



Headteacher Update – 20th March 2023

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

I am not going to give a long introduction to this update, as it is a bumper issue and shares such fantastic events that have happened recently in school, so I want you to enjoy reading about the wonderful successes and events at our school.

This is my last Headteacher Update, but next week, I will send out a short reflection of my times here at Baines to thank everyone who has supported me while I have led the improvement journey so far at our school. The next two weeks are going to be difficult for me, your children will probably tell you that I am still 'nagging' them about standards of uniform, politeness, effort and quality of work (as it should be), but as they come to talk to me, I have already started to become a little emotional, especially as they remind me of the things they have enjoyed and I reflect on their personal journey's and growth. So please do encourage them to come and speak to me when they see me over the next fortnight, as it is the people in our school that make it special and that is what I will miss the most.

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Nicholls who has been working in Learning Support will be staying at Baines and she has already built up many positive relationships with children in the school.

As you are aware, raising attendance is one of our main priorities in school and my motto, 'If you are not in lessons, you are not learning' remains. Mr McGrath has an update later in this about our new initiatives. I am pleased to report that there has been a small upturn in overall school attendance in the short time since we have started them, so thank you for all your efforts to ensure your children are coming to school.

Please show an interest in your child's work and progress in lessons, you can do this by checking Class Charts to see their reward points and homework set, look at their Sparx Maths record then have positive discussions at home about what they have been learning and developing in lessons. Try to encourage your children to show you work they are proud of in their books, tell you about new learning they have had in lessons, new vocabulary or even read together at home for enjoyment. It really does make a difference!!!

Thank you for those people who have already sent in views about the consultation to extend the school day. There have been quite a few comments about school buses. Just to reassure you that the consultation involves the bus companies so that they are fully aware of the proposals and that is why we have done this with plenty of time to support any changes that might be required to bus timetables for the future. The deadline for the consultation is 17th April 2023. Year 11 parents/carers do not need to respond as your children will have left the school. We have also sent the consultation out to our new year 7 families for September 2023.

Please remember that school closes for Easter to children at the end of Thursday 30th March as staff are in school for a training day on Friday 31st March.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this update, I am so pleased there have been so many wonderful events to report about in my last Headteacher Update.

Stars of the Week (Week 1)



Stars of the Week (Week 2)



Inter Counties and English Schools Cross Country

On Saturday the 11th March Kristy competed for Lancashire in Loughborough at the Inter Counties Championships where she came 58th out of 300 U13 girls, and the third Lancashire runner home.



The weekend later it was the English Schools championships in Wollaton Park in Nottingham. Kristy had a great run, competing against girls, some of whom were a school year older, finishing 72nd out of 338 competitors and being the first Lancashire runner to cross the finish line!

Well done Kristy for all you have achieved over the Cross-Country season, and especially over the last two weekends!

We look forward to hearing about your future successes on the track this Summer!!

PE– Mr Hartley

The year 11 Football Team are through to the **last 8 of the Lancashire County Cup**. A 5-4 penalty win over St'Bede's in the last round provided the win. Lukas saving a penalty and Jake provided a calm and assured winner. Well done to all who represented school and fingers crossed for the next round. This is a fantastic achievement to be down to the last 8 teams in the whole of Lancashire!

Y8/9 Rugby Team

A lot of the players enjoyed their first ever competitive rugby match recently. A good blend and mixture of Y8/9 pupils who competed well against local schools in the Wyre and Fylde competition. All the squad have worked extremely hard both in lessons and after school to ensure standards have been raised and that competition is competitive. The team was led well by Captain Ollie. A big well done, with more matches to look forward to later this term.

Y10 BTEC Construction

Our Y10 BTEC Construction students are in the middle of their joinery internal assessment. We have recently held drop down days to enable all students to have access to our workshop area and specialist equipment. The students have worked hard, behaved in a mature and safe manner and are well on their way to securing good outcomes for this element of the course.



Year 10 Hospitality and Catering

Following the recent year 11 fish gutting demonstration led by our very own Mr Bargelli, the Year 10 group had a demonstration with Jordan from Blackpool and the Fylde College. He showed them how to portion a chicken so we can then make several dishes. Jordan was impressed with the class and has said he would love to come back and teach them more techniques.



