



Headteacher Update – 6th March 2023

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

As you are aware, this is my final half term at Baines School. The Governing Body working with the Local Authority, are currently in the process of recruiting the permanent replacement for my post. In the meantime, after the Easter holidays, Mrs Doherty will be the Acting Headteacher until the substantive headteacher is appointed and takes up the position.

I am very pleased to announce the following permanent appointments to Baines School: Mrs Moxham as our new Pastoral Manager, Mrs Hacking (Medical and Mental Health Leader) and Mrs Wellings as a Learning Support Assistant. Our families already have very positive relationships with all of these members of staff already.

It is going to be very busy this week with lots of events happening. Today our **year 7 group departed for the Year 7 Camp to Colomendy in North Wales**. I have no doubt they will have a fantastic time and will return happy (but very tired) on Wednesday afternoon.

Year 11 have their **year group photograph** and also their **Mock Exam Results Day on Friday morning**. This will be their final group and individual Baines School photographs, so all will need to be wearing full uniform and not tracksuit for this event so they all look smart. Later, they will receive their mock examination results in an envelope, exactly the same way that they will receive their final GCSE results in the summer. This will be a time of mixed emotions as many will be elated and relieved and some will be disappointed. This is not a time for telling anyone off, it is a time to support them in the preparation they need for the next few months. For many it will be a time to reflect and really hone their examination techniques. **IT ISN'T A TIME TO GIVE UP!!! NOTHING IS LOST AT THIS STAGE AND EVERYONE CAN IMPROVE.**

Last week our **year 9** students had their Options Assembly with Mr McGrath and they received their Options Booklets to take home and discuss with parents and carers. We hope all year 9 families will come to school tonight to take part in our **Options Evening from 5.30 – 7.30pm**. Mr McGrath will be leading two talks. All letters went out asking for families to come to their allotted time as far as possible and have the talk before going around the school to see the subjects and talk to staff. As the hall is out of use, we are holding the talks in the sportshall so please sign in and attend there. It is important that we know who has attended to ensure that the parents and carers have received the information and can support their children in making these important choices for their KS4 studies. We will also have careers and post 16 support at the event.

Please arrive for talks at the following times:

Time	Forms
5.30-5.45pm	9GWS, 9JHN, 9DSR/SEA, 9SMK
6.00-6.15pm	9JBR, 9NBL, 9SWD

Date	Event
20 th February – 11 th March	Careers Advice for Year 9 Options Students Mrs Kinder will be offering group and individual sessions for students who require specific careers advice. She will be working closely with Blackpool Sixth Form to provide up to date advice on next steps.
24 th February	Letter home to Parents / Students regarding the dates of the upcoming events and Options Process this year Blackpool Sixth Online Year 9 presentation during form time.
2 nd March	Year 9 Consultation Evening 4-7pm
3 rd March	Year 9 Options Assembly – Mr McGrath to run an assembly where he will outline the process for this year. The Options Booklet will also be allocated.
6 th March	Year 9 Options Evening 5.30pm-7.30pm
11 th March	Deadline for handing Options Forms

A reminder about the Key Dates for the Year 9 Options Process:

IMPORTANT – MEASLES, CHICKENPOX and SHINGLES

Another reminder, in case anyone missed it last time.

One of our students is receiving medical treatment which lowers their immune system which puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chickenpox or shingles. **Please let us know immediately if your child is suspected of having measles.**

Our student is also at risk from chickenpox and would need to be given an injection within three days of contact. **If your child is suspected of having chickenpox, you should let us know immediately.**

It is also important that you let us know if there is shingles in your household.

Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and well-being of our student who is at risk does depend on the co-operation of all other families and I hope you can help us with this. Thank you, so much.

Thank you for your support after my plea about First Aid last time. It made an immediate improvement to the situation.

Finally, from me, an update about the launch of our new Attendance Strategies. Attendance remains a major priority for our school. Every child needs to be aiming for above 96%, research nationally shows that attendance below 95% seriously impacts on the grades children achieve at the end of their GCSEs. **Anything less than 90% is classed as persistently absent by the government.**

We still have not returned to pre-Covid attendance levels in school and we are really trying hard to improve it as this leads to improved learning and outcomes as well as confidence. **Top Form Attendance last week was: 8SPE 99%**

Last Friday, Mr McGrath delivered an assembly to the whole school about some new attendance initiatives. The exciting new strategy for this week is:

Baines' Magic Breakfast

There is a national scheme called Magic Breakfast where schools with a specific proportion of children eligible for FSM can get funding to support providing breakfast in school. We do not qualify for this funding at Baines, so we are developing our own Baines version of Magic Breakfast. **We will trial it until Easter to see if it makes a positive difference to attendance and lateness to school.**

From Monday 6th March, we will provide free breakfast for all students served from 8am-8.30am. This will be one slice of toast and either a chilled orange squash or a hot chocolate. I know there will be teething issues with this as we have no idea of the demand and time it will take to serve, so please be patient. Students must be respectful in the refectory as always and they must not be late for registration. We will have to stop serving at 8.30am and not be able to serve latecomers. Students will still be able to purchase the other usual items that are on sale at breakfast, but they are not included in the pilot project.

Stars of the Week (Week 1)



Stars of the Week (Week 2)



TT rockstars competitions – Mr Harrison

There will be monthly Times Table rockstars competitions starting from February the 27th. Each month we will be seeing which class is the best at their times tables and prizes will be given to students who are working to improve their timetable fluency.

