areas of your home, such as bedrooms or study areas, as tech-free zones to promote offline activities and reduce distractions.
7. **Promote Balance:** Encourage your child to engage in a variety of activities beyond their mobile phone, such as outdoor play, hobbies, and spending time with friends and family.
8. **Set Appropriate Content Filters:** Utilise parental controls and content filters to block access to inappropriate websites, apps, and content that may not be suitable for your child's age.
9. **Discuss Consequences:** Make sure your child understands the consequences of misuse or excessive phone usage, such as loss of privileges or restricted access to their device.
10. **Stay Informed and Updated:** Keep yourself informed about the latest trends, apps, and online risks that may affect your child's digital well-being. Regularly update your knowledge and adapt your approach as needed to ensure effective parental guidance with mobile phones.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS – GOOD PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT

Good punctuality is essential for fostering a positive learning environment, promoting personal growth, and preparing students for success in academics and life. Unfortunately, a number of students continue to be late for school without good reason. As above with mobile phones, please work through the below points in order to support school in providing the very best opportunities for your child.

1. **Establishing Discipline:** Punctuality helps students develop discipline and a sense of responsibility. Arriving to school on time requires planning, organisation, and commitment, all of which are valuable life skills.
2. **Maximising Learning Time:** Being punctual ensures that students make the most of their learning opportunities. Arriving late can result in missed instructions, important announcements, or introductory discussions, which can hinder academic progress.
3. **Respect for Others:** Punctuality demonstrates respect for teachers, classmates, and school staff by showing that you value their time and the learning environment. Lateness causes disruption!
4. **Building Reliable Habits:** Consistently being punctual in school helps students encourage habits of reliability and dependability, which are highly valued traits in academic, professional, and personal contexts.
5. **Reducing Stress:** Arriving late to school can cause stress and anxiety for students as they rush to catch up with work. Being punctual reduces this stress and promotes positive routines, where attention is then on learning.
6. **Developing Time Management Skills:** Punctuality encourages students to manage their time effectively and allocate sufficient time for commuting to school. These skills are essential for success both in school and beyond.
7. **Improved Academic Performance:** Studies have shown a correlation between punctuality and academic achievement. Students who regularly attend school on time are more likely to be engaged in their studies, participate in class discussions, and perform well academically.
8. **Preparing for the Future:** Punctuality is a valuable skill that extends beyond the school years. Employers, colleges, and universities place a high value on punctuality, as it is indicative of reliability, professionalism, and respect for others.

Please remember, students need to be in year group lines, ready for standard checks by 8.25am Monday to Thursday, and 8.50am on a Friday.

Make every minute count!



Personal Development

Post 16

Warrington & Vale Royal College newest initiative, 'The College Group Chat' podcast! Serving as another engaging stream of information for both current and future students, it is our hope that the podcast will offer a whole host of invaluable advice and guidance about post-16 education, as well as insights into student life here at the college.



The podcast's first episode is called 'All About Apprenticeships', and can be watched on our YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/6Aj2nGRdIwk?si=Z4q-zix2oD3kRscF>

More episodes will be coming soon.

Take a look at the apprenticeship guide: <https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=5075a557f1&e=3209d8f8ad>

Year 10 Work Experience Week – 18th March 2024

Please get in touch with Mrs A Mawby if you could offer a talk about your workplace/profession and your career to date to our Year 10 students. amawby@boteler.org.uk

If you can offer a placement for a day or more, please also get in touch.

Year 10 Parents and Carers please support your child in finding a work placement.

This week we had the Department for Work and Pensions delivering a CV workshop to the whole of Year 10. Year 10 now need to complete their CV before the Easter Holidays and will then be taking part in mock interviews with employers where they will be using their CV.

The week commencing the 4th March is National Careers week. More information to follow in the next edition.



Dance Explosion 2024

Lights, music, dance explosion! What an entertaining and uplifting evening it was. 32 students from Year 7 to Year 10 danced for an audience of over 70 parents/carers/friends and family.

Creativity and imagination were displayed through the variety of choreography the students had put together. Everyone was nervous; however, they channelled the nerves into brilliant performances showing bravery and resilience on stage.

