Headteacher Update - 25th November 2019

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Family and Friends of Baines School,

Hopefully the students have told you that they can see progress on the astro turf now! I am pleased to say that the foundation work is complete and the carpet is in the process of being laid. The company completing the line marking will be here this week so hopefully just a few more days until we can open our brand new astro-turf. I can also report that the clean-up in S-Block also starts today with a large team of industrial cleaners working for what we expect to be three weeks. At the end, we hope to open many of the areas in S-Block for use. Thank you to everyone for their patience, we now need to make sure that students are remembering their PE kit as lessons are back to practical and we will try to keep this going, even if the weather is wet so that we can maximise practical activity.

Tonight we are at the Gazette Education Awards ceremony, I am so proud that we have been shortlisted for ten awards. It would be wonderful to win something but to reach the final is a great achievement. I am sure you will share the pride that I have, this is the first time we have been shortlisted in almost every category and it is a testament to the ever-improving work we are doing at school.

Our Year 11s completed their preliminary examinations last week. They have approached this very sensibly so this bodes well for the summer examination series. The aims of these exams are to help rehearse the examination procedures ready for the summer so they know what to expect and are prepared. The main reason is to help find out what they know and what they don’t know. This helps the teachers to plan for how we can re-teach the areas they lack knowledge, exam technique and provide revision materials and activities to help the students remember. This is all part of the preparation for the mock examinations and the real GCSE examinations in the summer. Some students are likely to be a little upset with their results, this is why we do them now as there is time for us to support the students to fill those gaps, develop the best revision techniques for them, to improve exam technique and create pre-exam routines to support concentration and confidence. We do not want students to become overly stressed at this stage, so please encourage them. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the information evening recently as you will have a strong understanding about the next seven months.

I was so pleased to receive an email from a former pupil who had seen one of our Baines students who stopped in Bispham to help a member of the public. Apparently the person was in a wheelchair and was struggling to cross the road, so one of our boys stopped to help. This is just one example of how our wonderful students are very kind and demonstrate the strong morals and values that are dear to us all. Last week as part of anti-bullying week we gave out raffle tickets for acts of kindness. There were hundreds of tickets handed out to students for their kind and caring acts.

Since I joined Baines in September 2017, there have been many changes and I thank you for all your support. Many of the changes have been as a result of feedback received from parents/carers and students. Here are some of the things we have developed:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedback received</th>
<th>What we have done</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concerns about homework – (not knowing what homework has been set, too little homework, too much homework)</td>
<td>Introduced Class Charts – students and parents have access to Class Charts so they can log on and see what homework is set. Created a new guidance for homework so that parents and carers know how much homework to expect. Homework is improved because our online tool gives the facility for a range of homework activities to be set (not just paper based).</td>
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<td>No communication from school</td>
<td>Class charts and my fortnightly Headteacher update.</td>
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<td>Finding it hard to have cash to pay for food</td>
<td>We have moved to cashless catering and now cashless payment for school trips. We are also trialling a pre-payment system for catering lessons in school which is cutting the cost for parents too.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 students do not know how to revise</td>
<td>Regular assemblies in the build up to examinations which explain different techniques, a revision day with an external company is organised and this will involve a parental evening. GCSE Pod is an online tool to support revision and now has Pods to explain how to revise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confusing assessment grades</td>
<td>We have added colour to provide an easy visual linked to whether your child is on track or not. We have a motto, ‘Go for Green and Push for Purple’.</td>
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<td>Behaviour incidents high due to use of mobile phones and social media issues</td>
<td>Introduced a new mobile phone policy where phones are out of sight and sound (and can only be used with permission from teachers). This has greatly reduced upset and incidents (we now mostly have to address upset caused during the evening out of school time).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not knowing what their child is studying</td>
<td>We have updated our website so the topics and themes for each subject are displayed for each half term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inefficient rewards system</td>
<td>Points are now logged on Class Charts and we have a 96% to 4% positive to negative point ratio. So many more students receive reward badges (last year 75% of students).</td>
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I am so pleased to inform you all that Mrs Mycock has recently been accredited as a **Specialist Leader of Education** for the Ripley Teaching School Alliance. She is our first **SLE** at Baines and is a recognition of her excellent ability to lead improvements within geography and she can support other schools in helping them develop their geography teaching too. She will also be able to use her recent accreditation as a **Climate Change Teacher** to educate all of our students at Baines.
Attendance

