

# BIRCHES HEAD HIGH SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

## SCHOOL RECEIVES FANTASTIC OFSTED RESULTS

"Birches Head has steadily and consistently improved to become a good school" (Ofsted May 2011)

We are so pleased to share with you the fantastic report we received from Ofsted when the school welcomed the Ofsted Inspection team to the school on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Everyone of us should be proud of the contribution that we have made to the school. Congratulations should go to staff for their commitment to our young people, students for their commitment to their school and their learning, parents for the support they give to both their children and the school and all partners and governors for the time, opportunities and services they provide to improve experiences for our students and staff.

Inspectors were impressed with our students' participation and contribution to their school and their community. They identified that "overall, students collaborate well, and demonstrate a range of skills, attitudes and competencies that prepare them well for their future working lives"



A team of 4 Inspectors observed lessons, looked at students work, interviewed staff, students and governors, surveyed students and parents and looked at attainment data over the last 3 years. At the end of the inspection they judged "Birches Head has steadily and consistently improved to become a good school"

The inspectors identified that the school's strong commitment to curriculum provision, the quality of teaching and pastoral care have meant that outcomes for students are good. "The innovative curriculum and good quality of care, guidance and support ensure all students needs are well met". Inspectors identified that a key feature in ensuring improvement is the attention paid to tracking student progress and intervening where necessary.

Inspectors believed that school has good capacity to sustain current performance and improve further as it has:

- Good track record of improvement that its leaders have achieved since last Inspection
- Accurate self evaluation at all levels and prompting sharp, well focused improvement plans
- A critical mass of enthusiastic and determined staff members who understand their school context, know where the school is aiming, and are involved in striving to attain these goals.

Birches Head High School is proud of the achievements of all our students, staff, parents, partners and governors in supporting the journey to becoming a good school. However, we are not a complacent school and are determined to continue this journey.

# EXTENDED SERVICES

## Learning Partners Awards



On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March we invited our learning partners into school to thank them for their ongoing support. The wide range of agencies & services who work with us make a huge contribution to our students learning experiences and assist our staff in developing opportunities both inside and outside school. We now have over 100 learning partners who each received a certificate in recognition of their continuous contribution to our school.

## TILT Forum

The first TILT Forum meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The following Trust member groups were represented

Students  
Staff  
Community Organisations  
Community  
Trustees  
Parents

The aims of the Forum were discussed along with this year's themes: Engaging Membership & Leadership.

If you would like any further information about membership to the Trust or representing your member group on the Forum, please contact Rob Smith on 01782 233595. The next meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm



## TILT Launch

There was a real buzz around school when the Trust was officially launched on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Pupils from Forest Park Primary, Abbey Hill & Abbey Hulton Primary kicked off the proceedings by performing their dance collaborations with students from BHHS. After a welcome message from Ms Healey, the audience were able to sample some of the various partnership activities that are already ongoing. These included:  
Youth Mania  
Come Fly With Us  
Silver Surfers

"Barney Echo" internet safety project  
Music and singing from BHHS students  
World Record Dance Finale

## Community Classes

Our IT for beginners sessions are for people who want to learn computer skills at their own pace.

Every Tuesday 3 – 5pm

A popular addition for 2011  
Genealogy Study  
your family history.

For more information all of the above, or level 2 qualifications, contact Rob Smith on 01782 233595

# PARENT'S PAGE

Feedback from Parent Consultations 2010-2011

	<b>MAY 2011</b>	<b>NOV 2010</b>
The discussion with my child's personal tutor was informative	98%	96%
My child enjoys school	90%	94%
My child is making good progress because the teaching at the school is good	92%	92%
I feel my child is safe and well cared for at the school	92%	97%
Behaviour at the school is good	90%	91%
The school recognises when students do well	91%	94%
The school is well led and managed	93%	94%
The school communicates effectively with parents/carers on attendance/punctuality	95%	93%
The reports I get on my child's progress are useful	97%	96%
I am satisfied with the homework arrangements for my child	83%	88%
There is a good range of out-of-hours activities and booster classes for the students	85%	89%
I always read the school newsletter	74%	84%
The Parent Gateway is useful	84%	82%
The new school website is useful	87%	84%



- There is a Parent Group that meets monthly, on Wednesdays, from 6-7 p.m. All parents are very welcome. Check out dates for next year on the website.

- We now have a Forum on the Parent Gateway so that the 32% of parents who have ideas for improving the school, (but who may not be able to attend any meetings) can share their thoughts. Log on and see what is being discussed!
- Look out for the Parent Information stand at the next Consultation Day. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Parent Gateway and Birches Head as a TRUST school.
- Look on the gateway with your parent login for your child's additional learning pack for homework. There

planner will have additional homework in it.



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011

# ACTION TEAMS

## Learning Action Team

Members of the Learning Action Team continue to present with growing confidence through regular assemblies. They have also been involved in student voice activities feeding back on the level of challenge in lessons, homework and the activities they find the most enjoyable in lessons.



In April members of the Learning Action Team presented to students of all ages from across the three houses on the importance of setting personal targets and aiming high. Using examples from pop and sport they clearly linked success with dedication and persistence before introducing our first 'Know your target' day. In the final week of the spring term teachers quizzed students on how well they knew their target levels/ grades in maths, english and science. In addition we wanted to find out if students could tell us a strategy they have used to improve their current working level/ grade. The results were really encouraging but we want them to be even better!

In July the Learning Action Team presented assemblies in which they fed back to students on the recent Ofsted visit. They also gave fair warning of 'Know your target Day 2'

which will be held during the last week of this term. Does your son/ daughter know their target level/ grade? Do they know what they need to do to improve? If not, they should speak to their subject teachers as soon as possible!



## Barney, Echo and 4 of Our Students Help Younger Children to Stay Safe On-line

Y10 students Lauren Turner and Stephanie Bloor worked with Forest Park Primary School on Internet Safety last year. This year they trained Jordan Minton and Liam Brookes from the Anti-bullying Council to help them deliver the project at Abbey Hulton Primary School.

We used some fun books that are produced by the Police Clubs Federation. All the characters are woodland creatures who sometimes do silly things. Barney keeps an "eagle" eye on Echo Squirrel, Spike Hedgehog, Digsby Mole and friends. He tells the youngsters not to give personal details if they are on-line, and warns about the dangers of social networking sites. He is also worried about cyber-bullying using computers or mobile phones.

We visited the school, read the stories and did puzzles and games to help the children remember the messages. Next year we hope to work with Grove Primary School. If you want advice on internet safety, check out:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



# ATTENDANCE NEWS

## House Attendance Figures

We have almost completed an academic year in Vertical Tutoring with each house in competition with each to win the overall award for attendance.

Throughout the year Fire House has steadily been ahead of the other houses and has won the award every term so far.

FIRE HOUSE – 92.9%  
WATER HOUSE – 92.4%  
AIR – 92.5%

WHOLE SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE IS 92.6%

## Cohort And Gender Attendance Figures

Although we reward students during rewards evenings and assemblies we also we also monitor very cohorts attendance data.

Year 7 – 94%  
Year 8 – 93.5%  
Year 9 – 93%  
Year 10 – 90%  
Year 11 – 92.7%

Well done Year 7 you are the top attending year group- Come on year 10 you have everything to play for next year

We then look at data even deeper and divide whole school and year groups into boys and girls

Whole school  
GIRLS = 92.7%  
BOYS = 92.6%

Year 7  
GIRLS = 94%

BOYS = 94%

Year 8  
GIRLS = 95%  
BOYS = 91.7%

Year 9  
GIRLS = 92.8%  
BOYS = 93.7%

Year 10  
GIRLS = 89%  
BOYS = 91.4%

Year 11  
GIRLS = 92.8%  
BOYS = 91.9%

Well done to year 8 girls for such fantastic attendance – you now need to share with year 10 girls what you secret is!!



## 100% Attendees

Attending school every day is a vital element in your child achieving to their full potential. It is with great pleasure that we applaud all those students who have attended every day. These students are named below:

Rebecca Ankers, Bethany Bourne, Ryan Carter, Kieran Firkins, Jessica Heath, Chole Holmes, Kirupatharan, Kavikaran, Owen Meredith, Jake Nixon, Ben Olenczuk, Liam Rigby, Rebecca Simpson, Katei Unwin, Daniel Butters, Amber Carpenter, Callum Challinor, Cutis Evans, Shannon Forrester-Shenton, Bethany Gouldsmith, Rosie

Harding, Callum Lees, Callum Malcom, Mimi Peng, Taintian Peng, Lucy Preece, Ben Wilcox, ophie Bulmer, Silanm Dogan, Elizabeth Grindey, Matthew Harrinson, Phillip Hemmings, Joshua Holmes, Oliver Hudson, Abigail Jones, Tinashe Murinzi, Lauren Bowden, Emily Di-Silvestro, Joshus Morse, Evans, Ofori, Callum Olenczuk and Nathan Petherick



## Holidays within term time – Did you know?

As a school we do not automatically authorise and that it has a detrimental effect upon your child's progress.

If a holiday request is declined, by the school, you parents/ carer could be faced with a Penalty Notice if they still take their child on holiday.

From September 2010 – July 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

## Punctuality

Next year there will be a focus upon punctuality to school, as being on time everyday prepares you for when you leave school.

If you are late to you college placement, or your employer there are no excuses. With this in mind get into the habit of SMILE routines and ensuring you're regularly on time.

