

HEAD'S HERALD

HIGH EXPECTATIONS | HIGH ASPIRATIONS | HIGH STANDARDS | YOU WILL SUCCEED

VOLUME 1 DATE 6TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back. We have had an incredibly positive start to the new academic year. Our Year 7 students have made a superb first impression and it has been a pleasure to start to get to know them.

All our students have started well in terms of their positive attitude and work ethic. I spoke to every Year group this week in Collective Worship and reaffirmed our vision, values and expectations for the year ahead. High Expectations, High Aspirations and High Standards are the key to success and must remain at the forefront of everything we do.

Unfortunately, despite my many communications before and during the summer a tiny few of our young people are not adhering to the school rules. Therefore, I thought it pertinent, that I clarify the ones that seem to be misunderstood, because it is unfair on those who follow the rules every day. The main ones that have presented themselves this week are highlighted below.

- Nike Air Force 1 or any shoe with a sports logo on it is not allowed. Whilst I appreciate Air Force 1 are a study shoe, if I allow sports branded shoes then it opens us up to a variety of interpretations.
- Jewellery is not allowed and will be confiscated. The item will be put in an envelope, put in a safe place and handed back at the end of the day.
- Earrings of any kind are not allowed for any reason.
- Lipstick and or lip-gloss is not allowed and students will be required to remove it.

We work incredibly hard on standards and the uniform/student presentation is a representation of those. I am always clear about expectations and everything is communicated and documented on the website. Your support with these standards is crucial. If your child attends Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, then they have to follow the rules. If we are not consistent in our approach it is just not fair so that is why there are no exceptions to those rules. Occasionally, regarding footwear, there are severe medical reasons but medical notes from the doctors are then provided. This is for footwear only and not piercings.

We do have a lot of new staff joining the Boteler family due to promotions and retirements and also the school growing. You will hear from them personally in this edition and the next, so you are able to put some names to faces.

We also have a new member joining the Senior Leadership Team and that is Mr Mason. He is the new Associate Assistant Headteacher and he will be overseeing all the Vocational Qualifications and Parental Engagement. So, you will be hearing a lot from him in the coming weeks.

The relationships with our parents and carers is key and we want you as involved, informed and supported as possible and this is a real priority for us.

Kind regards

Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher

SAM Learning

Dear Parent/Carer,

To maintain our continued improvement we have made homework and independent learning one of our priorities for the coming school year. During the summer term, we trialled a couple of homework platform providers and we have selected SAM learning.

SAM learning will replace Satchel One and over the course of the next school week we will be showing students how to log on and use the system. Very early next week Parents and Carers will also receive their log-in details and information on how to explore SAM software. SAM is proven to improve student outcomes and is used nationally across hundreds of schools. It will enable our students to not just complete their homework but also to explore and deepen learning independently, revise and self-test amongst other things. The platform is compatible with all devices including mobile phone.

Key Stage 3 students will be introduced to SAM learning in their next ICT lesson. KS4 students will complete their introduction in an allocated form period next week. This 'log-on' session for KS4 students will be the only session where we will allow students to use their phones. Prior to this session phones, as always, need to be turned off and in bags. Likewise, straight after this session normal rules apply.

More information will be shared in my next communication to Parents and Carers early next week following staff training on Monday.

Attendance matters at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

As we start the new academic year, we want to reinforce the message that Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School has high expectations of student's attendance and punctuality.



We do this because we know that being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results, with this evident from the outcomes of the Class of 2024.

We wholeheartedly believe that every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days in September, will have missed 15 lessons in total – that's 15 hours of lost learning at the start of their GCSE courses! The higher a student's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Further facts in relation to attendance and absence:

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently, which would likely lead to disengagement and frustration.
- Absence means missed opportunities to build and maintain friendships.
- Attendance improves when schools and parents work closely together.

We have a whole school target of 96% and will be running weekly attendance competitions in recognition of outstanding attendance.

Please be reminded that if your child is going to be absent for any reason then you should follow the guidance in this link: <https://t.ly/lzg4n>

If we can bring your attention once more to the key information regarding the Government introduced U code, which is an absence code and will impact the headline attendance figure you will see on Arbor Parent Portal.

95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?**

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days

Standards Handbook

Please find the link to our Standards Handbook here: www.boteler.org.uk/handbook

Arbor Contact Information

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, we ask that each family provide **two** emergency contact persons. Please could we ask you update your emergency contact information as soon as possible through our online portal Arbor, emailing contactupdate@boteler.org.uk or by contacting the school office directly. Thank you.

Personal Development

The Boteler Wider Curriculum (BWC) programme will officially start on Monday 16th September. However please check our social media for the days and times of the sports trials next week. Students will also be told in their lessons. The programme for BWC will be on the website and sent home via the Arbor app.

