

# head'sherald

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

**VOLUME 19    DATE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well.

Many thanks for reiterating our message regarding punctuality to school. Things are improving but still could be even better. All the young people have to be on site in their lines by 08.25.

I now want to take it a step further and talk about attendance more holistically. All schools nationally are facing issues with attendance since the pandemic.

We've become used to some stark statistics and sadly, patterns of absence are now all too apparent in schools. Our attendance is slightly higher than the national and local averages, which is a positive, but it is a long way off where it should be. Totals and averages mean little other than to illustrate the problem we face in school. What matters most, is your child's attendance and the impact that has on their life chances.

Missing two weeks for a family holiday taken in term time will mean your child has missed 50 hours of learning new things which they will never be taught again but will face questions on in an exam in the future. Having broken attendance (a day off every week or fortnight, on random days) means the students will miss five hours of learning each time but will struggle to understand the work they do the following week because lessons are taught in sequences which rely on prior knowledge.


My colleagues and I have communicated before about the significant correlations between absence and exam results, but put simply, students who miss school regularly, reduce their lifetime earning potential because they achieve worse exam results than their peers, and develop poor habits to take into the workplace where high levels of absence, poor punctuality, or an indifferent attitude to responsibility can result in dismissal. We do our absolute best to make sure this message sinks in but it needs a joined up approach from us both to ensure your child is in school and ready to learn.

I appreciate you may think that we mention this all the time, but it is a real concern and the Government agrees because they have highlighted the issue in recent weeks. Please can I ask that if your child is absent from school regularly (students should have full attendance most weeks) you seek to address this and ask us for support if you are struggling with your child. For parents of students in Year 11 with poor attendance, this is an urgent situation which needs to be rectified immediately.

I am only say all of this because I want the very best for every young person in my care. As I said if we can ever help in any way, we will.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Scott-Herron'. The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters and a horizontal line connecting the two parts of the name.

Beverley Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**

## Year 11 Period 6

As you know, the school day has been extended for Year 11 students, where Period 6 lessons run each Tuesday to Thursday.

This provides students with 20% more curriculum time and will ensure students are well prepared for their summer exams.

Attendance at these sessions are compulsory.

As I have communicated previously, Year 11 Mock Exams start on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February and run for two weeks. During this Mock Exam window, we will be postponing the Period 6 sessions. This is due to students sitting exams that can be two hours long and will run until 3pm.

Transitioning from a Mock Exam straight into a Period 6 session would be very demanding and may overload our students. What we will be offering is teacher availability 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 12<sup>th</sup> March.

<b>Week 1</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Opt A</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Opt B</b>
Fr1	H1	Geog1
Fr2	H2	Geog2
Sp1	H3	Geog3
Sp2	C1	Hist 1
Art	C2	Hist 2
Hosp	C3	Hist 3

<b>Week 2</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Opt C</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Opt D</b>
DT	H1	Travel T
Graph	H2	Art
Music	H3	DT
Comp Sci	C1	Hosp
Bus Ent	C2	Music
Drama	C3	Sport
Art		
Sport 1		
Sport 2		

## **Vapes to be banned nationally**

Disposable vapes are set to be banned as part of plans to tackle the rising number of young people taking up vaping, the government says. As a school, we are in full support of this decision, as concerns grow across the region and the UK. Measures will also be introduced to prevent vapes being marketed at children and to target under-age sales.

The ban is expected to be introduced across the UK, the government said.

It is already illegal to sell any vape to anyone under 18, but disposable vapes - often sold in smaller, more colourful packaging than refillable ones - are a "key driver behind the alarming rise in youth vaping", according to the government.

Vapes are a banned item in school, with consequences in place for those that choose to bring and use them when in school. We would like to inform parents/carers, that if a vape is found on a student in school, they will be safely disposed of and not returned to the student or parent/carers.

Read the full article here:

[Disposable vapes to be banned for children's health, government says - BBC News](#)

## **Year 11 student Frankie stands to be the next Member of Youth Parliament**

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 student Frankie Cullen, who is through to the final voting round to be the next Member of Youth Parliament for Warrington. Frankie is an integral part of our school community, and our town will be a very lucky place to have him as their MYP. "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change", says Frankie, "I am changing the things I cannot accept.

I feel that in my current roles that's been my duty, to bring change in Warrington for the young people. I'm the right representative to bring the changes that young people in our town need." Voting will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> February in schools across Warrington, running to the 29<sup>th</sup> February.

The new MYP will be announced in early March. Good luck to Frankie and to the other two young people who are standing.