KS4 Theatre Trip – Mrs Streetly

On Thursday we took a group of year 10 and 11 students to the Liverpool Empire Theatre to see the touring production of JB Priestley's play An Inspector Calls. This is one of our key GCSE texts and it was a wonderful opportunity to see the staging of the play and the unique interpretation of the director. Our students were exemplary and are to be commended for their conduct and how they represented our school. Many thanks to Mrs Russell for organising this trip.



Rotary BAE Technology Tournament! – Mrs Hutchinson



Baines Beats the Best in the Rotary BAE Technology Tournament!

Three teams of our students travelled to St Anne's on the 10th March with Ms Hutchinson and Ms Bethel and competed against the schools of the Fylde Coast.



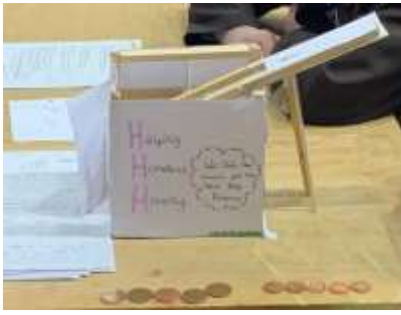
The task was to design and build a Coin Sorting Machine using wood, card and other materials. The design had to sort multiple coins, be decorated with a charitable theme and the design process had to be explained in a portfolio.



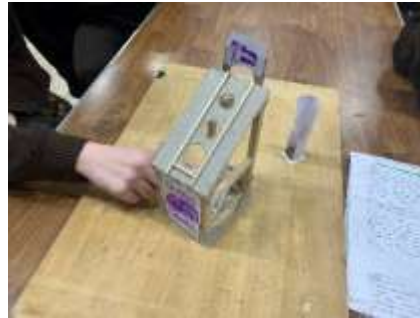
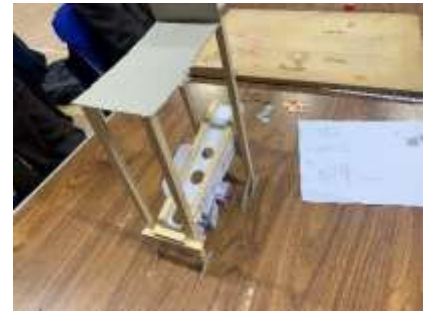
All three teams worked together really well and produced great portfolios.



They then went on to produce great designs and construct brilliant coin sorters.



Each team tried out different designs and tested their models. Final designs were then tested in front of the judges.



One of our teams was placed second and one of our teams won first place!



Well done to all of young engineers, what amazing futures you will have!



There were 3 teams from Baines:

Intermediate Team 1			
Mary-Jane	Erin	Erin	Magda
Intermediate Team 2			
Shayne	Jude	Keiran	Oscar
Foundation Team			
Tye	Macey	Lydia	Joseph



On the 6th March 4 of our talented science students competed in the Sciathlon just before British Science Week. Their efforts were amazing. There were 3 rounds in total. The first round was the Lego building round. Our team had to design and build the fastest solar powered car. Our team built a fantastic solar powered car and had to race it along a track.



The second round was the engineering challenge and our team had to build a windmill that would generate the most voltage. Our windmill was a great spinner!



The quiz round came next where the team had to answer questions from 4 different science disciplines. Our team were in the top 5 at this point and answered lots of questions correctly. Next came the chemical round where we had to determine the concentrations to add in our iodine clock.



A sterling effort by our team!!