# PREFECTS AND TILT REPS

Congratulations to all the students below on their achievement:-



## Air House Prefects

Lucy Beaman  
Keely Bradley  
Conor Chambers  
Gemma Collyer  
Jasmine Fern  
Amy Griffiths  
Kirushika Kirupatharan  
Natasha Makhetho  
David Muller  
Fiona Parry  
Tyler Shufflebotham  
(There are 3 vacancies)

## Fire House Prefects

Kaitlin Charlton  
Nathan Jenks  
Amber Mapledoram  
Stephanie-Rose Harmon  
Niah Turner  
Chelsea Meredith  
Scarlett Seadon  
Alicia Rigby  
Rhiann Tudor-Jones  
Nathan Petherick  
Shakera Halim  
Sherrie Evans  
Thomas Whitehead  
Danielle Robertson

## Water House Prefects

Olivia Somers  
Emily Di-Silvestro  
Nishat Sami  
Katie Turner  
Abbie Dale  
Maryam Farak  
Joe Poole  
Joshua Morse  
Daniel Jones  
Jamie Lake  
Naomi Mullings  
Jessica Kelsall  
Ashley Knowles  
James Brown



## Air TILT Reps

AAC- Miles O'Neill Finney  
ADM- Sophie Balmer  
AIM-Qasim Ehtsham  
AJB- Joe Cliffe  
AJGN- Katie Unwin  
AKM- Hollie Munday  
AMW- Lyla Begum  
ANJL- Flora Zeke  
APB- Abbas Shah  
APM- Callum Lees  
ARK- Megan Turner  
ARP- Ryan Minton  
ASK- Cassie Brindley  
ATV- Timothy Seadon  
AWS- Kris Starkey.

## Fire TILT Reps

FAJN- Caitlin Poulten  
FCS- Ben Tideswell  
FIC- Abigail Jones  
FJL- Jordan Brocklehurst  
FLHM- William Blackhurst  
FLCH- Molly Hancock  
FMO- Adele Pass  
FMON- Jesse Dyche  
FPAW- Jodie Fern  
FPW- William Hill  
FRW- Lewis Grocott  
FSBR- Jack Harrison  
FST- Adam Bagguley  
FSW- Caitlin Bloore  
FSWS- Emily Adams-Mears

## Water TILT Reps

WCB- Toni Ball  
WDB- Hayleigh Rathbone  
WJG- Liam Brookes  
WLB- Frankie Lawrence  
WLC- Adam Buckley  
WLG- Matthew Harrison  
WGT- Connor Edges  
WMEL- Sam Deaville  
WMK Rhea Dobson  
WPK Jessica Burke  
WSJN- Lauren Foulkes  
WSSK- Lauren Dyche  
WSWT- Connor Bartley  
WTM- Dale Evans  
WWZ- Hasan Mahmood.

# PREMISES NEWS



## BSF

As many of you will have observed, building work to accommodate a new science block, move the kitchen to the rear of the building and provide specialist facilities for the Special Educational Needs department has begun. Contractors have started to convert the LSU into the new kitchen and works to move the access road to enable the building of the new science block has also begun.

During the summer school closure period, the LRC will be refurbished and the staff room will be moved to make way for the new Science Preparation Room. In addition, drainage to the football pitches will also be taking place.

**WARNING**  
**NO**  
**TRESPASSING**

## Health and Safety

An inner perimeter fence was erected when the school became a single site in 2005 but the original outer perimeter fence has been

missing for some considerable time. (The fence posts remain but without the fencing panels). This has resulted in a large amount of trespass onto school grounds which has been a concern for some time, particularly from motor bikes causing a nuisance and a danger to others. In addition, there has been a considerable amount of unauthorised use of school grounds and sports facilities during the evenings and weekends which has, until now been very difficult to prevent.

You will be aware that our school grounds cover a vast area and fencing off the area is very expensive however, we feel that this is now a health and safety priority and the re-installing of fencing around the school's outer perimeter is now well under way. The area from the Bridge Centre across to Holden Lane Primary School has begun and is due for completion before the summer holidays begin. Fencing for the Sneyd Green boundary (leading to Berwick Road) is on order. We have also submitted a bid to the City Council, which, if successful, will also allow us to also secure the boundary which runs parallel to the railway lines to complete the perimeter fence improving safety for legitimate users and PE lessons in particular.

## Sad News

We are aware that many parents and relatives are ex students of Birches Head High School and many may remember our ex Head of PE, Mr John Sibbring who retired in 1998. It is will great sadness

that we have to report that John died on 27<sup>th</sup> May this year after a short illness.

## Staff News

We will be wishing a sad farewell to a number of staff at the end of term;

- Mrs Williams (Office Manager) has chosen to take hard earned voluntary redundancy.
- Mr Mellor (Social Learning Skills) has secured the post of Assistant SENCO at Biddulph High School.
- Mr Hackett (Assistant Head) is moving south to take up a position of Deputy Head.
- Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head) is moving on to pastures new.

We thank them all for their contribution to the school and send with them our very best wishes for the future.

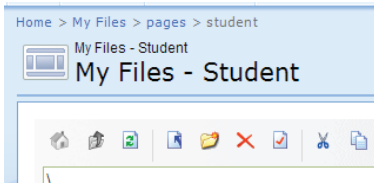
In September we extend a warm welcome to a number of newly appointed staff;

- Mr Mountford (Science Teacher)
- Mr Moors (Maths Teacher)

Before the end of term we also hope to appoint new staff to the following positions;

- House Learning Manager (Fire House)
- PA to the Headteacher and Data Officer
- Behaviour Support Worker
- Inclusion Support Worker (part-time)

# ICT NEWS



Last month there were changes to the students' area on the gateway. They can now access their documents that they create at school, from home. If they log on to the gateway via the students area on the birches head website and log in with the same log in they use at school they can access their documents. This now gives students the ability to open, edit and save changes to their work. When the students come back into school and log onto their area, any changes they made from home will be saved.



This month has seen a lot of excitement from both staff and students alike because of live footage featured on the school gateway area. For two weeks students have been able to view live duck eggs held in an incubator through a web cam link on the gateway area.

This was also available for the first time on the birches head website for all visitors to see including parents. The eggs began to hatch at around 11pm on June 25<sup>th</sup> and all 4 ducklings are healthy and well. There will also be a video on Space TV soon of the live birth of all four ducklings.

The students' can view the ducklings' progress live on the gateway or website as they begin to grow for the first few weeks or so. Parents can also view this via

[www.bircheshead.org.uk](http://www.bircheshead.org.uk)



Student reception now has a digital information monitor up and running! They are currently showcasing prom photographs from past prom nights to give year eleven leavers some inspiration and ideas of what to expect. They are also showcasing Comic Relief day photos where they can view all the staff and students who dressed up and got involved on the day. This has generated a lot of interest from students and will hopefully encourage more ideas for future showcasing on the screen.



On the Birches Head website there is now a new link on the left hand side titled 'Information for parents.' This page gives an overview of what parents should expect from the parents area on the gateway. There is a link underneath also for a parent user request where parents can submit their details. If you would like your username and password for the parent gateway area or have any queries then please contact:

**Mr D Johnson on 01782 864900 or alternatively you can email: [itservices@dept.bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:itservices@dept.bircheshead.org.uk)**

# CURRICULUM NEWS



## Futures Curriculum

In the Summer Term students in Year 7 have been experiencing an exciting new way of learning; in each subject students have been working on creative enquiries. Students have been supported by their teachers to develop questions to learn more about the chosen topic they are studying. Students have worked both independently and in groups to explore the topic and develop a chosen project. Students in Human Sciences have visited Warwick Castle so as to gain a greater understanding of why and how castles were built as well as how people lived in them. Students in Science have been introduced to their topic by a visit to Black Brook Zoo and students in English have received support from a theatre director to help complete projects.



## Exams News

Results for the Summer 2011 examinations for year 11, 10 and 9 will be available for collection on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011 from the school at 10am.

Please note if you wish someone else to collect your results, you must clear it with Mr Bagley first, and then send the person representing you in with a signed note from yourself stating who is collecting your results and that you give permission for them to collect them.

## College Partnerships

Many congratulations to Afsana Islam, who not only has been named West Midlands' Young Apprentice of the Year, but has also won the final and is now the National Young Apprentice of the Year.

During the last two years, Afsana has studied for a Young Apprenticeship in Health and Social Care, at the NHS Health Care Careers and Skills Academy based at the hospital. This involved her gaining a Btec in Health and Social Care and completing a total of 50 days work experience in this sector.

Afsana has consistently achieved high grades on the course and positive reports from all of her placements, from whom references were requested for the competition.

Afsana received her regional award at a ceremony in Ironbridge and received a certificate and trophy in May. She then went through to the National Competition and attended a celebration event on Wednesday 29 June at Blackfriars in London, where she was announced as the overall winner.

Also congratulations to Charlotte Harrison, who was awarded a special commendation at the NHS Health Care Careers and Skills Academy Awards evening. Charlotte has had 100% attendance on her course for 2 years, for both college and placement days, which no other student has achieved and she also worked very hard to achieve high results on her Btec course.

The Year 10 students who attend college are due to complete their first year at the end of term. Well done to all of them for their successes so far. Working especially hard are Cory Banks, Keith Muller, Ashley Barratt and Scott Holmes. Demi Plant and Esma Anik are also working very hard for their Hairdressing course at Stepping Stones Training Provider in Newcastle.

# SEN - THE SUPPORT ZONE

A very busy year for SEN department, but also a fantastic year too! We said goodbye to Mr. Morgan and hello to Mr Ashman and Mr Sharrif. They have both already become a great asset to our team.

A number of students have benefitted from our lunchtime club which provides a safe and friendly environment where they stay over the lunch period.

We still continue to work in close partnerships with a lot of outside agencies which include hearing and visual impairment and emotional and behavioural difficulties.

## **Here's to a great 2011/2012 school year!!**

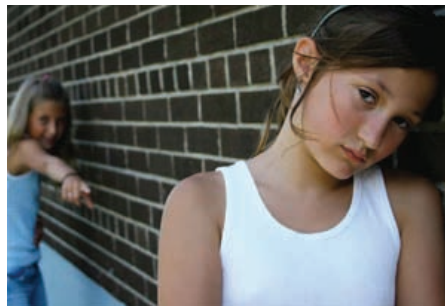
The gardening projects the LSU pupils carry out are coming on leaps and bounds with the construction of the pond on the gatehouse site. The pupils are continuing to develop the area and have nearly cleared the site ready for planting. The poly tunnel has been ordered and will be built over the summer ready for the new school year.

The arrival of the ducklings has inspired the students' enterprise project for out and about week and we are hoping to sell duck houses to raise money for a rewards trip. The students have already built a pen for the ducks and are looking at further products.