## Personal Development

Next week is National Apprenticeship week. Are you aware of what an Apprenticeship is?

Year 10 and 11 – A chance to attend the Apprenticeship Fair.

Bookings are filling up for next week's Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair at the Warrington Youth Zone on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 17:00 – 20:00.

With 57 employers with opportunities ranging from Degree apprenticeships to part time employment from employers including Sellafield, United Utilities, Balfour Beatty, Beechwood Industries, Cavendish, NHS, Armed Forces, Kids Planet Nurseries, The Buddha Group and Arnold Clark and last year's event selling out in advance with 1000 pre bookings the event will inspire future careers while having opportunities for year 11 and above.

Bookings to attend can be made on the link below

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

## All Year groups

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#>

Cheshire and Warrington Pledge are pleased to provide you with the second of their termly newsletters, this will enable you to explore the different post-16 pathways that are available to your child, including Higher Education, Apprenticeships and T Levels. Please click here: <https://t.ly/Aa0IT>

This newsletter also provides details of the next two parent/carer online sessions they are hosting. These will focus on Apprenticeship Pathways (5<sup>th</sup> Feb) and T Levels (17<sup>th</sup> April).

Under legislation introduced in 2013, young people in England are required to continue in education, employment or training until the age of 18.

Between their school leaving age and 18, a young person must do one of the following:

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

In response to this, the newsletters aims to provide parents and carers with information to help you support your young person to make the post-16 education or training choices that are right for *them*.

To complement the newsletters, their series of online sessions provides the opportunity for you to learn more about the options available, hear from relevant organisations and ask any questions you might have.

You can also explore the government's [Skills for Careers website](#) and the [National Careers Service website](#), which provide lots of helpful information, including [advice for young people with SEND](#). This is in addition to all the careers information, guidance, activities and events already being provided by your young person's school or college, whose Careers Leader or Careers Advisor is always on hand to answer questions or offer support.

### **Post-16 Pathways - Parent and Carer Information Session**

#### **Apprenticeship Pathways - Parent and Carer Information Session**

**Mon 5 Feb 2024 6:00 PM**

This webinar is for all parents and carers whose young person may wish to consider an apprenticeship at 16. 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.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_E-BCEQuCtjC0odpPp4WMvQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E-BCEQuCtjC0odpPp4WMvQ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please click on the link for a Parent's guide to National Apprenticeship Week <https://t.ly/FFNEk>

### **T Level Pathways - Parent and Carer Information Session**

**Weds 17 Apr 06:00 PM**

T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses, and include an in-depth industry placement. They are equivalent in size to 3 A levels, focus on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships. Join this webinar to find out more. 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.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EWAWV8WhQuy-H0hwwy7LXQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EWAWV8WhQuy-H0hwwy7LXQ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

## Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Please click on the link for the latest KBS Newsletter <https://t.ly/Hay7b>

### Book of the Month

This Month's Book of the Month recommendation comes from Isabella Edwards in Year 7.

Isabella recommends The Isadora Moon Series by Harriet Muncaster.

Isabella says: "I love these books because they are interesting and fun to read. Lots of things happen so they keep you entertained all the way through. Isadora, the main character, goes on lots of adventures and the reader gets to enjoy those with her.

I would recommend these books to people who enjoy reading about fantasy characters and worlds."



Our library is 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.

## Warrington Youth Rowing Indoor Championships 2024

It was an absolute pleasure to take our Year 8 and Year 9 rowers to the Indoor competition at Birchwood High School last week. There were over 400 students from rowing programmes all over the North West.

There was excitement in the atmosphere and our students gave their best efforts as they rowed like they'd never rowed before! Team work, resilience, drive and determination were in abundance leading to PB's being smashed and some fantastic results.

Year 8 boys relay placed 15<sup>th</sup> out of 36 teams and 6<sup>th</sup> in Warrington. Year 8 girls relay placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 31 teams and received a bronze medal as they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Warrington!

Year 8 girls 3-minute individual pieces were well inside the top 20 out of 171 finishers and Year 8 boys in the top 30 out of 165.

Isaac King (Year 9) finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of 46 with 989m in 4 minutes.





## Hospitality and Catering

On Monday 29th January Year 10 and Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students were lucky to receive a visit from Nutritionist, Iona, from Academy.

She also met a class of Year 7 students. Iona discussed the importance of how the food and drink we have can affect our mood. It is important to get a correct balance of all nutrients throughout the day to support a healthy diet.

It will also improve your brain function. Iona included a bespoke talk for Year 11 focusing on 'Age Related Dietary Needs'.

