



Headteacher Update – 18th December 2023

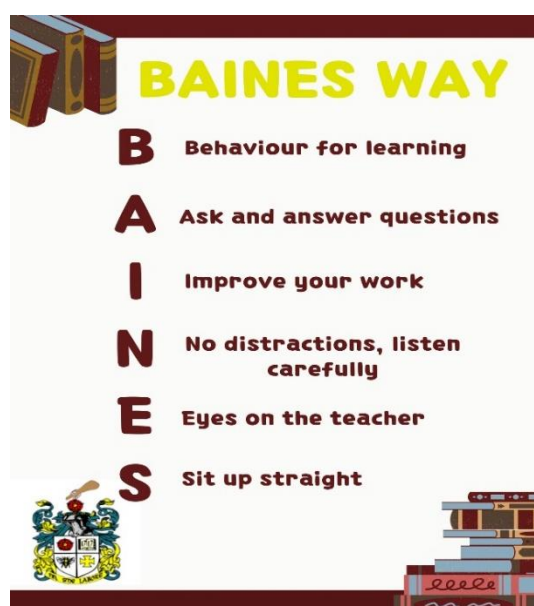
Parents, Carers, Students, Family and Friends of Baines School,

Welcome to the last Headteacher Update of 2023. This past week has been very busy with Christmas Lunches, I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here, the Cidari Consultation and of course our annual Founder's Service.

Next week will also be a busy one with Year 11 students going to the Trafford Centre on Monday, Year 9 and 10 students having their Film Afternoons Monday and Tuesday, and Year 7 and 8 students being invited to the Christmas Disco on Thursday evening. These are all reward activities linked to attendance and positive behavior for learning. The Christmas Concert is Wednesday evening starting at 6pm. The students who are going to Austria will be having a practice run on Thursday as they hit the slopes at Rosendale, and of course we finish school on Friday at 1pm for a two-week Christmas break.

At this time of year staff sometimes move on to new adventures. This year we are saying goodbye to Mr. Houghton. I would like to thank him for his contributions to Baines School and wish him the very best for the future. I would also like to congratulate Mrs. Wiggins on becoming the new Subject Leader for Mathematics. We also welcome Miss Mainey who has been teaching mathematics and supporting in Key Stage Four PE BTEC lessons and Hospitality and Catering, Ms Fell who is our very own school counsellor, Miss Gallagher who has already started as one of our pastoral officers and Mr Barlow our new IT technician.

We have introduced the Baines Way to our students this week, starting with Eyes on the Teacher. This shared language is to support all teachers and students in the classroom. We will be introducing Sit Up Straight on Monday 8th January 2023 to the students. Again, this shared language will support students in terms of our expectations for teacher exposition.



The weather has turned wintery with heavy rain and bitterly cold temperatures. I am really worried about the number of children who do not have a warm coat to wear over their blazer. Please try to encourage children to wear a waterproof winter coat (hoodies are not permitted).

In October, following a request by the student council, we set up a Diversity Club. It has been really pleasing to see so many students getting involved with Diversity Club and I would like to thank Mr Johnson and Miss Clarke for taking the lead with this.

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:

Mr Shillitoe (DSL – Assistant Headteacher)

Mrs Moxham (Pastoral Manager)

Mrs Doherty (Headteacher)

Mrs Streetly (Assistant Headteacher Wellbeing and Mental Health)

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

This week, all students will take part in a 'Keeping Safe Over Christmas' assembly, where students will listen to the following topics of discussion:

- Internet/social media use
- How to keep safe when out and about
- Talking to adults about concerns/worries
- Keeping safe in the dark when out and about during evening hours
- Keeping active and staying healthy
- Risks from alcohol and other harmful substances
- Safety near frozen water
- Useful contact numbers/helplines for all students

It is important for us as a school to take time to speak openly and honestly to all students about the importance of keeping safe over holiday periods. Coupled with these assemblies and this safeguarding information, we have also produced a 'guide' to support all students and carers - this guide will provide helpful reminders and advice, as well as useful contact numbers for both students and carers if they required support. This guide, along with our safeguarding bulletin, has been sent out to all parents/carers via Synergy.

If you are worried about the mental health of your child, or need some food from our food hub (tins, pasta, cereal etc.), sending home, please contact the wellbeing team on wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk. We will be extremely discrete.

Golden Ticket Winners



7: Josie
8: Rose
9: Daisy
10: Eleanor
11: Jennifer
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Form winners for the most positive points include:
Year 7 → 7HWD
Year 8 → 8PKE
Year 9 → 9CCL
Year 10 → 10KBL
Year 11 → 11JHU

Stars of the Week



Dates for your diary:

Monday 18 th December 2023	Assembly theme – Celebration Year 11 Reward Christmas Trafford Trip Year 9 Reward Christmas Activity during the school day
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Year10 Reward Christmas Activity during the school day
Wednesday 20 th December 2023	Creative Arts Winter Showcase doors open 5.45pm
Thursday 21 st December 2023	Rossendale Ski Trip Year 7 & 8 Reward Christmas Disco 6-8pm – This has been changed from 14th December
Friday 22 nd December 2023	Celebration assemblies School closes at 1pm
Monday 8 th January 2024	School reopens

The whole school calendar can be accessed by following this link:

<https://baines.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/>

Clare Doherty

Headteacher