

7-4-6



Baines School
NI Sine Labore

Our Year 7 students and a member of staff write to Year 6 pupils about their experience at Baines.

I love being a student at Baines School and I'm very excited to come to school every morning. My teachers are absolutely amazing. Every class I've had at Baines has a brilliant teacher all with their different teaching methods. Our classwork and homework activities are fun and interactive.

Baines holds so many clubs at lunchtime and after school for a really wide range of activities. There is everything from football teams to musical ensembles and art classes so there is always something for everyone's interests.

Jacob



Our School musical – Buggy Malone



My favourite thing about Year 7 was performing in our school musical production, Buggy Malone. It was a lot of fun because I got to develop the friendships I'd made as well giving me the opportunity to make friends with students in other year groups. Being part of Buggy has made me a lot more confident than I was at the start of the year.

I loved being part of Buggy because it was a really great production. There were students from every year group and we had costumes and props, all set on our own stage with scenery and lighting. It was amazing!

I can't wait to audition for the next show, Return To The Forbidden Planet

Lily

Eco Club

Over my first year at Baines, I have found many things that take my interest, but Eco Club has been the one activity that I feel most passionate about. Knowing that not only does our school focus on our learning and well-being but they also take steps to become a more eco-friendly school. At each weekly Eco Club meeting we took time to listen to ideas on helping to reduce our waste and how we could give something back to the community by becoming a more economical school.

We have participated in activities such as the Great British Clean Up. Another idea we set up was to collect used crisp packets to send off to be recycled. As well as these projects the school reduced its plastic by introducing paper straws and juice cartons instead of bottles.

I have enjoyed Eco Club the most with the feeling of achieving a cleaner school through our work.

Sian



A musician's experience of Year 7 at Baines



At primary school I had just been awarded second place in the talent show (I swear it was rigged!) and since coming to Baines the possibilities unlocked for me as a guitarist are infinite! I can play in the jazz ensemble, take guitar lessons, perform in Unplugged as well as talent shows. I also love performing in the Creative Arts festivals where parents and friends come to watch us perform on stage and I love watching all the other talented students performing.

Thanks to my experience I have grown as a musician, a guitarist and a performer. My confidence has grown and I've learned how to play a role in a band.

Sujan

History



I can't believe that year 7 is already over! All the lessons have been great but I've particularly loved my history lessons. In our classes we learned about how England has changed over the last thousand years! We've studied the Battle of Hastings, King Henry VIII & Tudor times and much more.

I've really enjoyed these lessons. Finding out about our country's history and how our ancestors lived has been really exciting.

Mimi

Sport at Baines

PE lessons at Baines are great and I've enjoyed developing my skills, my fitness and my confidence through a mix of individual and team sports like gymnastics, trampolining, tennis, rugby and football. My favourite thing, though, about sport at Baines has been the after school clubs. There are so many sports that you can represent the school in. I have loved playing rugby and was delighted when I was lucky enough to be the captain of our team.

Matthew



Drama lessons

The thing I have particularly enjoyed in Year 7 is Drama. We didn't do Drama in primary school so I was really excited about starting this at Baines. I love the arts and being creative and I attend dance and Youth Theatre, performing in different shows and productions.

Drama is often a different way of working to our other lessons. In Drama we always work in groups, creating our own productions to perform for your classmates on lots of different ideas. The greater the imagination the better! If you are still developing confidence as well as playing a part in the production, there are other activities including: designing and making the props, writing the script or playing a character with a smaller speaking role.

We have put on three productions this year: opening of a pyramid, being stranded on a tropical island and travelling in time. It really has been great fun, but at the same time a brilliant way to build our confidence and communication skills, which will help in so many ways in the future.

Lily



Meet our staff...Miss Lister

My name is Miss Lister and my official job here at Baines is Librarian, I run the ILC which is our Information Learning Centre. However, I am also involved in lots of other aspects of school life from teaching Drama to helping with the school musical.

The ILC is a fantastic place designed to inspire our students. It gives you the opportunity to borrow from our library, with a wide selection of different books to choose from. Here at Baines we have a strong reading culture, we want you to love reading and it's my job to help you find the one book or author that makes you do just that. All Year 7 students will have a lesson in the ILC once a fortnight giving them the opportunity to read and swap books and take quizzes on them. We also have computers and iPads which can be used to do your homework, and we run different clubs at lunch time to encourage you to try something new. The ILC has a warm friendly feeling and is a space where I think all students feel comfortable to meet their friends and study.



I also teach Drama at Baines, I know I may be biased but it is the most fun lesson you could have! It allows students to be creative and work as part of a group to devise exciting pieces of theatre. Some of our topics are inspired by historical events and some allow your imagination to run wild ... where would you go if you could time travel? We have also opened our brand new Drama Studio this year giving us more space to create and a great rehearsal room for creative arts clubs.

Last year I co-directed the school musical Buggy Malone, it was such a great experience getting to work with students on something they had chosen to do in their own time. I spent time encouraging them to learn their lines and working on accents and dance routines. We rehearsed after school for months and then finally when it was show week everyone worked so hard; the atmosphere both backstage and in the audience was electric!

Working at Baines is an absolute privilege, our students are so friendly and energetic to learn not only in the classroom but in extra-curricular clubs, it makes coming to work a joy!