Following the success of the Winter show the LSU has also supported the summer show by building the car "Grease Lightning".

The group has also become

proficient at table tennis through their COPE challenges and have been challenging all comers. Rumours are that Ms Healey was seen playing but these have yet to be confirmed.



## **Birches Head Beats Bullying**

The Report Bullying icon is proving to be very successful with students reporting bullying on their school home page. Personal Tutors are encouraging the students to enter the details of the incidents onto the report bullying site. This is a completely confidential safe and secure way of students reporting incidents of bullying to either themselves or their friends. The members of staff over seeing The Birches Head Beats Bullying Team discuss with the team how to support the students and the best ways to resolve the issues, without even knowing who the students are.

Two members of the team have represented the Birches Head Beats Bullying Team in the Primary feeder schools, working on the Police "Barney and Echo" project. They will be training the students in years 5+6 how to stop bullying and the steps they can take in keeping themselves safe. The two members of the team will then train 4 other members

of the team to take them into the Primary Schools. This is building relationships within the two schools and giving the Primary students confidence in talking and trusting older students.



By continuing to build on the previous year's success we will be developing and providing a "Safe Zone" for the younger and vulnerable students of the school to attend during break and lunch times. The members of the team will be manning this on a rota system and will endeavour to resolve some of the minor issues around bullying during these times. This area will be supported by the Student Prefects, working together to enable everyone to feel safe and secure.

The team will be embarking on a training programme of restorative practices during the Autumn term, learning new skills which revolve around positive language and positive reinforcement. The students will begin to use these new skills via peer mentoring sessions.

We would like to thank the members of the Birches Head Beats Bullying Team for their extremely valuable work in establishing the new team this year, providing an interface in supporting students and members of staff in resolving issues around bullying.

# COMMUNICATION TEAM

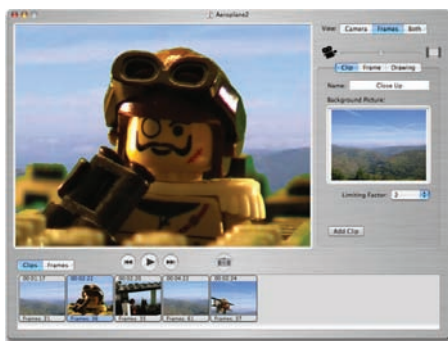
## Media

### Student Voice

Students really enjoy the practical elements of media especially using cameras and video recorders, they wish there was more technical support available in lessons. Students feel that the advice they are given on how to improve is really helpful and are pleased with what they can achieve.

### Year 7 - Shakespeare on Film or in the theatre?

Year 7 have worked on a combined creative enquiry project with English, looking at approaches to Shakespeare, through film and on stage. Trying to answer some of the questions about appeal to audience, setting, costumes and language which face every director and producer.



### Year 8 - 'Your wish is granted'

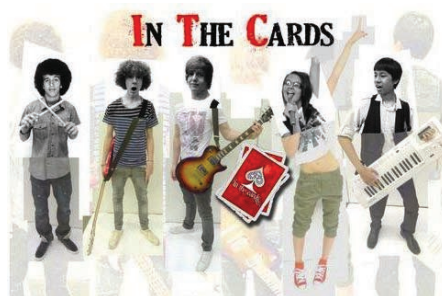
Inspired by CBBs year 8 students have produced a wide range of magical, stop frame animations e.g magic shoes and finger animations. Other year 8 groups have devised ideas for a film, scripted a scene, designed a poster and are now building the mock up set.

## Year 9 - 'Jack and Jill went up the hill'

To build on existing media skill! Students have taken traditional nursery rhymes and stories and given them a modern twist using Photo Shop, Final Cut and key framing as well as animation techniques to explore this rich resource.

### Year 10 BTEC - Photographic Skills

Year 10 students have been finding out how the professionals manipulate photographic images and have discovered they can achieve some very convincing results themselves.



### In the Cards

If you want to make a music video for your Btec and you are in the school band, who do you choose, 'In the Cards' obviously! Filming a real band at live gigs has given a wealth of atmospheric material for Btec students to work on.

### Year 10 CAM - Filming in the Forest

Cannock Chase provided the location for the CAM diploma students to film a music video which they are now editing.

## ICT

### Students Voice

Students enjoy ICT and the structure of the GCSE course has resulted in learning outcomes being referred to by teachers and understood by an increased number of students. Staff will continue work to improve the delivery of lessons within the subject using the good practice developed this year.

### Success for Year 10

26 Year 10 students have had their Year 9 work assessed against the OCR National specification, giving them a GCSE grade C equivalent vocational ICT qualification.

### Homework

All students will be set homework on a weekly basis which can be accessed / viewed via the ICT department Gateway pages. Students in Y9, 10 and 11 studying for the ICT GCSE in September will have formal homework tasks during the theory part of the course and research /planning tasks during controlled assessment sessions.



### Year 8 ICT

Year 8 have enjoyed developing their multimedia skills and...

# COMMUNICATION TEAM

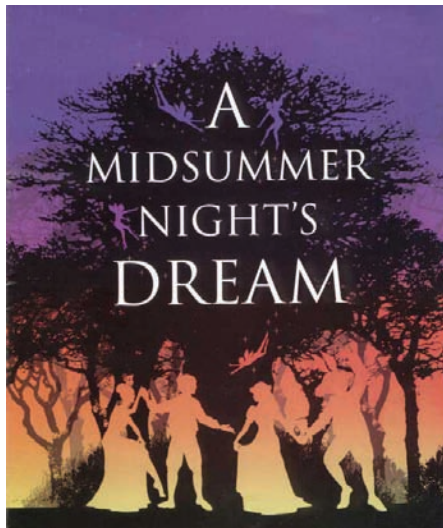
...have produced a stunning range of interactive quizzes and digital animations for their end of project assessment.

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## Music

This has been an exciting time for music at Birches Head High School. The lunchtime music sessions have been re-introduced and have proved very successful attracting large audiences to the performance area of the street. So far we have had performances by Mr. Mellor, Miss. Lovelock and In The Cards (The School Rock Band). In The Cards have gone from strength to strength and have played several gigs locally including the Sugarmill and the School Awards Evening. Additionally, students have attended informal out of lesson practices and developed both their individual and group performing skills. Finally, the vocal group performed at a charity concert at the Bridge Centre to raise money for the Brighter Futures Charity which helps homeless people in the local area.

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## English

### Student Voice

Students have enjoyed the drama work they have done within their English lessons this year, with Year 7 students enjoying the way that drama work based around Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Night's Dream' has allowed them to develop their confidence and performing skills. Students in Year 8 enjoyed their lessons and talked about the progress they have made as a result of following the guidance given by staff and of their appreciation of the range of activities employed by the department to allow them to express their creativity, Dylan Leonard said: "In some lessons we act, in others we write and sometimes we use the laptops to design posters."

### Year 10 and 11 Booster Sessions

A series of half term examination booster sessions have been hosted by the English department to ensure that pupils sitting the English GCSE examination were as prepared

as possible. The sessions have looked at all aspects of the papers and students have found them most beneficial. A Guest speaker, AQA examiner Keith Brindle, has been used to ensure that students were given a fresh perspective on the skills needed to achieve examination success.

Sessions were also held during the Easter break to ensure that our students went into the examination hall filled with confidence and self-belief.

### Year 9 Coaching Sessions

Members of Year 9, enthusiastic to achieve examination success, have been attending coaching sessions during which they work with members of the department to improve their basic skills. Mrs Beard's group have focussed on writing skills and she is very pleased with the initial progress: "Within the first two weeks I could see how their writing skills have improved; they are putting in wonderful effort and I am extremely proud. The sessions are a real pleasure!"

### Making Day

Year 8 used their creativity to produce pieces of art inspired by the novel 'Refugee Boy.' The novel is about an African boy who leaves his home to escape the horrors of war, and the work produced reflected his traumatic journey and showed the cultural awareness gained by students during their reading of the text.

The buzz of creativity filled the English corridor. Well done to all Year 8s who made the day such a success!

# COMMUNICATION TEAM

## Romeo and Juliet

The English corridor has been alive to the sound of Year 9 students rehearsing plays inspired by Shakespeare's great love story. Mrs Beard's class improvised scenes inspired by the fight scene with pupils trading insults between the Montagues and Capulets, while Mrs Barnes' class opted for a gentler experience by using the Capulet Ball, where Romeo and Juliet first meet, as their inspiration. The pupils made masks to wear at the ball and acted out an alternative version of the star crossed lovers' initial encounter.

Dean Bwala said, "It's been good fun to act out the scene, a real laugh!" Mrs Barnes is fully aware that by having such "fun the pupils will remember the scene much better than if they had just read it in class."

## Future Events

Year 11 GCSE English Language Examinations (January 2012).

Year 7 Be Healthy workshop, interviewing mental health experts from the NHS.

Year 8 Fire Safety workshop, interviewing representatives from the Fire Service.

## Year 7 Futures Curriculum

### A Visit from the Past

Year 7 pupils interviewed a member of Shakespeare's audience during their lessons in order to develop their understanding of the historical context of the play they are

studying, 'Midsummer Night's Dream.' The students had lots of questions to ask the guest, the SEN department's Mrs Feeney, a keen local actress who was adorned in full costume for the event!

The students' enthusiasm was evident by the vast numbers of hands which were raised for each new question. Lance Brayford of Year 7 said, "Thank you Mrs Feeney, I have learned lots about the old days, especially about how smelly it must have been!"



## Happy Birthday Shakespeare

Year 7 pupils made birthday cards to celebrate April 23, the day when William Shakespeare was born (also the day of his death!). The cards were planned in class and designed as a homework task. The high standard achieved in previous years was exceeded by the creative Year 7s, who penned magnificent poems to go inside of their wonderful cards.

Well done to Year 7, you have impressed yet again!