This will support them in their Controlled Assessment. Thanks Iona, we look forward to your next visit.



## Free Information Event for Hong Kongers in Warrington

[Free information event for Hong Kongers in Warrington Tickets, Fri 9 Feb 2024 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Organised by Warrington Borough Council, North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Hong Kong team and Cheshire Halton & Warrington Race and Equality Centre.

The event will include celebrations and activities for the Lunar New Year and also the third anniversary of the Hong Kong BN(O) visa scheme.

Drop in anytime between 12 and 4pm to get information on health, English classes, employment, the Police, libraries, education and volunteering.



## Calling parents of Warrington

Do you have a child aged 0-11 years? If so the Early Years Funding team want to hear from you. They have developed a questionnaire that is to help them understand how families access formal and informal childcare in the borough.

It should take about 5 minutes to complete and all entrants that agree to giving their contact details will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a family activity of your choice, in Warrington. A total of 3 lucky families will be selected at random. Entrants will be contacted once the draw has been completed which will be after the closing date.

Closing date to be entered into the draw is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Please note, entries may still be able to be submitted after 5<sup>th</sup> February but will not be included in the draw.

Prizes include a soft play session or a trip to the cinema. For a chance to have your say and win, let them know your thoughts at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wbcearlyyearsparent](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wbcearlyyearsparent)

## **Young Carers**

Please click on the link for information from Warrington Young Carers Hub <https://t.ly/cXaG2>

## Chinese Cuisine Workshop

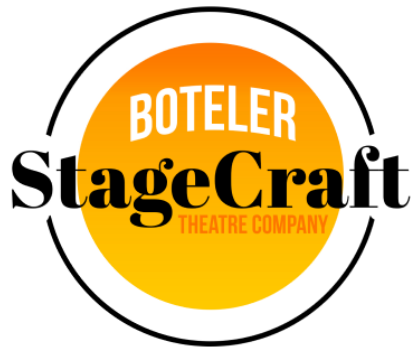
As a recognition of their behaviour and conduct during their Food Technology lessons, selected Year 9 students were invited to a special event.

The chosen students took part in a Chinese cuisine workshop which was run by the Fun Healthy Chinese Cuisine Ambassadors. They are also the makers of Lee Kum Kee sauces, and invented oyster sauce! The Fun HCCA team have visited hundreds of schools across the UK since 2015, with the core aim of demonstrating the variety and accessibility of Chinese cuisine whilst encouraging students to cook their own dishes.

During the 2 hour workshop, students received an informative presentation on Chinese food and culture., followed by a demonstration on preparing and making 'chicken in black bean sauce', including how to accurately debone chicken thighs - which takes a high level of skill in cooking. Students worked in pairs to create the dish.

This was fully funded by our 'Food Technology Extra-Curriculum Sponsorship' kindly donated by Edit Development. Sauces were provided by Lee Kum Kee.





Rehearsals are in full swing and the cast have been rehearsing in the Hall. There is a total of 45 Students across Year 7 to Year 10 who are involved in the production of 'The Periodicals' by Sian Owen.

March is just around the corner and information regarding tickets will be out soon. Many thanks to Miss Roberts for designing an amazing poster; all will be revealed soon.

I am super proud of everyone involved and many thanks to the support from staff.  
- Ms Armstrong, Leader of Drama and School Productions.





**SIR THOMAS  
BOTELER**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

SUPPORTING

# LGBT+ History Month

FEBRUARY 2024

The overall aim of LGBT+ History month is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public.

The LGBT+ History Month 2024 theme celebrates LGBT+ peoples' contribution to the field of Medicine and Healthcare both historically and today.





## **Autism Empowerment Webinar**

This one-hour lunchtime webinar is a brief exploration of how Autism can present, the history of Autism, diagnosis as well as differences in communication and social interaction. We will also be looking at how the environment can impact on someone with sensory processing challenges.

The main aim of this webinar is to focus on the many strengths autistic individuals have and how we can increase understanding and Neuro-inclusivity through education and raising awareness.

**Webinars are held on Zoom on the following dates:**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 12:30 to 13:30**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 12:30 to 13:30**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 12:30 to 13:30**

At the end of the webinar, you will receive a certificate of attendance that will be emailed to your given email address.

**The cost of this one-hour webinar is only £5.50!**

To book your place on the webinar please either scan the QR code below or go to: [www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training](http://www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training)

“For every person who understands Autism better, another Autistic person will be happier.”-  
Libby Scott, Autistic Author (at age 11)



# 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**

---



# 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**