The energy in the hall was infectious and the audience left on a high. Well done to all the students involved. Thank you to Mrs Tarry for manning reception and backstage, Mr Gregory for the sound, lighting and stage management and Mrs Hughes and Mrs Graham for coordinating the event. The next Dance Explosion performance will be in the summer term.



STEM Events

Our school recently hosted two engaging STEM events, led by an Engineering firm, where Year 8 and Year 9 students delved into the fascinating realms of robotics and mind-bending challenges.

Teams engaged in a spirited robotics competition, designing and programming their bots to navigate obstacle courses. The room buzzed with excitement as circuits hummed and wheels turned! A particular highlight were the catapults and bizarre delivery machines, sending ping-pong balls flying across the hall to land (mostly) safely at the target.

The atmosphere was charged with curiosity and camaraderie. Students discovered that STEM isn't just about equations—it's about unleashing creativity and shaping the future.

Well done to our dedicated participants, organisers, and supportive teachers. Let's continue igniting the STEM spark!

Stay curious, stay inspired!



Oxplore

Year 7, 8 and 9 students recently took part in Oxplore Event Sessions, this is where researchers from Oxford University in conjunction with science teachers from our TCAT partner schools collaborated on a number of projects for our students.

A group of Year 7 and 8 students were treated to a 3-hour event in our science labs, exploring the question 'can a robot have human feelings?' This was followed by an event hosted by Oxplore and TCAT at the pyramid centre.

Year 9 students explored the question 'could we end disease?' Exploring different types of disease, how they spread, containment and control with the work of the WHO.

Year 10 students attended a session on genetic engineering, cloning and ethics. As if this was not enough, we ended our week with a United Utilities progress meeting with TCAT, as 10 students have been working very hard in their dinnertime to progress with a project where they are designing a community centre. Taking into account environmental issues and how they can benefit not just the local population but the surrounding wildlife.

I would also like to add our wonderful Year 8 students who, like our previous students, are working in conjunction with Total Steel, C4 Architects and Warrington Wolves in designing a corner extension to the stadium. Again taking all factors like environmental issues, revenue streams for the club and other benefits for the local population into consideration, working in their own time at dinner and after school to accomplish this.

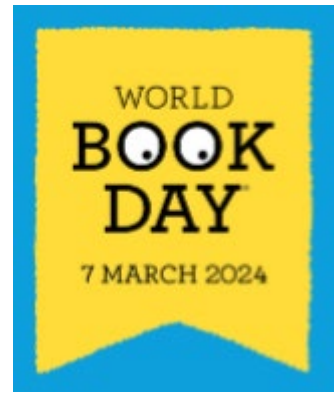
Year 10 Marine Biology Club

Marine Biology Club is now up and running again with 30 Year 10 students learning about the wonderful life in the oceans on a global basis. The club meets on Tuesdays for 1 hour after school.

English Department News – World Book Day

The English Department have arranged for a writer to come into school to share her experience with our students of how to become a published writer. This is to celebrate the power of reading on World Book Day on Thursday 7th March.

Kate Martin will be presenting to the students and explaining about how her books came to be. Her novels are fiction with a focus on mental health. Students – including all budding writers – will also learn about the writing process too.



GCSE Art Exam



A reminder to Year 11 Art GCSE students that they now have 5 weeks left to prepare for their exam.

Photographs, artists, ideas and trying out materials should be completed by then. Period 6 is also available.

Mrs Joice

Year 7 Football

We are extremely proud of our Year 7 girls football team!

Despite being two players down, they made it through to the semi-final of the Year 7 Warrington Schools football competition, then unfortunately were narrowly beaten by a strong Culcheth High School team.

A perfect example of resilience and determination!



Collective Worship

This week as part of Collective Worship, students have been looking at World Kindness Day which was on 17th February. We used the scripture from 1 Thessalonians (5:11) to discuss the importance of being kind to others:

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Students have been encouraged to promote random acts of kindness around school and nominate other people for their kind actions with a 'Pay it forward' award. Students have been nominating all week and we are excited to see what will happen with these awards next week!