## Year 7 Take Over the Rep Theatre!

"The best trip I have ever taken out!" was the verdict of Mr Cragg following the Year 7 trip to the Rep Theatre in Stoke. Pupils had spent the previous week writing and rehearsing a scene to perform at the theatre; the scenes were inspired by the text, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

The nerves of the young performers soon disappeared when they hit the stage; every performance was a sheer joy! Robert Siagi of Year 7 best summed up the day when he stated, "I was so nervous but as soon as I stood on the stage I became focused and enjoyed every moment!"

Prizes and certificates were given to the standout performances. Well done to Year 7 for a wonderful event.

# HUMAN SCIENCES

## Art

Last term a selection of year 11 work was exhibited during the 'Tilt' Launch and 'Summer Dance Show' for visitors to view and appreciate; this proved a great success with year 10 students asking if their work can be exhibited at the end of next year. Exhibitions are a way to celebrate the amazing achievement and motivation of our art students and Mrs Owen hopes that all artwork will soon become an important part of the school decoration, especially when celebrating student efforts as more and more work is being framed and hung around the school.

Year 10 students had a chance to visit the fantastic artwork displayed at Newcastle College. Each year the week-long exhibition features the work of over 300 students and provides an ideal showcase to interest and engage young people who are taking art and design at GCSE or BTEC level and may be thinking of perusing art at a higher level within the future. The visit was well received with many students wanting to find out more about art courses at Newcastle College next year.

## History

Y11 and Y10 students have now completed their exams, Y10 results will be available on the same day as the Y11s get their full GCSE results. The Y10 exam is worth 25% of the total GCSE. Y9 students have visited HMYOI Werrington, as part of this visit students explored the life of Anne Frank and also learnt what life in

Werrington was like for young people.



Places have been filled for the Battlefields Tour, this visit is for Y9 and 10 students and visits the World War One battlefields of the Somme and the Ypres salient. The visit is very useful for learning more about the Y9 course content and in preparation for the Y11 sources exam.

## Geography



Year 10 have chosen to visit Blackpool to investigate strategies that have been put into place to try and solve some of the problems experienced in the resort and to see for themselves how effective these strategies have been.



Year 9 students who have chosen to study Geography next year to GCSE level visited North Wales to look at coastal and river landforms and processes. Some additional students were invited to participate as a reward for their excellent work throughout KS3.

Year 8 students who consistently performed at or above their target level went to the Peak District to study the River Dane and look at various landforms including a waterfall. This visit was done jointly with the Art department.

Year 7 undertook some fieldwork in the local area. This involved a land function survey in relation to their creative enquiry project for the term.

## Human Development

### Listening to students

In Human Development subjects, we constantly strive to make improvements. Students stated, through 'student voice' that they would like to go on more visits to make education 'real' and 'relevant'. To this end, we...

# HUMAN SCIENCES

...have worked with more local partners/agencies and the BTEC Health & Social Care group have:

- Visited Northwood Day Care Centre to work with the elderly
- Visited the 6<sup>th</sup> Form College at Fenton for a taster session to see what H&SC courses are offered at level 3.
- Visited Mitchell High School for a Health & Social Care 'Showcase Event'.

We will continue to give students as many opportunities as possible next year.



We plan to visit The New Vic Theatre, as delegates, to look at issues that people in Health & Social Care face and the agencies which support locally and nationally. This visit is planned for the Autumn Term.

## Listening to parents

Most parents naturally want their children to achieve their full potential and be the 'best they can be'. To this end, parents want their children to bring a reasonable amount of relevant work home, on a

regular basis.

Y7 students are expected to collect (shop for and weigh out, if possible) ingredients for practical lessons, as this develops important life skills such as money management and organisational skills.

BTEC & GCSE groups will be set homework on a weekly basis, normally to be done for the following lesson, this may take the form of independent research, completing tasks set in class and exam type questions etc.

Students are encouraged to keep a log of homework in their planner or some students use 'technological aids' to help them organise themselves.

## Good News Stories

Through student voice, all students interviewed said that they enjoy and achieve in all Human Development subjects. Year 10 BTEC Health and Social Care students spent a day cooking as part of an 'engagement' activity linked to portfolio work. They researched, planned, organised and explained why they were making various food products suitable for people with different dietary needs. Again, we are trying to promote independent learning skills in Human Development subjects so students have the skills to be 'lifelong' learners!

## Society and Faith

Year 11 – revised hard before the GCSE exam in May, where they attended P6 sessions as well as lunch time revision groups.

## Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

Great news! All Year 11 students who were entered for CoPE have gained the qualification. Mr Jackson took the folders for the moderation meeting at the end of June and they all met the standard. Students will get their certificates in September. The Arts Award folders have been taken to moderation by Deb from the Cultural Sisters (local artists) and we await the result.

Year 10 students are all well on the way to gaining their qualification and will be working on completing their skills elements of giving an Oral Presentation, Improving Their Own Learning, and Research before the end of term assisted by Miss Dixon, Miss Povey and Mr Colclough.



A few weeks ago the group enjoyed a visit to Newcastle College where they looked at all the new facilities and received a talk about what the college could offer to them after they leave Birches Head High School.

In the new term we hope to visit the other colleges and post 16 provision so the students will be able to make an informed choice about their future. In the autumn term students will be working on the module entitled Preparing for work and employment and will be completing their discussion key skill.

# MATHS AND MFL

## Maths

### Years 9 & 10 Mathematics Coaching Groups

With Year 11 having finished their exams and awaiting their results, the Maths Department are making the most of the gaps on the timetable. Targeted students from years 9 and 10 have been assembled into groups of 4 to enable them to receive an extra hour of Maths each week.

This opportunity has been welcomed by the students involved, as they can utilise a personalised approach covering topics in which they are not fully confident in, readying them for the new school year come September.

### Adventuring Mathematicians



Year 8 will be given the chance to apply their learning in the classroom to real life experiences. The focus will be adventurous activities and hands-on study of Mathematics. The students will visit Winmarleigh Hall in Lancashire, for four days and have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities which include abseiling, climbing, fencing, survival skills. The trip is organised by PGL who have just been

awarded the benchmark of quality learning outside the classroom.

### Year 10 & 11 Money & Finance Skills Qualification (Home Study)

In the current financial climate, it's important that young people learn how to manage their money and avoid getting into debt. We know you agree, which is why Birches Head High School are already teaching financial awareness courses.

Nationwide Building Society have created a financial literacy qualification that will recognise the achievement of students taking part in financial awareness programmes. The qualification will give students a BTEC accreditation for a financial programme. Short and succinct, it delivers results and learning for students without taking up too much of their curriculum time

Birches Head High School will be delivering this as part of the extended schools programmes. The level 2 qualification is worth half a GCSE.

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## MFL

Well done to year 9 who have achieved the highest percentage at level 7 yet! The majority were entered for FCSE and many have achieved merit or distinction.

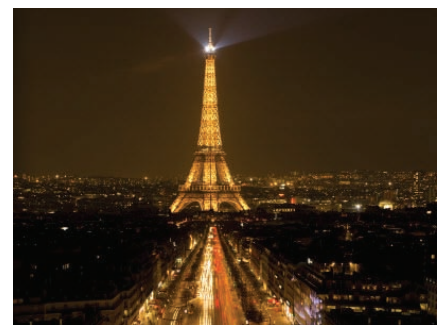
## Space TV

As reported in our last Newsletter, pupils in year 8b1 created a role play which can be seen now on Space TV!

### French trip calendar of activities



We have now a calendar of activities for the French trip: We will visit Disney Land Paris on Saturday 9 July. On Sunday 10 July, we will visit the Eiffel Tower in Paris. No journey to France would be complete without visits to the local markets and hypermarkets! We will take lots of pictures so watch this space!



## Events

French study trip to Paris: Friday 8 July to Monday 11 July 2011

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

## Science

### We're going to the zoo.. zoo..zoo!

Earlier this term the majority of Y7 students visited Blackbrook Zoo on the outskirts of Leek...

Students looked at a variety of birds and animals and their habitats. A few students were lucky enough to feed the penguins and look at some newly hatched ducks...

We ate our lunch in the company of the peacocks and chickens!!!

### Student voice

Students showed that they know what is expected of them in terms of attitudes to learning and behaviour, showing that there is a consistency across the department of high expectations!

When asked about the level of challenge in lessons, most students said that they felt the work they did suited their ability. When this was discussed in more depth students realised that if they found the work too easy then they wouldn't learn anything.

### Homework

Just a reminder that all students have Science homework....

For Y7&8 we have introduced a booklet of worksheets for students to complete a section at a time on a weekly basis..... this will be rolled out to all year groups in September!

Don't forget all homework can be found on The Gateway.

## Eco Schools



Eco School is a nationally recognised project that encourages sustainability...

We need your help to build a comity, take action and win some awards for our school!

....keep your eye on the notice boards to find out how you can join in!

## Science Club

The Science club will re-launch in September with some new and exciting projects... Watch this space!!!!

## Dance

### Artful Dancing

Y7 worked with the dance and art department on a combined project exploring their creativity through the stimulus of superheroes. We are looking forward to their performances wearing their superhero masks. Ryan Minton, Jack Harrison, Kieran Firkin, Tommy Bailey have devoted many lunchtimes to perfecting their dances, 'we want to start a boys dance company'.

### The Matrix

Y8 have learnt some spectacular looking dance moves inspired by The Matrix. Team work, careful timing and interdependence have been a crucial element to developing this choreography. Lorna

Barcroft and Stacey Wilkinson have developed their leadership skills at Abbey Hulton Primary School in preparation for the TILT Launch on the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## Got To Dance

Y9 students have been working hard to choreograph dances to be performed in 'Got to Dance' on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June. We are looking forward to celebrating their achievements... well done to all involved! Year 9's also had the opportunity to visit The Regent Theatre to watch Thriller Live much fun was had by all... including the staff.

## Greased Lightning!



Y10 BTEC Performing Arts students have worked hard creating and rehearsing a musical which was performed on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

## Congratulations

Y11 GCSE Dance students have consistently given their best during the 18 month course, devoting many hours extra curricular to their studies. We look forward to seeing them on results day!

