



## Headteacher Update - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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

I am pleased to be able to start this newsletter with an update on the facilities in S-Block. Last week the insurance company approved the work to start on the clean-up and repairs. We still do not have a definitive report on the cause of the fire but as from today (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November) the changing rooms are now open so that students can get changed for PE and have their lessons outside on the field. The students have been absolutely fantastic but I know they are desperate for their practical lessons to start. The rest of the building is still closed for now but the insurance company are very clear about the need to move quickly to restore the other areas of the building as quickly as possible. The computers are in the process of what the industry call 'decontamination from any potential smoke damage'.

I was also pleased we had a little dry weather last week as the company who are re-laying the new foundations in an area of the astro-turf were also back on site removing the broken and waterlogged stones in preparation for the laying of the new materials.

Our new boilers in B Block are now working, this is thanks to a successful grant of £190,000 to install new gas boilers in our oldest block. I can feel the difference already; it is much warmer in the main school. So, although there have been a few hiccups and delays on the way, I am sure you will be pleased to know that when the astro-turf is complete there will have been nearly £600,000 of improvements to our school site since the summer of 2017. This is a fantastic level of investment and I must thank the governors for their commitment to the school in supporting the applications for grants and the contribution from the Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who voted in the parent governor elections. I am really heartened that we have a number of parents and carers who would like to contribute to the school. I hope you will come to my Headteacher coffee morning in December where we will be discussing how to re-form the Friends of Baines and organise some social and fundraising events. All are welcome on 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00 to 11.30 in the James Baines Community Room. In the meantime, it gives me great pleasure to confirm that our two new parent governors are: Mrs Louise O'Toole and Mrs Cheryl Wilkinson.

Thank you to the students and parents/carers who completed our questionnaires. Mr Mates is collating the results and preparing a report to share with you all. I take your responses seriously and will be working on improving our provision. I am pleased that the results show improvements compared to a survey carried out in 2017 before I started. So much has changed and improved in our school but we are still striving hard to continue that improvement drive across all areas of our school. **One question that I will address now is that 39 students and 14% of the parents/carers who responded said that they didn't know who to speak to if they or their child was being bullied. I want the students to know that they can speak to any member of staff in school, who will then act on such information. The most obvious staff to speak to are their Progress Tutor, Progress Leader, member of Learning Support or Pastoral Team. However, students can tell any member of staff at all and this will prompt action. If there are any times when a student does not wish to tell a member of staff, our student council run a 'Buddy Hub' every lunchtime (in B3) during the week. This is mainly for KS3 students but any student can go and talk to them (and they will pass on any concerns to staff). The students in**

the buddy hub have been trained as mental health ambassadors through the Lancashire scheme and they are an additional level of support for students.

Many of you will already know that we welcomed Mrs Porter, (my PA and Office Manager) back from maternity leave just before half term. Mrs Porter and Mrs Vuti will support me as my personal assistant and Mrs Vuti is also working in the main school office. In a few weeks we will have a new assistant in the main school office working on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, I look forward to welcoming her. Mrs Collins in Learning Support will be taking extended leave, we look forward to her returning in February 2020. Today we welcomed Rufus our well-being dog to school for the first time. He will be having an induction into school for a few weeks while he gets used to the environment. I know the students are excited about Rufus joining us, please encourage them to be sensible and give him some space. A PowerPoint about how to work with Rufus is being shared in form time this week.

Christmas dinner this year will be on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Noon in the canteen is very excited about this and is looking to make it a lovely occasion. To make sure that no one is disappointed and that we run out of food, we are exploring ways of booking the dinner this year. Further details to follow in my next update.



On the build up to Christmas, if Father Christmas is using the internet to purchase any gifts, please encourage the use of our School Angel link to go to those stores. If you go to our school website, there is a button on the top right which says School Angel. Click on that and it will take you to our Baines School Angel page and there are links to a range of large stores such as Amazon, Next, Marks and Spencer's etc. Click on the logo for the shop and it will take you to their normal website. For any purchases you then make, the company will make a percentage donation to Baines School. It does not cost you anything but it is their contribution to good causes. It really would make a difference to our school if families and friends just carried out these two extra clicks before purchasing as we can then use the funding to buy equipment to enhance the learning experience at school. <https://www.schoolangel.org.uk/baines-school.html>

Finally, from me, we have a new school video on our website, I think it really reflects our school ethos and provision, I hope you like it. Please read the rest of this update as there are so many successes to report this fortnight, I am extremely proud of all of these, they are a continued sign of our improving school and fantastic achievements.