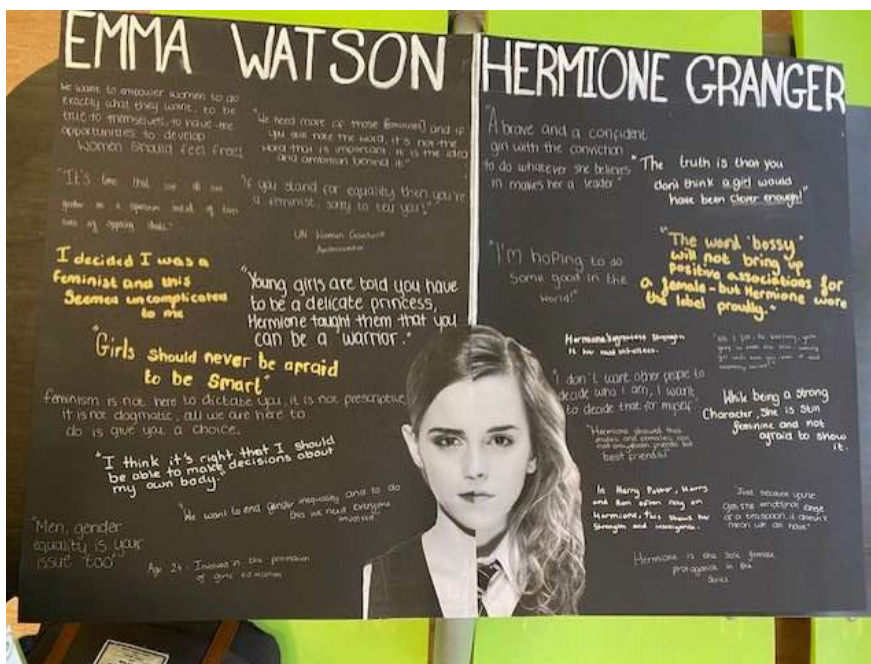


International Woman's Day – Mrs Streetly

Wednesday 8th March was **International Women's Day** and I am delighted to share some photos of Miss Understood - a character our girls created at one of the workshops on Saturday when they visited Blackpool Sixth Form for an event. They worked with Blackpool Football Club to compile a woman made up of the strongest bits from inspirational women. They did a wonderful job and used many examples they had learnt from a previous workshop in a STEM activity with Victrex.

For our display the girls chose Emma Watson and selected inspirational quotes from her as a woman and from her role in Harry Potter as Hermione.

The girls involved were: **Genna, Izzy, Rhianna, Amelia, Laila and Freya.**



Year 7 Camp 2023 (Mrs Russell)

On the 6th March two buses full of Year 7s slowly pulled away from Baines School, with shrills and excited chatter we headed to the North Wales for three days of fun and adventure.

During the trip we watched our students challenge themselves through a variety of outdoor activities - their teamwork skills were put to the test on Jacob's Ladder, Nightline, Crate Build, Fencing...Also, their resilience was certainly strengthened by the biting wind, -8 temperatures and icy sleet that descended upon us.

The campfire evening was awash with laughter as superb little comedians stood to share jokes with the whole group. The smell of toasted marshmallows filled the air, as our students huddled together singing songs.

As usual, camp was a massive success but most importantly camp was a time of making precious memories. Our Year 7 students will always remember their time at Colomendy...and in the end that is what counts!



Ski Trip – February 2023

On Thursday the 9th February 2023, 50 very excited Year 10 students and 6 equally excited members of staff started the journey to Werfenweng in Austria for the annual Baines School ski trip.

The estimated 25-hour journey actually turned into a 30-hour journey, but the time passed surprisingly quickly thanks to lots of music, DVDs and a 'quiz extravaganza' compiled by 'Herr Spence' which included a staff general knowledge round, a picture, and audio round and finally a round on the history of Baines School; all very entertaining and ultra competitive!

Once we arrived at the picturesque resort of Werfenweng and checked into the beautiful Zistelberghoff hotel, thoughts of the long journey disappeared and everyone was excited to get on the slopes.

The weather was amazing; the views spectacular and the students made great progress on the slopes; and thankfully we managed to get through the week without any major accidents or incidents.

The amazing time on the slopes was supplemented with a fantastic entertainment programme every evening which included a trip to the local Spa and Water Park, a Quiz Night, Movie Night and Disco.