This competition is not compulsory homework but we want to see which classes are competitive, and who will answer the most questions across the month. Having an automatic knowledge of times tables really underpins so many mathematical concepts. If your child does not know these very well, please encourage them, it is a really fun way to learn the fundamentals.

Username and passwords will be given out by their class teachers across next week. If anyone would like theirs sending personally email me at jhn@baines.lancs.sch.uk.

To ensure the competition is fair we have set some parameters across the competition, which are the questions only count between 15:00 and 22:00. So, doing the questions in lessons won't count.

If you have any queries please contact me on the above email.

Young Seaside's Exhibition 2023

We have a range of beautiful artwork on display at the Young Seaside's Exhibition. It is a lovely exhibition with entries submitted from schools around the Fylde Coast. Running from 27th Feb - 31st March. Please could staff congratulate the pupils listed below and form tutors show them the exhibition details. I will also award ClassChart points for contribution and to also make them aware.

Year 7						
Lewis			Zoreslava			
Year 8						
Logan	Kiera	Iris	Finley	Lily	Sage	Katie
Year 9						
Courtney	Rhianna	Freddie	Marley	Ellie	Annabel	Lauren



School Arts & Crafts Exhibition



Visit the Exhibition at the Blackpool School of Arts College, F11 4JH. Monday 27th February to Friday 31st March Mon-Thurs 9am-7pm • Fri - 9am-5pm

For more information contact
The Promotions Team
07786060702

In association with



Book Fair 22nd-29th March

Following on from World Book Day last week, we are hosting a book fair as another way of encouraging a love of reading.

Students can pay cash on the day or pay online with the QR attached.

£1 will be taken off all books with our World Book Day Tokens

A book could be a lovely birthday present or treat for your child.



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay



Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Just a reminder that if you or your son / daughter has any safeguarding concerns, please contact a member of the safeguarding team:

Mrs Doherty (Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead)

Mr Shillitoe (Head of Creative Arts and Safeguarding Person)

Mrs Hacking (Mental and Medical Health Lead and Safeguarding Person)

Mrs Moxham (Pastoral Manager)

If you have any ideas how you feel we could improve our safeguarding of students, please feel free to email Mrs Doherty (cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

County Lines

So far this term we have delivered assemblies about County Lines Years 7, 8 and 11. The students have been extremely mature and listened carefully whilst we explained the dangers, and how they should keep themselves safe. We will ensure that years 9 and 10 have the assembly before Easter.

If you would like to know more, please look at this link:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

AGE RESTRICTION 12+

FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE

Fortnite - Battle Royale is a free to play section of the game Fortnite. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus', where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find hidden items, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game more challenging, there is an added twist called 'the storm' which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, bringing the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.

What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS
Many features in the game are available to purchase within 10 hours of their release. There are currently three virtual items: 'skins' and 'emotes', which change the character's appearance, but do not improve the player's game performance. The skins are sold out of stores in the game. The emotes are available for purchase in the game. The skins are available in the game. The emotes are available in the game.

HACKER ATTACKS
There are reports that a 'bug' or 'glitch' of some kind has been found in the game. This has caused some players to be disconnected from the game. This is a common occurrence in the game.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED
There are reports that some players are able to bypass the age restriction and play the game. This is a concern for parents.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE
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IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE
The game is very addictive and some players spend a lot of time playing it. This is a concern for parents.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO
The game is available on mobile devices, making it easy to play on the go. This is a concern for parents.

'FREE' TO PLAY
The game is free to play, but there are in-game purchases. This is a concern for parents.

AGE RESTRICTIONS
The game is rated 12+ for violence and weapons. This is a concern for parents.

Top Tips for Parents

LIMIT GAME TIME
Parents can set parental controls on their console or PC to limit the time a child is playing the game. This is a good idea to ensure the child is not spending too much time playing the game.

LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS
There are reports of scams where players are asked to provide their account information in exchange for free VBUCKS. This is a common scam and parents should be aware of it.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS
Parents can restrict the payment methods used for in-game purchases. This is a good way to prevent the child from spending money on the game.

SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT
If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you can report the player to the game. This is a good way to ensure the child is not being harassed.

USE A STRONG PASSWORD
It is important that your child uses a strong password for their account. This is a good way to ensure the account is secure.

NOS National Online Safety
A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Email us at help@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 300 3011

Friends of Baines

EASTER BINGO FUNDRAISER



The event will take place in school on 30th March 2023, so please add to your calendar!

The bingo books have been bought, the bingo machine tested!

Prizes will be Easter eggs!!

All ages are very welcome.

If you feel you can support this charity event and could donate an Easter egg for a prize, we would be extremely grateful!

If you would like to join our Friends of Baines team to help fundraise for our student council projects, please contact Mrs Doherty (cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk).



Dates for your diary:

6th March – Year 7 Camp departs after lunch

6th March – Year 9 Options Evening 5-30-7.30pm in the Sportshall for talks and then move around the school to meet subject teachers

8th March – Year 7 Camp Returns

10th March – School Photograph Year 9 and 11

10th March – Year 11 Mock Exam Results Day

15th March – NEU Teacher Strike Day 3

16th March – Year 11 Elevate Exam Support Presentation

16th March – Year 10 & 11 Trip to See An Inspector Calls

16th March – NEU Teacher Strike Day 4

W/C 20th March- Creative Arts Practical Exams start

29th March Photography Exam

30th March School Closes for Easter Holidays at 2.50pm - Mrs Chapman says goodbye to students

31st March – INSET Day – School Closed for Students.

17th April – School Re-Opens after Easter.

Alison Chapman

Headteacher