As you know attendance is one of our priorities this year because of the very strong link between good attendance and achieving strong grades. During the last half term, there have been many holiday requests (and thank you for your understanding that these cannot be authorised). I am particularly concerned with requests to take Year 11s on holiday during term time, given the limited time they have left before their exams. Please be mindful that Year 11 students have an elongated summer break after their exams so there is time for holidays during the end of June and all of July.

I know this is the time of year where students have colds, coughs and often feel under the weather (I myself have suffered over the last few days). Of course if students are too ill to be in school, I understand this but please try to encourage them to attend as much as possible. (Last Friday we had 103 students away from school on one day). Please see the message from Mr McGrath near the end of this update about attendance and support in ensuring your child is proactive in catching up for any missed work as teachers cannot be expected to go over topics for every student who has missed their lesson.

Finally, from me, a reminder that school is closed to staff and students on Friday (29th November 2019). It is an INSET day but we have twilighted the hours so the training will happen after school instead. I hope the students enjoy the day and that it also refreshes them for the final four weeks of learning before the end of term.

Stars of the Week

Harrison
Year 7

Emily
Year 8

Sienna
Year 9

Lewis
Year 10

Benio
Year 11

Sporting Success

Football-Year 9 Wyre & Fylde League

Baines 1-1 Cardinal Allen, Baines 2-1 Fleetwood, Baines 1-3 Hodgson, Baines 0-1 Millfield

Lancashire Boys Football cup

Year 8
Baines 4-2 St Bedes.

Year 9
Baines 4-7 St Bedes.

Year 11
Baines 4-3 St Wilfrids, Blackburn.

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Other Successes

Ricky in year 8 has won his Cheshire North West School Boy Motorcross Championship. His presentation evening is on Saturday in Stockport. Well done to Ricky, especially as he is competing in the 13-15 age group.

Remembrance Services

Our Remembrance Services were very poignant as a way of paying tribute to all of the former students and staff at Baines who were lost in the wars and also to the thousands of service men and women who have given their lives to enable us to live a free life today.

The Head Girls and Head Boys represented the school at the Remembrance service in Poulton town centre. As well as the special assemblies which involved the laying of a wreath and the playing of The Last Post, we held a two-minutes silence on Remembrance Day itself.

Creative Arts Festival

Two weeks ago we held our Art, Photography & Music heats across KS3 and KS4 as part of the Creative Arts Festival.
External judges came into school to select Winners and Rising Stars, and the judges were incredibly impressed with the quality of work produced across the two days.

The results are listed below, with pictures of Winners, Rising Stars and Art/Photo entries attached.

**KS3 Music**  
Winner - Erin (Y7)  
Rising Star - Emily (Y8)

**KS3 Photography**  
Winner - Charlie (Y8)  
Rising Star - Kate (Y7)

**KS3 Art**  
Winner - Rachel (Y7)  
Rising Star - Sophie (Y7)

**KS4 Art**  
Winner - Benio (Y11)  
Rising Star - Abi (Y10)

**KS4 Music**  
Winner - Lewis (Y10)  
Rising Star - Cloe (Y10)

**Highly Commended** - Poppy & Charlotte (Y11)
Air Cadet News

Elliott in year 11 had the opportunity to attend RAF Woodvale.

He had a fantastic experience flying and took control of a grob tutor plane. He flew over Lytham and Blackpool and had wonderful views.

‘Takeover Challenge’-Blackpool Hospital

On Monday Eren from year 10 joined other students from schools across the Fylde Coast to take part in a series of demonstrations to support learning about the NHS. He met with the police, who showed the group different drugs and held a discussion about knife crime, watched as a ‘patient’ deteriorates after taking drugs and saw practical demonstrations of different roles in the NHS. He also watched a mock interview and learnt what qualities and skills the NHS is looking for from future employees.