Please encourage your child to attend the lunchtime and after school activities. They can get a lunch pass from the leader of each activity; this will enable them to go to the front of the lunch queue.

Applications for the following councils are now open. Students need to collect an application form from their form tutor and hand them back to their form tutor on Monday.

School Council
Eco Council
Ethos Council
House Captains
LGBTQ+ Council
Wellbeing Council

All students will study Personal Development (PHSE) in their curriculum time and form time. This includes Relationships, Sex and Health Education. Please see the website for further details and/or contact our PHSE lead Mrs L Butcher. lbutcher@boteler.org.uk

Lost Property

If lost property is found, it will be stored in the Uniform Swap Shop. At lunchtimes, students can ask a member of staff who is on duty to help them check if their lost item has been found.

Please may we ask that parents/carers label all uniform, coats, water bottles and equipment. Thank you.



Transition

After a summer term packed full of events and then a Summer Camp, we finally welcomed Year 7 through the doors and into the Boteler family this week. They have had an amazing few days with us and have excelled in our High Expectations, High Aspirations, High Standards, You Will Succeed. All students looked extremely smart and were prepared for learning and are already living through our school's ethos of 'Through God we care'.

Some comments from their teachers:

7AC have made a fantastic start to Year 7, they are helping each other to settle in by being kind and caring, and they are all showing a positive attitude towards all aspects of school life. I am a very proud form tutor.

7 Indigo – have made a fantastic start to life at STB. They have been focused on giving their best. Everyone is being the best they can be – kind, helpful, hardworking.

7 Green – I am so impressed with the positive start made by 7 Green in English and am looking forward to being their teacher this year. A particular shout out to Daisy, Leon and Riley for being so friendly. And Ava, Luca and Isabelle for their fantastic contributions in the lesson.

7AG are the most wonderful group of young people. They've made me extremely proud with their compassion they've shown for each other and their eagerness to learn. I can already tell that they will achieve great things.

We have asked some Year 7 students to feedback on their first week:

- All the staff have been really nice
- I had such a fun first day, all the teachers were nice, and the patrol helped me to find my lessons
- The teachers were super nice
- Some Ambassadors who I knew from my transition days took me to my lesson
- The school lunches look amazing and taste really nice
- I am excited to apply to be on the school council.

A short note to say welcome to Year 7 students, parents & carers from Mrs Ashwin, Head of Year 7.

The standards, engagement and positive attitudes are exceptional and shining through. We clearly have a lot of talent which I am sure we can nurture and promote throughout the year and beyond.

It has been a smooth transition and this could not be done without parent/carer, student and primary school engagement. Not forgetting our staff, Ambassadors and Miss Dowling for organising Summer Camp, and the staff who also supported with the smooth running of the week.

I look forward to seeing you all at Year 7 Inauguration Service on the 17th September at St Elphin's Church. If you have not already done so, please follow the link to confirm your attendance:
<https://forms.office.com/e/m4B4Du41Wz>

Meet Our New Staff

"I am Miss Sixsmith, I have had a passion for English ever since I was in school and have the drive to ensure all students receive a fair and equal education. I love reading, Rugby League and spending time with my family and friends."

Miss Sixsmith
Teacher of English



I would like to introduce myself as the caretaker after joining the team at the start of July. I am a married father of two, I live locally and have a keen interest in all sports in a watching capacity nowadays! I follow Manchester United and try to attend as many games as possible and also hold a season ticket at Warrington Wolves. I am enjoying my role at Sir Thomas Boteler due to its ever changing nature and working with a great team is an added bonus.

Mr Sewell
Caretaker



I am Miss Barrow and I am the new History Teacher. I have a passion for helping students gain a greater understanding of the past and engaging students in the learning process. I love to share knowledge in a way that motivates students and influences their lives both within the classroom and beyond through the development of critical thinking skills and research techniques. My love for my subject and educating young people comes through in everything that I do, from teaching to interacting with students around school.

Miss Barrow
Teacher of Humanities



I'm Mrs Hesford, Leader of Spanish. I have lived in Warrington my whole life and can't wait to be back here teaching after working in Manchester. I am so excited to be leading Spanish and opening students' eyes to the importance of learning a language and how this can open so many doors in the future. I am particularly passionate about helping students to enjoy learning a language and having fun in a safe and engaging environment. I am looking forward to building students' confidence particularly with speaking so that they can use the language in the real world.

Mrs Hesford
Leader of Spanish & KS3 Assessment Lead



I am Nicole, First year ECT in Geography. I'm originally from the Isle of Man and recently moved so trying to get to grips with the new area. After leaving university in 2016 I have been working in the Police for the last 6 years and now have decided to take the plunge to completely change back to the career I first set out to do. I love teaching geography because I find it so fascinating and relevant as it affects us every day and everywhere we go.