### Stars of the Week



## **Sporting Success**

### **Year 9 Football Results**

Two matches to report on from our Year 9 boys football team:

Baines 1- 1 Cardinal Allen

Baines 2 - 1 Fleetwood

The boys played very well, with determination with James, Jackson and Callum scoring the goals. Our next game is in the second round of the Lancashire Cup, where they will travel to St. Wilfrids, in Blackburn.

### **Football Year 10 & 11**

On Wednesday 10th October Baines Year 10s and Year 11s travelled to Stanley Park to play in the Blackpool schools tournament. Both teams played incredibly well, with the Year 10's finishing 3rd and the Year 11's were runners up to AKS, losing in the final by one goal.

### **Netball Year 11**

The Year 11 girls played in the National Schools County Tournament on Tuesday 5th November at St Ceceilia's School in Longridge. The standard was incredibly high, and games very intense with one or two goals deciding the results. The girls played well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing at county level.

### **Netball League results**

The Year 11 girls have since played Cardinal Allen in the league winning 17-4. They are due to play St Aidans and Millfield. If they can beat these teams They will be the league champions!!!

The current Y11 Netball and Rounder's teams have been shortlisted for a Blackpool Gazette Education Award for all their successes in the 2018/19 season. We wish them all the best of luck for both up and coming events.

## Other Success

### North-West Gymnastics Championships



Storm, one of our Year 8 Students competed in the North West Gymnastics Championships on the 16th & 17th of November 2019. She came 1st in the Northwest for beam, 1st in the Northwest for vault. This resulted in her being crowned as 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the North West.

What an amazing achievement and a reward for the hard work. To perform at such a high level Storm puts in many hours to train and compete as well as managing all of her school work. Her next step is to compete at the English Championships in Leicester.



### Swimming Success



On Saturday 2nd November, Ashley a Year 8 student competed in the Nationals Swimming Gala for the special Olympics at Leamington Spa. Ashley swam 2 lengths freestyle against 5 other swimmers and he won his race. Congratulations to Ashley for winning. Ashley also was in the junior relay team and they won gold as well.





Fantastic news - we have been shortlisted in ten different categories for the Gazette Education Awards 2019. This is amazing as we have a finalist in almost every category. The Awards Evening is at the Tower Ballroom on Monday 25th November starting at 7.00pm.

Thank you to anyone who voted for our school, staff and students, it really does mean a lot to us all. We only ever find out about shortlisted awards so unfortunately I am unable to celebrate those who may have been nominated but have not made the final. I hope you will celebrate these successes with us as I believe being nominated and shortlisted is a great achievement in itself. All of our finalists are already winners.

We have finalists in the following categories:

- Secondary School of the Year
- School Trips
- Education Support - Pastoral Team
- Career Aspiration
- Creative Arts - Livs (Year 9)
- Secondary Pupil of the Year – Poppy (Year 11)
- Sporting Achievements—Netball & Rounders Team (our current Year 11)
- Health & Wellbeing Award
- Young Scientist / Engineer—Connie (Year 10)
- Inspirational Teacher— Natalie (Mathematics Teacher)

**I wish everyone the best of luck for the final and what I am sure will be a wonderful evening at the Tower Ballroom.**

**Congratulations Mrs Mycock – Our United Nations Accredited Climate Change Teacher**

**Baines School has the first United Nations Accredited Climate Change Teacher on the Fylde Coast.**



Climate Change is big news at the moment and it is set to become a large feature of the curriculum at Baines School after Mrs Susan Mycock (Head of Humanities) became the Fylde Coast's first UN Accredited Climate Change Teacher. Mrs Mycock is one of only four teachers in Lancashire to be accredited through eduCCate Global's programme in partnership with the United Nations:CCLearn. She becomes 1 of 2000 across 27 countries globally who have recognised the importance of educating young

people of the causes and future challenges of our changing climate.

The aim of the programme is to develop high quality cross-curricular lessons that improve climate literacy in young people and equip them to make informed decisions. The eduCCate Global Programme will then be made available to all schools across the UK via Yakhi, an innovative education platform that allows further sharing with schools around the world.

Mrs Mycock said “The ability of our young people to understand all of the issues around climate change is fundamental in preparing this generation for their lives ahead. Our young people will experience the impacts of global climate change to a far greater extent than any generation in history and it is vital that they understand their role as global citizens.”