Eren also attended an event at the hospital with other members of Victoria’s Voice youth forum. He taste-tested the Children’s Ward menus, worked with Blackpool Council on a new mental health campaign for young people (and will shortly receive an AQA accreditation for this) and began work on a dental hygiene campaign. This is a fantastic opportunity for Eren to develop his understanding about the different careers in the NHS. I hope we may be able to develop this for other students to benefit in the future.
BecomingX Challenge

As you know we started working with the charity last year. I am pleased to announce that the first student has achieved his BecomingX challenge.

Harry in year 7 has received a certificate for swimming 3000m in one attempt. I was very pleased to present him with his BecomingX certificate and lapel badge. I hope to hand out many more over this academic year.

Literacy Update

DEAR is fully embedded across the majority of the school now. With 20 minutes of reading in a lesson every week. Students are more frequently taking place in meaningful reading and this is developing a brilliant culture of critical literacy in the school.

We will also be looking more at the etymology of the words that we use in lessons. We are considering where words have come from and what parts they are made up of. By learning to recognise classical root derivations such as 'ante' from the Latin meaning 'before' they are able to decode more words that they may encounter (anteroom, antenatal, antepenultimate, antedate for example). A good website to use to find the etymology of a word is https://www.etymonline.com/

Our words of the week for the next two weeks are: Alienate and Myriad. Please encourage your child to use the words of the week and to stretch their vocabulary if you can.

Book Buzz!

We have recently celebrated Book Buzz with our Year 7 students. All Year 7 students have been gifted a brand new book by school, they selected which book they wanted from a choice of 10 titles. With a range of genres to choose from students were able to pick something individual to them. Students have enjoyed being presented with their books and we hope it will inspire their love of reading. If they haven’t received their book yet, it will be presented in their next Accelerated Reading lesson.
Author Visit

We are also excited to host Tom Palmer on the 6th December. He is a critically acclaimed children’s author. He will be giving a talk to all Year 7 students and hosting some creative writing sessions with some Year 8 students. We will follow up with some pictures and student reviews after the event.

Art Update - Global Art Competition

Baines School entered a Global Art competition organised by the Lions Club to design a 'World Peace Poster.' We have chosen three fantastic finalists and their pieces have been posted off to be judged.

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. Our finalists are Rohan, Lily and Torah, we are very proud of their efforts and wish them the best of luck with the competition!

Attendance Update – from Mr McGrath

Attendance still remains a real focus for the school. There is a huge amount of research suggesting that students that miss school regularly achieve worse outcomes than students who have good attendance. This is evidence based and it is clear that an attendance level of 96% or higher maximises the chances of success.

The school tracks attendance weekly and your child / children personally records on their own tracker what their weekly attendance is and what their overall attendance for the year is. The target for all pupils (excluding known medical issues) is 98% or higher. Achieving this attendance level maximises the chances of success and guarantees there are very little gaps in learning. An example of the personal tracker is given below.
The table below shows how many sessions are missed per half term to get the percentage levels recorded. Every session is a half day. Please bear in mind that an attendance level of 90% or lower is regarded as Persistently Absent (PA).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance level %</th>
<th>HT1</th>
<th>HT2</th>
<th>HT3</th>
<th>HT4</th>
<th>HT5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We are requesting that for minor illnesses, please can your children attend school in order to maximise their learning time.

Furthermore, to minimise gaps in learning we are requesting pupils to make sure they catch up with missing work after an absence. The form below would need to be completed by your child following an absence of two or more consecutive days away from school.
Learning

Interesting article about the influence of parents on desire for further study!

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-50421027

Phew! It's Normal. An Age by Age Guide for What to Expect From Kids & Teens - And What They Need From Us –

https://www.heysigmund.com/developmental-stage/

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“Know more, remember more”

We have been working with students across the school to improve our memory of key facts and information through knowledge retrieval activities.

These might be at the start of lessons when we ask a range of questions as a starting activity. There may be a question from last lesson, one from last week, one from October and two from topics studied.
last year. The more we train our brains to revisit information that we have studied in the past, the better we become at remembering that information.