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

## Technology

### Year 7 – Steady Hand Game

Students in Year 7 have been extremely busy this term making their “Steady Hand Game”. They have found that everything in technology is not as straightforward as they may have thought. After learning how to solder components onto a circuit board there was some excitement and sometimes disappointment when they found their boards did not work after they had tested them. Any disappointment however was quickly changed into excitement when they flicked the switch and they heard their circuit “buzz”. Students are busily finishing off their game and putting everything together.

After a well deserved summer break the students will start the autumn term in Year 8. This will be an exciting term for them as they will begin two new projects. They will learn all about different types of mechanisms and make an Automata model. This project is designed to give students an understanding of how a variety of mechanisms including cams are used in industry and the world in which we live. Alongside this project they will learn all about Celtic jewellery and design their very own piece using CAD and CAM. After this design they will actually produce a quality piece of jewellery.

### Year 8 - Balancing Toys and Moisture Sensor

Year 8 students have seen in the end of the academic year by designing and making

personalised balancing toys. Using sheet brass, mild steel and selected hardwoods. Drawing on their designing skills learn in during the past 2 years students are getting to grips with tin snips, hand files, jnr hack saws and abra files to realise their designs. All this activity will prepare students for the start of year 9 enamel insect project. Students will be introduced to the process of decorating fusing pigmented glass to metal based around the theme of insects, camouflage and pattern.

Year 8 students have also finished making a sensor to tell you when to water your plants! Student will at the beginning of September be investigating how designs influence product development and how they play a vital role in the sustainability of our planet! Students will be introduced to 3 more R's of sustainability; we all know Reduce, Reuse and Recycle but do you know Repair, Refuse and Rethink?

### Year 9 – Mars Rover and Be Seen at Night



Year 9 students are well underway to landing on mars and testing their mars rovers. The quality and variety of ideas generated during this project have allowed many

students to exceed their end of key stage 3 target levels, well done year 9's and keep up the good work. Students have also been finishing off their be seen at night flashing lights. Parents look out for them on a bike, bag or even a do not enter sign for a bedroom door!

## PE

### City Championships

Birches Head High School took a group of Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 students to the recent city championships. They were a great couple of days and students really enjoyed competing against the very best in the city. In all, over 40 students participated and within this 40 we had 14 finalists. Congratulations to all students who represented the school with such distinction and congratulations to city champions;

- Nathan Petherick (400m)
- Evans Ofori (3000m)
- and the Year 9 Boys Relay Team

### Multi Skills Festivals

Year 9 sports leaders have participated in 4 multi-skills festivals during this term. These have taken place at Hamilton Infant School and Northwood Broom Infant School. The students planned and prepared the activities for these days making them specific for the needs of the students involved. The students showed excellent organisational skills demonstrating the ability to both set up and lead the activities. Both schools were...

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

...very happy with the students concerned and said that the festivals went very well with everyone having a great time. The students involved were, Elly Martin, Amy Davies, Shannon Garner, Kelsey Dean, Sharna Baskerville, Chloe Tyler (Northwood Broom Infant School) and Molly Adamson, Mikaela Cobby, Laura-Jo Simcock and Lauren Dyche running the festivals at Hamilton Infant School.

## **Sports Days**

Birches Head leaders have also been active helping with sports days for the local primary and infant schools. This service has been invaluable to the local schools helping them to run on time and effectively. The leaders have very enthusiastically helped out at the Sports Days for Grove Junior School, Northwood Broom Infant School and Hamilton Infant School. They have assisted with time keeping, recording results, general organisation and most importantly motivating the primary school children and helping them to enjoy their day. The leaders all received a glowing report from the schools concerned and have gained valuable experience making them even better leaders. The students involved are, Lauren Forrester, Hayleigh Faulkner, Gina Prince, Nishat Sami, Cherelle Jolly, Louise Malkin, Elly Martin, Shannon Garner, Chloe Tyler, Amy Davies, Sharna Baskerville and Kelsey Dean.

## **Grove Junior School After School Club**

2 year 9 sports leaders have given up their time every

Monday after school to run their own Cricket/ball skill club for the students at Grove Junior School. The boys have shown great commitment every week both planning and running the club. The students from Grove have really enjoyed working with the students from Birches Head and have greatly improved their skills as a result of all the hard work put in by Ryan and Matt. The club has helped Ryan and Matt to improve their confidence and gain valuable leadership experience working with students from out of school. Both leaders have received an excellent report from the staff at Grove who said the club looked so much fun that they wanted to join in themselves. The 2 leaders concerned are Ryan Morris and Mathew Harrison.

## **Hanley Sports Association Primary School Athletics**

This is the second year that this event was held at Birches Head due to the excellent time that the primary school students had last year. The event involved all of the Hanley Primary Schools coming together to compete in several different field events, including long jump, throws, relays etc. This again gave our leaders the opportunity to get stuck in with year 9 enthusiastically assisting with the event, again demonstrating very good organisational and motivational skills. The leaders played a vital part during the day as the primary school students looked up to them as role models and the presence of the leaders and their brilliant attitude helped the primary school students

to do their best and have a great time.

## **Tops Links Festival Northwood Stadium**

This event involves primary schools from both the Stoke North and South area coming together in a celebration of sport. The events are all led by sports leaders from the local High Schools. Birches Head Leaders asked to run the Netball Event having had great success during the previous year. The leaders planned and delivered a warm up, skills sessions and a game for 30 students from the local Primary Schools. As always the leaders demonstrated an excellent attitude whilst working with the primary school students helping them to both develop their skills and have a great time. Well done girls, the leaders who took part were, Emillie Corden, Hayleigh Rathbone, Rosie Harding, Julia Unwin and Katie Malbon.

## **Dodgeball Tournament Forest Park Primary School**

Year 10 leaders were invited to help run the Dodgeball Tournament held at Forest Park Primary School. This was the second year running that the students have assisted with this event. The leaders had great fun during the afternoon officiating the games and motivating the students. It was a great experience for the students helping to organise an event for so many students. Every year group from year 1-6 took part in the event all having a great time and this was facilitated by the enthusiasm of the leaders concerned.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

## Gifted & Talented Year 7 Sports Event

12 of Birches Heads gifted and talented students took part in a city wide launch of National Sports Week at Fenton Sports Centre. Their skills were tested in a number of events including volleyball, a series of athletic events and basketball. They represented the school with distinction, very very well done.

- Boys - Jack Harrison, Tom Dykes, Matt Bailey, Jordan Brocklehurst, Ryan Minton and Ibrahim Hussian
- Girls - Katie Unwin, Amber Parry, Danielle Richards, Terri Ann Evans, Nicole Humphries and Samantha Jonson

## Extra Curricular Clubs

Students have had the opportunity to participate in both Martial Arts and Boxing this term. Dave Maddox from Mad Dogs Martial Arts Academy has delivered sessions to the students twice a week. This has been a great experience for the students with many of the students concerned continuing to develop their skills after school attending the Mad Dogs Academy at Northwood. Mr Maddox has given the students free after school sessions at his academy which has greatly helped to develop the skills of these students.

Students have also had the opportunity this term to attend boxing sessions with Scott Lawton (2 time English Light Weight Boxing Champion)

every Thursday. This has been a very enjoyable experience for the both the students and Scott with Scott complimenting our students on their effort and positive attitude every week.

## Year 11 V Staff Leavers Football Match

The much hyped and discussed football match between the 'men' and the 'boys' was battled out at Birches Head Park. The match was played in a great competitive spirit and in some very ill fitting playing shirts! The result of the game was a victory for, whom else, but the 'men' and the young boys left with their tales between their legs which supports a very true sporting hypothesis that 'good boys will never beat good men'. The whole game was a pleasure to play in and I hope the year 10's are ready for their defeat!

## 2011 Sports day



The 2011 sports day was held at Birches Head Stadium on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The weather was kind to us and the students enjoyed a competitive afternoon by taking part in events such as 100m, 200m, 800, long jump, high jump, javelin, welly wanging, tug of war, army assault course, 3 legged

race, skipping, penalty shoot out and netball shoot out. The results were as follows:

### Year 7

- 1st - Fire (220)
- 2nd - Air (215)
- 3rd - Water (212)

### Year 8

- 1st - Fire (207)
- 2nd - Water (202)
- 3rd - Air (136)

### Year 9

- 1st - Water (198)
- 2nd - Fire (196)
- 3rd - Air (182)

### Year 10

- 1st - Water (173)
- 2nd - Fire (125)
- 3rd - Air (106)

### Total

- 1st - Water (785)
- 2nd - Fire (748)
- 3rd - Air (639)

Congratulations to Ms Winters and her Water team, very well done. Also congratulations to those houses who won specific year groups.

# AIR HOUSE NEWS

## **Come Fly With Me**

All the personal tutor groups have now accomplished the initial stage of the Come Fly with Me project, where students have experienced: check in, departures, and an on board flight complete with in flight service of a film, snacks and drinks. Some personal tutor groups have completed the next stage of the project, with insights of their chosen country; they have landed, gone through baggage collection and even customs with nothing to declare! They have begun to experience the culture of their chosen country; listened to some original music, tasted food which they grow and seen some of the famous sights and people.

## **TILT**

We would like to thank the current Student House Leaders and Tilt Student Representatives who have made a fantastic contribution in their first year and welcome their support and guidance with the new representatives who we have chosen and elected to the Air House Team.

The Tilt Evening, which invited Trust members to a showcase of students activities including; the School Band, the Leading Lights team, the Birches Head Beats Bullying team with the Barney Echo project, and the School Football team displaying their skills.

## **Prefects**

We have invited applications for Student Prefects from the current Y10; we were over whelmed with the level of response. They have agreed with the job description, role and responsibility of being Student Prefects leading the school during their last academic year.

## **Assemblies**

Assembly themes during the term have mainly focused on, taking part and introducing new themes into school. We have participated in Sports Week and during Diabetes Week the personal tutor groups entered "The Big Quiz", students were asked to raise awareness and understanding of the diabetic condition and money for the Diabetes UK Charity.

## **Grease**

Congratulations to the students who participated in the school performance of the one off show of "Grease", everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

## **Sports Day**

The School Sports Day Inter House Competition was a tremendous success, a memorable day with the glorious weather.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new students into Y7 in September and hope everyone has an enjoyable summer, from the Air House Team.