Miss Kenny
Teacher of Humanities

I have been teaching for nine years and have experience of teaching both at secondary and in a post 16 setting. As a student, maths was one of my favourite subjects and I love passing this knowledge onto the students I teach. I particularly enjoy working with those students that find the subject tricky and helping them build confidence. Prior to teaching, I worked for Cheshire Police but was drawn to the teaching profession and I haven't regretted my decision to change jobs. In my spare time I am a keen runner and have completed a number of marathons and ultra-distance marathons. I have two children, both high school age. Sadly neither of them share my love of running but I'm working on it.



Mrs Messenger
Teacher of Mathematics

My passion for music started early through singing and taking part in choirs during childhood and continuing into adult life. This love for music developed throughout my degree of Popular Music with Jazz at Leeds College of Music and continues to grow through my teaching career. The sharing of music, working with fellow musicians and personal development within music are feelings that cannot be compared to anything else - I am thoroughly looking forward to facilitating these experiences with the young musicians of Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.



Miss Bridge
Head of Music

Hello. My name is Mrs Morris and it's my privilege to be your new Head of Art. I have led art for 15 years and my experience has taught me that art is powerful. Powerful, beyond measure! It empowers us to notice, question, interact, respond and connect; connect with ourselves, with each other and with the wider world. It tells us of our past, captures our present and shapes our future. The art teacher and student bond is unlike any other. I look forward to earning your child's trust, and using my passion and knowledge to build their confidence as they stride towards success as a "fearless creative".



Mrs Morris
Head of Art

My name is Mrs Woods and I have been a TA for 14 years working in other TCAT schools. I am absolutely thrilled to join the Boteler family as a Level 4 Teaching Assistant. I have lots of experience of supporting children to be the best version of themselves through guidance, support and challenge. I have a wealth of knowledge, training and understanding for Special Educational Needs and Mental Health support. This Year, I will be working with Boteler TCAT Parliament representatives and other TCAT schools to help save our environment, meet local councillors and Parliament members to create a better world for us all.



Mrs Woods

L4 Teaching Assistant

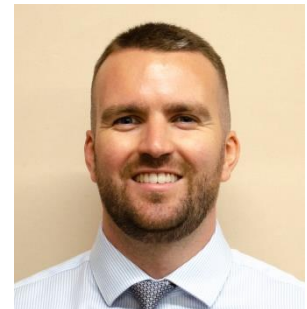
Hi, I'm excited to be joining the Boteler family as Associate Assistant Headteacher, where I'll be focusing on strengthening parental engagement and enhancing our vocational programmes. Balancing life with my wife, two young kids, and our energetic cockapoo, I know how crucial it is to build strong partnerships between home and school. In my role, I'll work to ensure that parents feel connected and involved, and that our vocational opportunities effectively prepare students for their future careers. Outside of work, you'll find me enjoying sports, hitting the golf course, or spending quality time with my family. I'm eager to contribute to our school's growth and success.



Mr Mason

Associate Assistant Headteacher

Hello, I'm Mr. McDonald. I recently completed my role as Assistant Headteacher in Dubai. I'm a passionate history nerd who spends much of my time watching history documentaries or diving into the lives of my favourite historical figures. When I'm not immersed in the past, I enjoy performing, playing football, and hitting the tennis courts.



Mr McDonald

Head of History

I have had a real passion for being creative since high school and did art and design at college. I did step away and work in pharmacy for five plus years before training as a teaching assistant two years ago. This is my first time in a technician role, so I am still finding my feet, but I am loving it already.



Mrs Callis

Art/DT Technician

This my first year of teaching as I previously was a print designer. I am looking forward to working and creating amazing things at STB teaching DT and Graphics.

Miss Ellams
Teacher of DT and Graphics



I am delighted to join Sir Thomas Boteler following my previous 5 years working as Head of Mathematics & English within a large Further Education college. Seeing the difference that having achieved these key subjects makes across the educational journey of a student and how this ultimately impacts their prospects for future employment fuels my passion to ensure that all learners achieve to the best of their ability within Mathematics.

Mr Allen
Head of Mathematics + Whole School Timetable



Mum of boys who has a passion for dance and being outdoors. Super excited to be part of a fantastic team and being a part of every student's journey.

Miss Wright
Cover Supervisor



Hi, I'm Mrs Frankel and I have the pleasure of working on the busy Reception desk at School. I absolutely love my job! It's very fast paced, no two days are the same and I have the privilege of working with a fantastic, friendly team. The favourite part of my role is seeing and speaking with many of our lovely students each and every day! Outside of work, my life is as equally busy with my four children and three cats! I enjoy running (when I get the chance) love to cook and adore the sunshine! I'm very excited about the year ahead and look forward to welcoming the students back after the holidays.

Mrs Frankel
Receptionist/Clerical Administrator