Year 11 have been taught through assembly activities to use GCSEpod for knowledge retrieval activities to support effective revision. Year 10 students will receive the same teaching in the coming weeks. Have a conversation with your child about their experience of knowledge retrieval and see if you can use it to help have conversations about what your child is learning at school! We are seeing real impact in the classroom and it is helping students prepare for exams and tests.

**Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you so much for all of your donations. The student council put together 50 boxes which were delivered to Thornton Methodist Church last week.

Some students wrote lovely notes to the children all over the world who will receive these boxes. This is a fantastic response to support those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you to all the students who contributed to Children In Need last week; we raised £375!

Thank you as always to parents and carers for supporting our charity work.

**Reverse Advent**

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, where families get together and enjoy each other’s company, making the most of their time together.

For some though, it is a difficult time. Some people are on their own at Christmas, or find Christmas to be a financial burden, when they are already struggling.
The Baines family is very much aware that there are people in our community who also find Christmas difficult; families struggling to make ends meet and lonely neighbours are just two examples. The Student Council are wanting to make sure that this year, Christmas can be a happier one, for the people in our community.

They are proposing to have a Reverse Advent from 2nd December until 13th December, where staff, students, governors, parents and carers can donate food and gifts to the school office, if in a position to do so, and the Student Council will organise them into gift hampers.

Likewise, if you know of a family, a friend, an elderly neighbour or anyone who would benefit from a gift hamper, please contact the school office, who will treat the information with the utmost discretion. The information we will need will be:

Name and address, and circumstance, e.g. elderly male, female, family with teenagers etc, so that we may organise the most suitable hamper.

The week beginning 16th December we will take the gift hampers to their new homes. As always, thank you so much for your support with this.

Thank you to everyone who has been clicking on our School Angel link on our website before purchasing online. It is an easy way to raise money for the school without it costing you anything. As it nears Christmas, it would be wonderful if you could remember to click our link before shopping (especially for places like Amazon). Any online purchases you make through the link on the Baines website will earn the school a small percentage of the money you spend. This does not cost you any additional money but the companies make a charitable contribution to our school.

We now have £220.00 raised for school. I am hoping that this will increase as people start shopping online for Christmas. There is a PowerPoint on our website explaining how to use the School Angel website. Over the next few weeks we will show the students the site and email the PowerPoint home again as a gentle reminder. It is a little something you and family and friends can do to support Baines without it costing you anything. Please continue to support us by sharing the link with family and friends for online purchases.

https://www.schoolangel.org.uk/baines-school.html
Forthcoming Events

25th November – Gazette Education Awards Evening at the Tower Ballroom (7pm)
27th November-Year 11 Class of 2018 GSCE Awards Evening at 7pm
28th November-Year 11 London Theatre Visit
29th November- Year 11 London Theatre Visit

Friday 29th November Inset Day (Twilighted)-School Closed for Staff and Pupils

2nd December-Science Roadshow for Years 7 & 8
3rd December-Gulwali Passarlay Visit
5th December-Amy Winehouse Foundation Assembly for Years 9/10/11
5th December-Year 8 Consultation Evening 4-7pm
6th December-Headteacher Coffee Morning in the ILC, 10-11.30pm
6th December-Tom Palmer Author Visit for Year 8

Nil Sine Labore
Alison Chapman, Headteacher
It never hurts to be prepared. Come learn how to effectively defend yourself in case you’re ever put in a potentially dangerous situation.

New Self Defence Classes

Every Tuesday
3:15-4:15pm

Our classes are suitable for everyone and will help improve;
• Confidence
• Self-worth
• Self-discipline
• Co-ordination
• Strength
• Fitness
• Focus

To book your spaces please get a form from reception.

www.activ8selfdefence.co.uk
The Creative Arts Department & friends presents

Christmas Creative Arts Evening

Featuring:
School Music Ensembles - Dance - Musical Theatre - Instrumental/Vocal Soloists

A fantastic evening celebrating performances and work from the Creative Arts Department plus friends

Wednesday 18th December 2019 at 7.00pm
Creative Arts Gallery - viewing from 6.15pm
Tickets available on the door
£3 adults - £2 children/students/concessions

Baines School
Highcross Road, Poulton-le-Fylde
Lancashire