# FIRE HOUSE NEWS

## **Attendance**

Many of you know I have a passion regarding students attending regularly and it has been with great pleasure that throughout the year Fire House has been the proud owners of the attendance trophy, well done it is a fantastic achievement. Keep it up!!!

## **Taster days and engagement activities**

Throughout the year students from across the houses have been involved in numerous taster days at Keele and Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, they have found these days most enjoyable and informative when making informed decisions on their chosen options.

## **Come Fly with Me**

The come fly with me project got off to a slow start for Fire house this year, with this in mind Personal Tutors and students are now ready to embark on the second cycle in the next academic year celebrating festivals from their chosen countries, I look forward to that flourishing throughout the year.

## **TILT reps, House prefects, House Captains and Head Boy and Girl Nominations**

Students from Fire House have nominated a student from each Personal Tutor Group represent them during TILT meetings and forums, working along side the nominated prefects, House Captains and Head boy and girl during the next academic year.

Good luck and well done to all those nominated!

## **Out and About week**

Out and about week this year has the overarching theme of enterprise, where student in Fire House have taken part in various activities throughout the week and visited an outside activity of their choice. This has been a great success and their efforts were showcased on the Friday.

## **Overview**

We have come to the end of our first academic year with the introduction of Vertical Tutoring, as you all know Mrs. Beard resigned from her post as House Learning Manager in the Easter term and I have stepped in to her shoes temporarily. It has

been a pleasure to be part of establishing the family know as Fire House and we have come through a vertical journey together. This has been a successful transition and we hope that it continues to grow and those that are now familiar with the house system will support the new Year 7 students and the newly appointed Fire House Manager in September.

# WATER HOUSE NEWS

As the end of the Summer term quickly approaches, it gives me great pleasure to share with you and celebrate some of the successes' that students from Water house have been involved in throughout the term. Many students have been very busy getting involved in some wonderful things including school activities, extra curricular clubs, and representing the school.

## Attendance

Attendance overall as a house for the academic year will finish on a very respectful 92% which is only a little shy of our target of 93%. I would like to congratulate the 10 students who have maintained 100% attendance; this is a great achievement - Well Done!

The Summer term has been packed full of exciting events some which require a worthy mention include;

## Bike It

Back in May the school started some exciting collaborative work with Steve Dyster a 'Bike It Officer' from Stoke on Trent. This has developed into several students volunteering to become part of the 'BHHS Bike It Crew' an action team which is focussed on promoting healthy lifestyles, and developing cycling at school. The action team is made up of; Ibraheem Rafeeq WSWT, Aziz Ur-Rehman WPK,

Frankie Lawrence WLB, and Emily Washington WLG, four very hard working, and enthusiastic members of Water house, there commitment to date has been fantastic and I look forward to working with them next year in developing the project further.

## Sports Day

Students recently took part in Sports Day, and thanks to the fantastic team spirit that Water students demonstrated we were triumphant and took first place. A good day was had by all and on behalf of tutors and myself I would like to personally congratulate each and everyone of you who played a part on the day, as we couldn't of done it without your hard work, participation and determination.

## Awards Evening

Awards evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June celebrated a whole host of achievements where students were nominated for their effort and achievement across all subjects, Service To The School, Service To The House, Service To The Community and Attendance. Overall winners included several Water house students (to many to mention) however I would like to pay tribute to all students who were nominated or won awards on the evening you are all worthy winners!

## Events Day

Back in December 67 students from Water house qualified to take part in our first ever Events Day, the second Events day on the 8<sup>th</sup> April saw even more of you take part an amazing 132 students took part in a fun filled day. I look forward to sharing the day with even more students from WATER house on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> for our last one of the year. Remember points are awarded daily for arriving to school appropriately dressed and equipped, during lessons for having a positive attitude to learning, weekly for good attendance and punctuality and half termly for achievement. So keep collecting and checking your points as they say points really do make prizes!

As a House we will join together to celebrate all the successes of the Summer term in our Celebration assembly on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, which will see a programme packed full of nominations, certificates and awards for attendance, achievement and conduct. Good luck to everyone!

All that is left for me to say is I hope you all enjoy yourselves over the Summer holidays, please make sure you look after yourselves and stay safe, and you return in September to embark upon an equally successful hopefully even bigger and better academic year.

# SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011-12

## Autumn Term

	<b>Students' Year</b>	<b>Teachers' Year</b>
<b>Schools Open</b>	Wednesday 7th September	Monday 5th September
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 24th-Friday 28th October	Monday 24th-Friday 28th October
<b>Schools Close</b>	Friday 16th December	Tuesday 20th December

## Spring Term

	<b>Students' Year</b>	<b>Teachers' Year</b>
<b>Schools Open</b>	Tuesday 3rd January	Tuesday 3rd January
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 13th-Friday 17th February	Monday 13th-Friday 17th February
<b>Schools Close</b>	Friday 30th March	Friday 30th March

## Summer Term

	<b>Students' Year</b>	<b>Teachers' Year</b>
<b>Schools Open</b>	Tuesday 17th April	Monday 16th April
<b>May Day</b>	Monday 7th May	Monday 7th May
<b>Half Term</b>	Friday 1st-Friday 8th June	Friday 1st-Friday 8th June
<b>Schools Close</b>	Friday 20th July	Friday 20th July

# AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM INFO

## Media

### Year 7

Promoting Stoke will learn how to use Final Cut to make a video sequence and Photo Shop to produce a poster

Assessment -research skills and their productions

Homework - research, collecting images and writing about their work

### Year 8

Video project based on 'car culture' and urban sounds

Assessment - completed mood boards which will show research skills, sound tracks and videos

Homework - collecting words and images associated with car culture, listening to and write about the sounds around them

### Year 9

Music video project based on Parkour and Urban Dance

Assessment- research and pre- production and completed video

Homework- media diary, research and critical response

### Year 10 BTEC - Video Unit

Assessment- Btec Assessment Criteria in coursework folder

Homework-written coursework elements including personal research tasks into the music industry and the theory and production of music videos

## Year 11 Btec -

### Animation Unit

Assessment- Btec Assessment Criteria in coursework folder

Homework - written coursework elements including personal research tasks into the history of animation and the theory and production of animated sequences

### Year 11 Creative and Media Diploma

The Project-students design their own project based on the work they have done during year

Assessment- takes place during the project, including from the client group this is then submitted through a controlled assignment and folder evidence

### How you can help your child

Talk to them about the work they are doing in Media and ask to see what they are completing at home

Ask your child about their targets and how they are improving their work

Discuss the media and its influence encouraging a wider appreciation of film, magazines, television and radio

## ICT

### Year 7

Students will be embarking on a "Journey around the World" this year.

In the first term they will develop their presentation skills and use their science knowledge to describe a trip through the Solar System. They will then develop their research skills investigating countries around the globe and ensuring that information gathered is reliable and unbiased.

### Year 8

Global warming is going to be the project which students focus on for the first term.

Students will begin by looking at weather systems and creating a public information system for those who rely on accurate weather data. Students will do their own investigation into whether the world is actually getting warmer. They will then move on to look at the different information available about global warming and make a final decision as to whether they believe in the existence of global warming or not.

### Year 9 GCSE ICT

Students will be starting the new academic GCSE course in 2011-12 which comprises theory, skills practice and controlled assessment, with a final written exam during Year 11.

In the first term students will learn about how ICT is used to communicate including mobile technology, Internet, email and social networking. They will be assessed each lesson based on class work and also undertake end of unit tests and a practical assignment to develop skills required for the

# AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM INFO

Controlled Assessment.

Parents can help by ensuring that students have access to a computer. The internet is not compulsory but would be an advantage.

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## Music

### Year 7

Will be starting the year with a series of lessons establishing the principles for playing and looking after instruments. Students will then learn to play a range of music on the violin. This will build up to a small concert at Christmas.

### Year 8

Will start by developing their ability to play a range of different rhythms. They will then complete a Glee Style Unit on musical theatre which will build to a concert at Christmas.

### Year 9

Will have two half-term musical units this year. The first will be a unit developing keyboard skills and the ability to understand and play from written music. The second unit will be a musical appreciation and composition unit. Students will study a range of musical examples and then will compose their own music building on the features of the music they have studied.

### Year 11

Will spend the first half-term focusing on their two musical compositions. This will involve studying examples of music from two areas of study and

then composing two pieces of music each based on one of these areas of study. Additionally, they will be developing their instrumental skills in preparation for the performance focus after half-term.

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## English

### Year 7 and 8

Less confident readers: read with your child for 15 minutes every evening and ask questions to confirm understanding. Reading matter can be whatever interests them: stories, football magazines, teen magazines, comics, newspapers etc.

Confident readers: encourage regular and wider reading.

Encourage your child to read aloud their writing tasks to you to raise their awareness of the necessity to use accurate punctuation and correct grammar.

Encourage them to watch the news on the television and discuss current events

Help them to access resources for the areas being studied.

### Year 9

Direct your children towards Internet resources such as B.B.C. Bitesize and SAM Learning. Encourage pupils to read newspapers and watch television news programmes in preparation for the media sections of the examination. Be positive about the Shakespeare and Dickens texts they will be studying for their coursework

tasks. Encourage your child to use quotations from the text in their coursework, stress the importance of the PEE structure (Point, Evidence and Explanation).

### Year 10

Take an active interest in their work – read your child's writing and ask them about the task and their homework to ensure that effort is being shown. Encourage your children to read a range of text types e.g. leaflets, novels, newspapers, poetry. Encourage your child to use quotations from the text in their coursework, stress the importance of the PEE structure (Point, Evidence and Explanation).

### Year 11

Encourage your child to share their revision tasks with you – ask them if they have spent enough time or effort. Ask your children to tell you about the texts and poetry they are studying – what are the characters like? What themes are discussed by authors? Encourage your children to read a range of text types e.g. leaflets, novels, newspapers, poetry. Discuss with them matters in the news and encourage them to formulate balanced opinions.