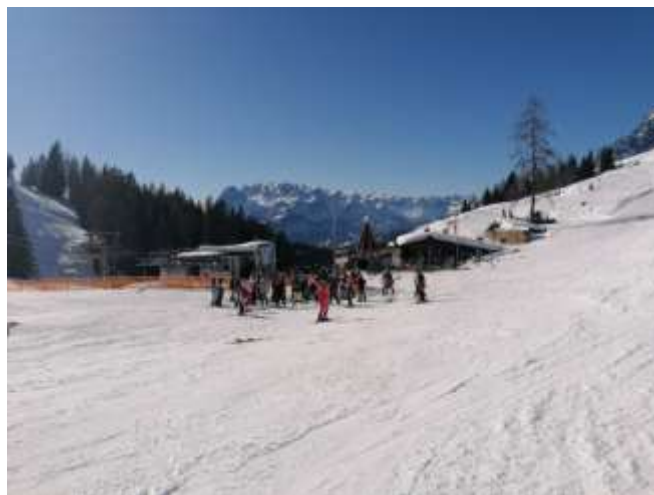
This is what some of the students said about the trip;

Erin and Emma - "The best trip ever!!!"

Amelia - "I loved learning to ski and can't wait to go back"

Thomas - "It was difficult at first but I absolutely loved it"

Thanks to Mr Hartley for organising another fantastic trip and to Mr Vernon, Mrs Blackwell, Mr Spence, Mrs Russell and Mrs Fisher for their support in making this such an unforgettable and memorable experience for all of our students.



Careers @ Baines

Year 11 Mock Interview Day – Tuesday 28th March 2023

We have rearranged for the Employer Mock Interviews to take place on Tuesday 28th March 2023. Every Year 11 student at Baines will be given the opportunity to have an individual interview with an employer, where they will present their CV for review and will also receive feedback. Mock interviews are a great way for students to practice their interview techniques and gain valuable experience and confidence within an interview setting. This experience will help prepare students for any upcoming college interviews and for any future job interviews.

We would like all our students to be able to present a high standard, quality CV to their employer as part of this event. Students will have created a CV as part of their PSHE lesson, so please can we ask students to ensure these are up to date and printed out ahead of the mock interviews.

Professional Panel Review

This year we delivered the Professional Panel event virtually due to the hall being out of action. We ran the event like a TV show whereby classes tuned in virtually from their classrooms to see the panel live on 'TV' (school projectors). This event was delivered to students in Years 8, 9 and 10. We had three new panellists for 2023 which included:

Michelle – Vet from Moy Vets representing the Animal Care sector.

Daniel – Learning and Organisational Manager from Ribby Hall representing the Travel and Tourism sector.

Stephanie – Biomedical Scientist from the NHS representing the Science and Healthcare sector.

Students asked some fantastic questions to the panel, some examples include:

NHS: How do you make antibiotics?

Moy Vets: How do you balance the ups and downs of working in an occupation that deals with the lives of beloved animals?

Ribby Hall: What's the strangest thing that has happened at an event in the hotel?

Year 11 Update – March 2023 – Mr Mycock

Year 11 Mock Results Day – Friday 10th March 2023

After a very busy Mock Exam period, students received their Mock Exam Grades in a brown envelope, just like they will in the summer. Students were then given time to share, congratulate and commiserate before returning to normal lessons later in the day. This is an important experience and the start of a time of reflection about revision skills, effort, focus and approach to our studies.

Year 11 "Ace your Exams" Day and Parent/Carer Seminar – Thursday 16th March 2023

This day supported all of our students in reflecting on their performance in the mock exams and gives some further guidance in how to improve their preparation for the exams in the summer. Each 1-hour session was led by "Elevate", an organisation who specialise in supporting young people in preparing effectively for exams and motivating learners to act on guidance given. At 5.00pm on 16th March, we invited all Year 11 Parents and Carers to school for a face-to-face seminar in the Drama Studio led by Elevate to explore the themes and techniques used with the young people earlier in the day, followed by a short session led by Mr Mycock. This session shared top tips for supporting your child through the exam season and surviving it as a family!

Supporting Progress for year 11

Each subject area will be responding to the needs of their learners in different ways in the classroom, through tailored homework, use of GCSEPod and Seneca Learning, after-school or before-school intervention sessions and, most importantly through the mocks informing our teaching going forwards. Parents/carers may receive phone calls from some teachers to reinforce what is needed for their specific subject, but this will be on a needs-led basis.