The training included a range of topics; climate change science, gender and environment, children and climate change, cities and climate change, and human health. I am so proud of Mrs Mycock’s achievement, it is something very special and Baines School will benefit, as well as spreading her expertise and knowledge to other schools in the area.

### Eco Schools



The eco school committee are very proud to announce that Baines has been awarded the **Silver Eco Schools Award** in recognition of our efforts to help make the school and community more sustainable. The next step is for us to go our Green Flag award. There are 7 steps to gaining the award looking at 10 topics as follows:

**7 Steps to the Award:** 1. Eco Committee, 2. Environmental Review, 3. Action Plan, 4. Curriculum links, 5. Informing and Involving, 6. Monitoring and Evaluation, 7 Eco-Code followed by the Green Flag Assessment.

10 Topics to cover: Biodiversity, Energy, Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Litter, Marine, School Grounds, Transport, Waste and Water.

We have been: carrying out regular litter picks to improve our school grounds, building bug hotels and making bird feeders to increase biodiversity; and increasing recycling within school to include crisp packets and toothpaste tubes.

In the coming months we’ll be: carrying out a litter pick in the wider community where parents, carers and the wider community are welcome to join us (we’ll have hot chocolate and biscuits to warm us up after!) and holding an eco-week in school with themed lessons and a power down day. We would also like to start growing our own food in school and our wonderful committee have lots of amazing ideas for other projects around school. The eco committee meet every Tuesday lunchtime and welcome new members.

## British Values at Baines

At Baines we endeavour to ensure that students understand what it is to be a British Citizen and that they are prepared for life after school.

There are five Fundamental British Values:

- **Democracy:** The right to vote and have your say in how our country and local area is run.
- **Individual Liberty:** The freedom to believe what you want and act as you like within the laws of our country.
- **The Rule of Law:** All people should follow the laws in Britain. These laws are designed to protect everybody in the country.
- **Mutual Respect:** That two people, no matter how different they are, can live harmoniously in the same society.
- **Tolerance of Others:** To have a fair attitude towards people whose opinions, beliefs, practices, racial or ethnic background, differ from your own.

With a general election planned for December, it is a fantastic opportunity for students to become more aware of democracy in action.

Our Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls, will lead the assemblies' during the week commencing 2nd December, each representing a different political party, sharing the policies of the parties. We will then have our own general election in school on 12th December, to see which party our students would choose to be in Government.

## Year 10 and 11 Parent/Carer Information Event

**Year 10 Parent/Carer Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 in the main School Hall between 5.00pm and 5.45pm. A further session for Year 11 Parents and Carers will take place from 6.30pm -7.15pm.**

During the session, Mr Mycock will deliver a presentation of information that will support Parents/Carers in knowing what to expect of school and their children over the rest of this academic year. He will demonstrate some of the revision activities that are being taught to students in assemblies, along with practical guides about how to use GCSEpod (online revision tool) at home to re-energise revision. The presentation will also include how we set targets for students and how we monitor the progress of our young people during GCSE and Vocational courses. These sessions have proved to be really useful in the past for those Parents and Carers who have engaged to support them in knowing what to expect over the coming months.

## Literacy Update

This half term has seen the continuation of Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) for our KS3 students; the students are enjoying a mixture of independent fiction reading and whole class readings with a subject specific focus. In addition to this, year 10 have now begun DEAR with a focus on subject content and pieces which broaden their general knowledge of the world around them. By reading more widely it is hoped that our students become informed, critical readers in preparation for their life beyond GCSE.

Students are also becoming more familiar with the etymology of words and are learning where the words they use come from. For example, our word of the week last week was Cataclysmic and this comes from the Greek 'kata' down and 'klyzein' wash which came to mean 'cataclysmos' in Latin meaning 'downpour' or 'flood' - the meaning has then developed into the English meaning a sudden or violent upheaval. Etymology online is a great place to explore the origins of a word which is freely available. Our words of the week over the next two weeks are **predicament** and **rhetoric**.

### **Christmas Creative Arts Evening - Wednesday 18th December 2019 - 7pm**

On Wednesday 18th December 2019, we will hold our annual Christmas Creative Arts Evening in the School Hall, starting at 7pm. The concert will feature performances from school music ensembles, soloists and other guest performers.

It promises to be a wonderful evening and a fitting start to the festive season. We will also feature work from subjects such as Design, Art & Photography in our Creative Arts Gallery, which will be open from 6.15pm. Tickets are available on the door (£3 adults, £2 students/concessions).