The Worship Ambassadors have been leading assemblies all week with Mrs Hoey and our chaplain Mike, on the school's Christian Vision. They have been explaining how the vision represents the amazing potential of everyone in our school community to show the Christian values of Hope, Compassion and Endurance. We had a strength test where students volunteered to compete against each other with some dumbbells and all students were encouraged to contribute to their hopes for the future. All forms had a representative in assembly to share their hopes.

It was a great start to the new term! Please keep up to date with our weekly prayer and scripture via social media.



Year 11 Sport Science Mocks

With Year 11 mock exams fast approaching, I wanted to make you aware of the support and revision available to students studying Cambridge National Sport Science. The exam unit is 40% of students overall grade and will be sat in May 2024, this is a real exam. Students will sit the mock exam in the next few weeks to assess student's knowledge but more importantly as a tool to establish areas that need to be revised so that outcomes are improved when students sit the final exam. **Your support with revision at home to ensure students practice exam style questions is appreciated.**

Your child has been provided with the following to help with final preparations, and it is expected students actively revise regularly in the lead up to the exam – this is now!

- **A revision checklist with all the key topics taught so far**
- **An exam question workbook** – this is to be used at home to practice exam questions.
- **Knowledge organiser booklet with key revision tasks to complete**
- **Student book from their lessons with all the knowledge and work on each topic** – this needs to be collected from their Teacher.
- **Fortnightly Period 6 revision** – this has already been communicated home by Mr Koltan and featured in previous 'Heads Herald'

What can you do to help your child to revise?

- Provide a quiet and purposeful space to work and revise. Help assign time to revise within the week – 20 minutes chunks.
- Condense notes for a topic and learning key words and definitions
- Create a mind map of each topic area. Learn the mnemonics or acronyms for each topic.
- Teach someone else the content
- Use knowledge organisers to make revision cards / look, cover, write, repeat key information and facts
- Apply knowledge to exam questions using the workbooks and past papers provided.

Thank you for your continued support to ensure your child is prepared for the up and coming exam and achieves well in Sport Science.

If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact me: cburbidge@boteler.org.uk

Mr Burbidge
Director of Sport and Performance

AMENDED PE CURRICULUM FOR MOCK EXAMS 26TH FEBRUARY - 11TH MARCH (INCLUSIVE)

Year 11 mock exams are taking place in the Ball Hall, therefore the PE department lose significant teaching space. There will be an amended PE curriculum starting Monday 26th February until 11th March. Please be assured that the same standards and expectations will remain and students will receive high quality lessons. Thank you for your support.

KS3 PE

Each class will compete in Dodgeball (Hall), Handball (courts), and Fitness (Gym) during their normal timetabled lessons. Each class will start on an activity and then rotate to the next. This will form part of our Inter-House competition.

For example:

Monday 26th February Period 3 Year 9 PE

Mr Burbidge's group will compete in Handball outside for their first lesson. The next time the same group have a PE lesson is Tuesday 27th February where activities will rotate and the same class will do Dodgeball in the school Hall. Their final lesson of the two week cycle will be Fitness in the Gym.

KS4 PE

To keep disruption to a minimum and engagement high, when any KS4 class is timetabled for Core PE we will offer 3 activities with the space available.

PE KIT STANDARDS

The vast majority of students come to school ready to learn for PE and thank you for your support at home to ensure students know when they need their PE kit. To help maintain high standards please ensure your child:

- Checks their timetable within their ISP every night before school
- If students have an injury that prevents physical participation, please can they bring a note and their PE kit as they will be expected to take on a different role (scorer, referee, coach etc)
- Hoodies and other sports clothing is not to be worn. If students are cold they can wear layers underneath and 'skins'.
- Blue sports socks must be worn if a student wishes to wear a skort or shorts.

National
Theatre

CONNECTIONS
2024

SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE
PERIODICALS

WRITTEN BY SIAN OWEN

19TH & 20TH MARCH 6.00PM
MATINEE - 19TH MARCH 1.30PM
IN THE SCHOOL HALL

TICKETS £2.50 ADULTS & £1.50 CONCESSIONS
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE MAIN SCHOOL RECEPTION



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