Year 11 Prom Invites:

As you will be aware the date of the Year 11 Prom is **Tuesday 4th July 2023**. The conditions of maintaining an invite to this event include 95% attendance to school, punctual attendance to lessons, punctual attendance to all exams and briefings, positive behaviour across the whole exam period (including in the exam briefing, exam room, around school, in lessons and within our local community) and a positive track record of behaviour and attendance.

Details of how to pay for the Prom, Hoodies and Year Books have been shared via email and students have been provided with a link to a Google Form to help design their Hoody.

The next few months are busy and can be stressful for many students. We are working hard to strike a happy balance between focused preparation and caring pastoral support whilst creating a drive to work hard. We understand that this time is also very stressful for parents/carers and hope that the events listed above will also support you in preparing for the exam season.

Attendance Strategy Half Term 4 – Mr McGrath



The school has launched its' latest attendance strategy, increasing the rewards available for students and also positively encouraging and reinforcing the importance of good attendance.

A range of new interventions have been put in place with the overall message for all students to maintain 95% attendance in Half Term 4 and beyond. Good attendance will also be linked to the rewards trips and the Year 11 Prom Night where it is vital that all students achieve 95% in the time running up to those events.

Mr McGrath delivered an assembly 2 weeks ago highlighting the importance of good attendance. Their key messages from the assembly are detailed below:

- Free Baines magic breakfast for all students served from 8am-8.30am - buttered toast / orange or hot chocolate will be served - be punctual to form
- Weekly 100% raffle tickets to be distributed. One winner per year per half term - £50 Amazon Voucher

- 95% attendance must be achieved from the launch which was 6th March onwards for eligibility to attend end of year trips or the Year 11 Prom. This is only 3 days off from Monday 6.3.22 until the end of the year
- Baines Attendance Form - for students who are having odd days off and need extra support
- Attendance Friday / Monday will be operational again where weekly tracking of attendance will take place.

What is your attendance like?



All students below 90% will be referred to the Attendance Improvement Officer.



Baines School

Nil Sine Labore



100% is the expectation. Being in school must be your overall aim. The more you are in school, the more you are engaged in your learning and the more likely you are to succeed.



Attainment is linked to attendance. Students with 95% attendance or less are more likely to drop at least one whole GCSE grade per subject.



90% attendance = 18 full days of school missed across the school year.

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)

IMPORTANT – MEASLES, CHICKENPOX and SHINGLES

Another reminder, in case anyone missed it previously.

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.

County Lines

We have now completed County Lines assemblies with every year group. The students have been extremely mature and listened carefully whilst we explained the dangers, and how they should keep themselves safe.

If you would like to know more, please look at the link below, or contact the school if you have concerns that you would like to share:

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

Students have also had assemblies regarding bullying, what it is (or isn't), what Baines School will do to support, and sanctions to stop this type of behaviour.

As part of this, we would just like to share a quote from an interview with bullying expert Kate Walton from Our Family World.

'What can parents do at home to help reinforce your methods and prevent bullying?'