### **Nepal school sponsorship fund**

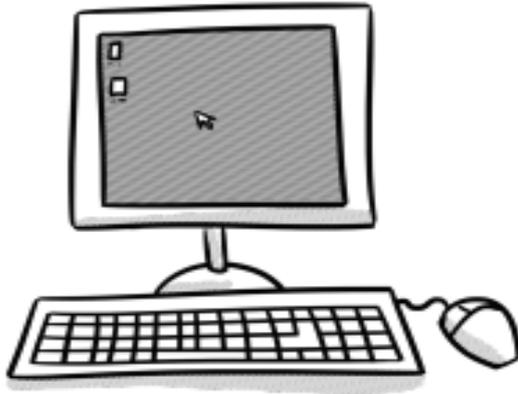
Mrs Russell is raising funds by selling 'handmade greeting cards' at a reasonable cost of £1 at reception - all proceeds going to Nepal school sponsorship fund. Please do call in and take a look.

**Please see at the end of the update information about self-defence classes running at Baines after school (£30 per half term) and also the leaflet about our Christmas Creative Arts Evening.**

## Screen Time

Information for parents and carers

### Did you know?



Battles over screen time and devices have become a depressing part of family life. Recent research has revealed that it's not so much the length, but the nature of the screen time that matters. What is important is that whatever young people are watching, playing and reading is high-quality, age-appropriate and safe.

The University of Oxford examined 120,000 UK 15-year-olds in 2017 and found that among those teenagers who were the lightest tech-users, it was found that increasing the time spent using technology was linked to improved wellbeing - possibly because it was important for keeping up friendships. In contrast, among the heaviest users of technology, any increase in time was linked to lower levels of wellbeing.

Further research has shown that more than two hours of smartphone use on a weekday, and more than four hours on a weekend day, was linked to lower wellbeing. Several other studies suggest that higher levels of screen use in children and adolescents is associated with reduced physical activity, increased risk of depression, and lower wellbeing.

### What can you do?

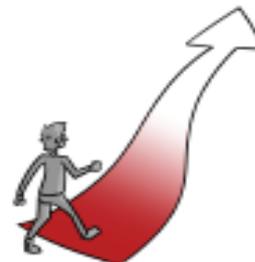


The British Psychological Society recommends that parents and carers use technology alongside children and engage them in discussions about media use. Help your child get into a screen-free bedtime routine. Screen time in the evening is especially bad for sleep patterns.

Set limits like no screens during meal times or no screens after a certain time. Suggest having one day a week with no screen time like Screen-Free Sundays. If they have a smartphone, encourage them to turn off as many notifications as possible and to turn on flight mode when they're with friends and family.

Encourage your child to do new physical activities

instead of screen-based inactivity. This could be new hobbies, going for a walk, playing sport, being creative or joining a youth group. Role model good behaviour by being mindful of your own screen time.



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### **Forthcoming Events**

12<sup>th</sup> November- Creative Arts Festival (all day in school)

13<sup>th</sup> November- Creative Arts Festival (all day in school)

18<sup>th</sup> November-Year 11 Performance in school of An Inspector Calls, by visiting company Footlights Theatre Company - 9am In the Hall (This is one of the GCSE set texts that our students study for their GCSE English exam)

27<sup>th</sup> November- Class of 2018 GSCE Awards Evening at 7pm

28<sup>th</sup> November-Year 11 London Theatre Visit

29<sup>th</sup> November- Year 11 London Theatre Visit

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November Inset Day (Twilighted)-School Closed for Staff and Pupils**

2<sup>nd</sup> December-Year 8 Science Roadshow

4<sup>th</sup> December- Year 8, Author Visit Tom Palmer

5<sup>th</sup> December-Year 8 Consultation Evening, 4pm-7pm

5<sup>th</sup> December-Year 9/10/11 Assembly, Amy Winehouse Foundation

6<sup>th</sup> December-Headteacher Coffee Morning, 10am-11.30am in the James Baines Community Room

Nil Sine Labore

Alison Chapman, Headteacher



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



Creative Arts Department



**SELF DEFENCE**

*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  
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Our classes are suitable for everyone and will help improve;

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- Self-discipline
- Co-ordination
- Strength
- Fitness
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[www.activ8selfdefence.co.uk](http://www.activ8selfdefence.co.uk)