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## Art

### Year 7 – Winter Collage

Students will be undertaking a thought-provoking and skills based project based around the theme of 'A Winter Collage'. The department will be looking closely at the detail

# AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM INFO

shown on autumn leaves, winter branches, and seasonal changes when producing large scale mixed media drawings.

They will learn how to co-operate with the art rooms rules a when using practical equipment and will learn how to co-operate with each other during tasks and activities. They will gain confidence in their ideas and learn how to collect information about patterns seen within structures such as leaves, snowflakes, icicles and plants. Students will also learn how to communicate effective ideas and work creatively using relevant presentation skills and correct vocabulary.

## **Year 8 – Mixed Media Project**

Students will be undertaking a stimulating mixed media project inspired by the patterns and decoration seen in Celtic jewellery and signs. They will produce a small scale wall hanging in 2D relief that will be exhibited within the school.

Students will learn how to experiment with different mixed media techniques such as collage, printmaking and batik to produce innovative and colourful outcomes. They will gain confidence when using the printmaking tools and be able to demonstrate good use of health and safety procedures when using technical equipment.

## **Year 9 – Cakes, Confectionary and all things Sweet**

Students will be starting

a creative enquiry project based around the theme of 'Haida' totem poles and relics. They will be spending a great amount of time independently researching and understanding the Haida tribe of North America because undertaking the art brief and designing their own totem pole.

Students will experiment with lots of 2D and 3D techniques. These processes will be presented and annotated within a sketchbook. They will research the work of several different artists who will influence and impact on their work. Finally students will construct a 3D final outcome that fulfils the brief.

## **Year 10 – Sea Life Project**

Students will be starting an exciting and through-provoking project based on the theme of 'Wrapped, Trapped and Twisted'. They will begin to develop fascinating ideas that are intended to stretch their imagination and thought-processes in relation to the project brief. The scheme of work is aimed at facilitating independence and creativity which all students in the group should successfully achieve as all final outcome ideas will need to be different, quirky and interesting.

Students will begin drawing from objects that have been wrapped, trapped or twisted in threads and fabric. Students will learn how to experiment with different mixed media techniques such as collage, printmaking and batik to produce innovative and colourful ideas that relate to the theme.

## **History**

### **Year 8**

Students will begin the course by exploring the nature of monarchy in Tudor England, this will examine the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII and will include a study of Hulton Abbey. Students will continue their studies by exploring how the reigns of Henry VIII's children affected people in England

### **Year 9**

Students will begin the course by answering the question 'How was living in Britain different 150 years ago?' this will compare living and working conditions to the Industrial Revolution. Students will hopefully be given the opportunity to visit Styal Mill and explore what a factory used to be like. Students will continue their course by exploring the nature of trench warfare and the conditions endured by soldiers fighting in World War One

### **Year 10**

Students will be starting their course by examining the origins of World War One, they will continue by exploring the peace settlements after the war and the role of the League of Nations as a peace-keeping organisation. Students will be working in preparation for their Unit 1 examination in June 2012 and will be questions.

### **Year 11**

Will be completing their Controlled Assessment before studying for their source-

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based Unit 3 examination. Students will be exploring social reforms before World War One, the war itself both in the trenches and life in Britain as well as protests and difficulties after the war. Students will practise a range of questions in preparation for their examination in January.

## Key information for parents

Revision and support continues for Y11 and after school from September on Wednesdays.

## How can you support your child with this half terms work and homework?

Encourage Y11 students to attend revision and support sessions and to use their revision packs in the lead up to the examinations.

Support students with research tasks, if you have the internet, encourage them to use it as a resource, taking time to read information and select the most relevant pieces. Encourage students to read around the topic or watch programmes of relevance so as to gain a greater knowledge.

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## Geography

### Year 7

The World Under Threat- What threats are there in our world to our safety? Why do people choose to live in areas prone to disasters?

### Year 8

How safe is our community- Restoration- Forest Park. How

was it restored and why? 19<sup>th</sup> Century health and diseases Spirituality and mental health.

### Year 9

Coastlines- How do processes shape the coast and produce landforms? The Living World. A study of ecosystems around the globe

### Year 10

Unit 1: People and the Physical World. Tectonic processes (Earthquakes and Volcanoes)

### Year 11

Unit 2: Urban Environments

Controlled Assessment worth 25% of final GCSE grade- a study of Festival Park and the impact it has had on Hanley

You can support your child this term by asking them about their Key Assessment work, what they are required to do and how they intend to complete this. Support them with time management in terms of meeting deadlines for the work to be completed.

Also, encourage them to take an interest in the world around them by reading newspapers or watching the news on TV to enhance or improve their awareness and understanding of current geographical issues.

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## Human Development

### Licence to Cook

### Year 7

Students will be developing

practical food skills as part of the government's 'Cooking Entitlement' in order to encourage healthy choices & lifestyle. These are outlined below:

- Fruit Fusion - Peeling & chopping safely
- Croque Monsieur - Developing confidence in handling food & safe use of grill
- Fruit Flapjacks - Safe use of oven. The melting method
- Minestrone soup - Safe use of hob. Consolidation of skills, peeling & chopping. Boiling & Simmering. Cooking of pasta
- Mini fruit cakes - Safe use of oven. Batch baking. Cake making skill – the creaming method.

## How Students will be assessed this term

Students will also be taught about 'Hygiene and Safety' and will complete an on-line assessment.

The above will be underpinned by the ECM agenda themes of 'Be Healthy', 'Be Safe' during term 1, developing Emotional & Social skills of co-operation and developing positive relationships. Language & Communication skills being developed are text & vocabulary. Thinking skills being developed are exploration and being able to locate information.

Recipes will be communicated to parents weekly and will be put on the gateway.

# AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM INFO

## **GCSE Child Development**

### **Year 10**

Students will complete a unit of work entitled 'Pregnancy & Birth' where they will learn about how a baby is conceived, through to birth and care of a pregnant woman.

#### **How students will be assessed this term**

Students will complete a 'Controlled Assessment' set by the examination board. This lasts 7 hours and is worth 10% of the total GCSE marks.

### **Year 11**

Students will complete a unit of work entitled 'Intellectual, Social & Emotional Development' and will spend time looking at how children learn through play.

#### **How students will be assessed this term**

Students will complete a 'Controlled Assessment' (child study) which forms 30% of the total GCSE marks.

## **GCSE Home Economics: Food & Nutrition**

### **Year 10**

Students will complete a unit of work entitled 'Food & Nutrition' which involves students learning all about nutrients and what they do for the body.

#### **How students will be assessed this term**

Students will complete a 'Controlled Assessment' set by

the examination board. This lasts 7 hours and is worth 10% of the total GCSE marks.

## **BTEC Health & Social Care**

### **Year 10**

Students will complete two units of work, the first on one entitled 'Communication in Health & Social Care' and the second 'Individual Rights in Health & Social Care'. They will learn about the importance of good communication when working with people in health and social care environments and also rights and responsibilities of clients and care workers.

#### **How students will be assessed this term**

Students will complete a portfolio of work for each, which will be assessed and form part of the final BTEC level.

### **Year 11**

Students will complete a unit of work entitled 'Creative & Therapeutic activities in Health & Social Care'. They will learn about activities which are therapeutic, the benefits and health & safety legislation around creative and therapeutic activities.

#### **How students will be assessed this term**

Students will complete a portfolio of work, which will be assessed and form part of the final BTEC level.

## **GCSE Psychology/ Sociology**

### **Year 10 and 11**

Both year 10 & Y11 students will work on the Sociology aspect of their course. They will study units on 'What is Sociology', 'Sociological process and how groups form in society' They will also have an introduction to 'The Family'. This is in preparation for the external Sociology GCSE taken in the summer of 2012 for both Y10 & Y11 students.

#### **How students will be assessed this term**

Students will be given a 'mock' GCSE exam at the end of the half term. This grade will be reported to parents as part of START data report during the Autumn Term.

## **Society and Faith**

### **Year 7 - Be Healthy**

What is my journey of life: past, present and future.

An introduction to society and faith as well as belief and morality.

An introduction to the six main faiths.

### **Year 8 - Rastafarianism**

What is your identity and how is it developed.

What shapes our identity – what are the links between individual faiths [Rastafarianism, Christianity and Judaism]

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## Year 9 - Environmental and medical issues

Issues surrounding the impact of religion on environmental and medical issues.

Section 2 - religion and the environment, infertility treatments and transplant surgery.

Year 10 - Unit 1: religion and community cohesion - issues surrounding the roles of men and women, racial harmony.

Section 4 - the study of the effects and give reasons and opinions on the changing roles of men and women as well as the nature of the UK as a multi-ethnic and religious society.

## Year 11 - Believing in God

Issues surrounding belief in God based on the study of Christianity and one other religion.

Section 1 - reason why people believe in God and why some do not.

You can support your child this term by asking them about their Key Assessment work, what they are required to do and how they intend to complete this. Support them with time management in terms of meeting deadlines for the work to be completed.

Also, encourage them to take an interest in the world around them by reading newspapers or watching the news on TV to enhance or improve their awareness and understanding of current Religious issues.

## MFL

### Year 7 (French)

THE BASICS: greetings and all about themselves (name, age, birthday, as well as the date, colours, alphabet and number 1-100)

SELF: All about where they live, their family and pets, description of themselves, people and their personality

### Year 8 (French)

Unit 1 - Meeting people - FCSE: All about their family, and friends, hobbies, interests, meeting new people and finding out about them.

### Year 9 (French)

Unit 1 - Meeting People

This term, pupils will finish this unit and will have the opportunity to retake exams in reading, listening and speaking. They will also be expected to learn vocabulary by heart, as well as spelling from memory. They will also be expected to apply grammar rules more extensively.

### Year 10 (French)

LIFESTYLE

Relationship and choice

- Relationships with family and friends
- Future plans regarding: marriage/partnership
- Social issues and equality

Grammar: future tenses, conditional tense, use of relative clause.

Pupils will be expected to apply the learning skills introduced in lessons to do their homework. Pupils will be expected to learn by heart lists of vocabulary and apply grammar work to all four skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing. They will also be expected to do their own research and apply thinking skills to their work.