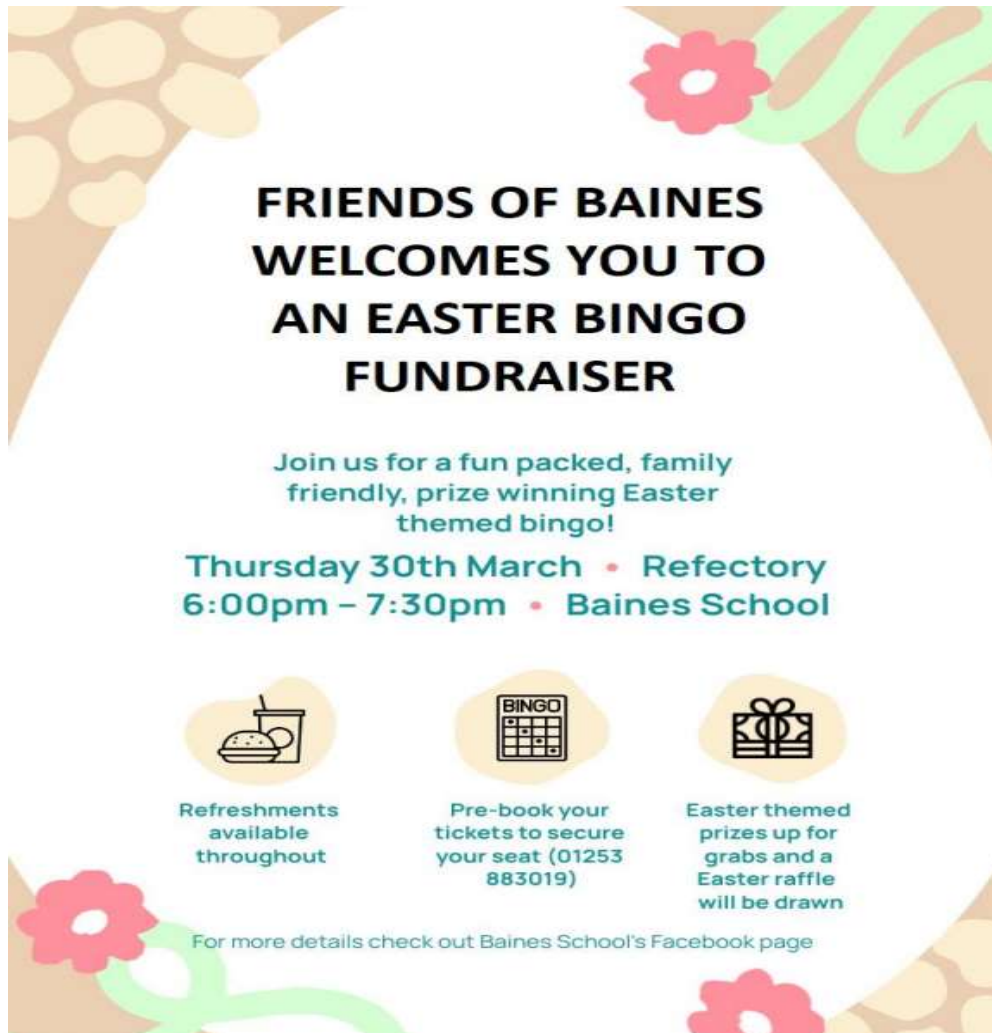
"Bullies come from all kinds of households and every kind of parent/caregiver. But one thing the bullies I've encountered had in common was: a lack of empathy. Bullies were not taught to put themselves into others' shoes, hence the ease with which they tortured their fellow students. Quite simply, not teaching your child how to be empathetic and compassionate is a parenting failure. It is a parent's job to teach their child to be a productive member of society, and that involves treating fellow human beings with dignity and respect. Unfortunately, that doesn't come naturally for many children. Parents must explicitly teach their children to think of others, to be kind and compassionate. Parents must seize the teachable moments. How? Have purposeful and crafted conversations. Acknowledge and discuss injustice, racism, hatred, jerk behaviour. Show your child what compassion looks and sounds like every chance you get. Praise them when they give it a go.

The Bottom Line: If parents teach their children to think of other people-to think of how other people feel first-before acting or reacting, well, then, those children will forever be empowered to think on their feet. And most importantly to think with their heart and their head, which is the polar opposite of bully behaviour."

*Bullying Expert and Author Kate Walton
Is it bullying? This website will help.....*

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Is-it-Bullying-1.pdf>


Friends of Baines





**FRIENDS OF BAINES
WELCOMES YOU TO
AN EASTER BINGO
FUNDRAISER**

Join us for a fun packed, family friendly, prize winning Easter themed bingo!

**Thursday 30th March • Refectory
6:00pm – 7:30pm • Baines School**

 Refreshments available throughout

 Pre-book your tickets to secure your seat (01253 883019)

 Easter themed prizes up for grabs and a Easter raffle will be drawn

For more details check out Baines School's Facebook page

The event will take place in school on 30th March 2023, so please add to your calendar!
The bingo books have been purchased, the bingo machine tried out!
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:

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.

19th April – Photography Exam

20th April – Extra Photography Exam

24th April – Art and Design Exam

25th April – Year 5 ‘Moving Up’ Evening 6-7.15pm

26th April - Art and 3D Design Exam

27th April Extra time Art and 3D Design Exam

1ST May School Closed – May Bank Holiday

8th May School Closed – Additional Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Alison Chapman

Headteacher