### How you can support your child's learning

Get involved by checking their homework regularly

If your child experiences problems with his/her homework, write a note in their planner so that they can be given extra help.

Encourage your child to explore the internet to reinforce their learning. They can get the password and user name from their teacher.

Encourage your child to use the school computer club if they have no laptop or computer at home.

Obtain a bilingual dictionary with table of verbs in the middle.

### Year 10 (Spanish)

THE BASICS: greetings and all about themselves (name, age, birthday, as well as the date, colours, alphabet and number 1-100)

SELF: All about where they live, their family and pets, description of themselves, people and their personality

Grammar: high-frequency verbs in the present tense, adjectives, nouns, question words.

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## Science

### Year 7

Students will be working together to discover how scientists solve problems. They will be investigating particles and what happens in different chemical reactions.

### Year 8

Students will be focussing on healthy lifestyles looking into the world of fast food and the impact of the fast5 food industry on today's teenage life.

### Year 9

Will be completing mini projects in Chemistry, Biology and Physics to address any gaps in their knowledge in preparation for end of key stage 3 exams.

All students will complete assessments regularly throughout the term, which will be either self or peer assessed, before being assessed by the class teacher. At the end of term students will take an end of term test.

### Year 10

#### GCSE Triple Science & Core and Additional Science

Students will be studying unit B1 which covers classification, variation, and inheritance, responses to a changing environment, problems of, and solutions to a changing environment.

This will include a range of activities, including research and practical activities to

help students develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific process and investigative techniques associated with Biology.

Students are preparing for a GCSE exam in November.

### Year 11

#### GCSE Triple Science

Students will be studying speed, velocity and acceleration, forces, risk taking, roller coasters, theory of relativity, radiation, nuclear fission and electrostatic phenomena in preparation for their P2 exam in November. They will also have the opportunity to re-sit any previous exams they have taken in order to improve their grades.

#### BTEC First Diploma

Students will be studying Units 4 & 5, which look at Applications of Chemical Substances (chemical bonding, endo/exothermic reactions, organic compounds and specialised materials) and Applications of Physical science (motion, force, waves and electricity). As always this is portfolio work and therefore students need to ensure all work is completed by the deadline and improved in response to feedback.

#### Double Award GCSE

Unit 3 – Science at Work – students will be monitoring a living organism and researching careers in science. Both of these activities will involve writing a report for their portfolio. Students will be able to improve assignments in response to feedback.

## Dance

### Year 7

Students will be exploring the three elements of choreography, performance and appreciation through the style of Breakdance. They will create their own dance off's using the film 'You've Been Served' as a stimulus. Students will be taught set steps and be taught the basics of choreography. Assessment is ongoing in every lesson and formally takes place at the end of each half term. Parents can support this terms work by ensuring that students are consistently prepared for lessons by bringing the appropriate kit and to encourage their child to actively participate in the dance extended learning programme.

### Year 8

Students will be exploring the three elements of choreography, performance and appreciation through the style of Contemporary Dance specifically looking at 'Perfect' by Motionhouse Physical Theatre. They will be taught repertoire from the work and be set creative tasks that develop choreographic skills learnt in Y7. Assessment is ongoing in every lesson and formally takes place at the end of each half term. Parents can support this terms work by ensuring that students are consistently prepared for lessons by bringing the appropriate kit and to encourage their child to actively participate in the dance extended learning programme.

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## Year 9

Students will take the stimulus of Parkour, otherwise known as Free Running, to choreograph short dances to. They will look at clips from the channel 4 documentary Jump Britain to gain inspiration and through a creative enquiry approach. Past students have created some fantastic work. Assessment is ongoing in every lesson and formally takes place at the end of each half term. Parents can support this terms work by ensuring that students are consistently prepared for lessons by bringing the appropriate kit and to encourage their child to actively participate in the dance extended learning programme.

## BTEC Performing Arts

Students will evaluate their performance and select units to study based around their chosen discipline of the Arts. Assessment is ongoing in each unit through the completion of assignment briefs. Homework is given on a weekly basis and is vital to aid with student's progress and achievement. This is either in the form of written tasks or by attending extra curricular support sessions on a Wednesday 2.40pm- 3.40pm. Parents can support their child by regularly checking their planners and ensuring that homework is complete on time and to a high standard.

## Technology

### Year 7

Students will start the year by working in teams to design and make a structure to hold an egg that will survive a fall from a great height! Students will be assessed on their individual team logo designs and overall survival of their egg! Homework will consist of research into structures both man made and natural.

### Year 8

Students will start an exciting term by begin two new projects. They will learn all about different types of mechanisms and make an Automata model. This project is designed to give students an understanding of how a variety of mechanisms including cams are used in industry and the world in which we live. Alongside this project they will learn all about Celtic jewellery and design their very own piece using CAD and CAM. After this design they will actually produce a quality piece of jewellery. Students will be assessed on the quality of design and practical work. Homework for the jewellery is based on researching skills – jewellery, Celtic design and metallic materials. Homework for Automata is based on movement in everyday objects – car engines and toys to name a few. Students will continue to receive design and tool homework assignments.

### Year 9

Students will at the beginning of September be investigating how designs influence product development and how they play a vital role in the

sustainability of our planet! Students will be introduced to 3 more R's of sustainability; we all know Reduce, Reuse and Recycle but do you know Repair, Refuse and Rethink? Students will be assessed on the quality of an information leaflet about the 6 R's of sustainability. Homework will be based on research into the 6 R's and what are you doing in your homes to be more sustainable! Year 9 students will be continuing their research on metal and will design and make enamelled coated bug shapes. Students will be assessed on not only their design skills but making and evaluating. Homework will be based on analysis of designs and sample pieces of work. To move from level 6 to 7 students will need to redesign a second piece based on their analysis.

### Year 10

Students at the end of the first year of GCSE product design will take their external assessment which is worth 40% of the overall mark. During the first term will be researching the theory of product design to include; design history, design and designer, product analysis and sustainability. Students will be assessed with an end of unit test. Homework will include research into famous designers and their products.

### Year 11

Students will be working on the first to sections of their controlled assessment. The first section is investigation the design context. Students by now will have selected their

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context from a list provided by the exam board. Students will produce a detail product analysis, research and target market questionnaires. This is a very busy term and parents can help by checking research and filling in questionnaires. Homework will involve preparing materials and research for controlled assessment during lesson time.

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## PE

### Year 7

"The Olympic Dream"  
Students are completing a series of activities linked to the Olympic games. Students will be completing a series of athletic activities, invasion games and safe and effective exercise. The futures skills that are being focused on include research and gather data, asking relevant questions and presenting their findings.

### Year 8

Students will be developing their performances and learning in Summer activities in outwitting opponents such as athletics, cricket, rounders and softball. Students will develop an athletics profile in running, jumping and throwing

### Year 9

Students will be developing their performances and learning in Summer activities in outwitting opponents such as athletics, cricket, rounders and softball. Students will develop an athletics profile in running, jumping and throwing

### Year 10 and 11

Students have completed the theme 'outwitting opponents' to gather evidence for their BTEC accredited qualification. This qualification is non examination based and evidence is gathered through a series of practical tasks. They have performed in both individual and team activities including football, basketball, aerobics, badminton and handball. They will also begin to complete a fitness testing and training module which forms the second module of the 2 required to gain their BTEC in PE.

# PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

## Background

School governors represent the largest volunteer force in the country with approximately 1% of the adult population serving in this capacity at any one time.

The governing body of Birches Head High School has vacancies for parent governor positions.

Parent governors are elected by their fellow parents and are vital to a governing body because they ensure that the other governors are kept in touch with the concerns and issues of most importance to our parents.

## Characteristics and Role of School Governors

Governors are people who wish to make a positive contribution to the school and the education of its students. They will contribute to the effective day-to-day running of the school and have an effective input toward the educational achievements of its students.

A governing body's overriding responsibility is to work in partnership with the headteacher to promote continuous improvement in the performance of the school. This involves the establishment of a development plan, the setting of challenging but achievable targets and the interpretation of information to assess progress and determine appropriate action.

Aligned to its improvement role, the governing body is there to be a 'critical friend' who can provide the right balance between supporting and challenging the performance of both the headteacher and the school.

## Training and Support

The school values the voluntary contribution of governors and works with the LA and other governor associations to provide training and support. Governors are able to access this support in a variety of ways.

## Becoming a Parent Governor

Being a parent governor can be stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding. If you have the enthusiasm and desire to become closely involved in the running of the school then please consider putting yourself forward for the vacancies.

*Parent Governors are an important component in achieving an effective and well-balanced governing body*

## For more information, please contact:

Ms K Healey (Headteacher)

either by telephone or by writing to

Birches Head High School  
Birches Head Road  
HANLEY  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST2 8DD

Please complete the Expression of Interest section on the following page.

# PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

I am interested in becoming a Parent Governor  
and would like to know more about what governorship entails.

My name is:

Title: Mr / Miss / Mrs / Ms

Forename:

Surname:

I am the parent of (Student(s) Name(s)):

In Year Group(s):

I can be contacted on the following telephone number(s):

Mobile: (Daytime / Evening)

Home: (Daytime / Evening)

**Please tear out this page and hand the completed slip to a member of staff or  
to school's Main Reception.**



# UNIFORM ORDER FORM

( new price list as from 01/07/2011)

School Blazer – Sizes 29..30..31..32..33..34..35..36.. (£24.00)  
37..38..40..42 ..44.. (£28.00 includes VAT)

School Tie £5.00

Black Sweatshirt – Sizes 30..32..34..36..38..40 (£12.00)

## PE UNIFORM

Polo shirt – Sizes 11/12..13..Small.. Medium.. Large (£7.00)

P E Hoodie XL Youth (£15.00)  
S..M..L (£16.00 Inc VAT)

Total cost of Order .....

Name .....

Telephone Number .....

Paid with thanks

Signed .....

If you're not sure which size you need, please ask for the Finance Department at the school's Main Reception for assistance.

Alternatively, please return completed order forms to the Main reception FAO Finance Department.

BIRCHES HEAD HIGH SCHOOL