



## Headteacher Update – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

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

Last week, we held Employer Mock Interviews for our Year 11 cohort in order to provide students with an opportunity to develop their interview techniques and gain experience within a one to one interview setting. The event was a huge success as we welcomed 20 employers from a range of different industry areas to interview our Year 11 cohort. Some examples of the employers present included: BAE Systems, NHS Foundation Trust, VICTREX, DWP, Vinci Building, Blackpool Sixth Form and Blackpool & The Fylde College. Employers were impressed with the quality of CVs presented and the shining personalities of our students. One employer commented that 'we had an impressive bunch of students at Baines' and others commented about the polite and well-mannered nature of our students. Students also enjoyed this experience and took away many positives from their interview along with tips on how they can perform even better in the future. We are extremely proud of all our students who participated in this event and we feel it has had a great impact on preparing students for the world of work.



Here at Baines school we are passionate about saying no to homophobia and hate language. We believe that the use of this language is not acceptable anywhere in society but especially within the school community. As part of strategy to educate our students we have had multiple events led by our Deputy Headteacher Mr. Uphill. These events have included assemblies, the use of our behavior and RESPECT curriculum and a re-education package around the lazy use of this language, constant communication in line ups and form times, work in PSHE and work by our pupil diversity team. As part of this strategy these measures are to be continued all year round to eliminate this from our school community. We thank you for your support and invite you to say "No to Homophobic and Hate Language".

## No More Knives

On Thursday we were visited by the No More Knives Group who spent time teaching students about the dangers and consequences of knives and educating them as to how they can play their part in being the solution to having safer streets. Their aim was to inform, equip and empower Baines students to make good choices around the subject of knife crime. The feedback from the students was really positive.

## Students feeling unwell

Just a gentle reminder that if a student is feeling unwell, the school procedure is for them to seek support at school, not contact home themselves. This can cause panic for parents/carers with missed calls etc, and can stop registers being completed correctly. Please ensure that any medication needed is given before school and students have eaten breakfast and attend school with a water bottle as this will help students who are feeling a bit under the weather. If parents/carers are worried students are poorly, but wish to see how they get on in school, please send a note in with the student or email school.

## Attendance Matters

As you will be aware from communications from school, we are having a focus this year on improving attendance. This includes celebrating when attendance of our young people is strong through reward points, raffle tickets for Amazon vouchers, credits for the older students that are turned in to payments for things like the Year 11 Prom and lots of positive conversations. The main reward, however, is that those young people with strong attendance experience more lessons and therefore make better progress in school.

**As we returned from the Christmas break our attendance levels in school were better than the national attendance which shows the positive impact of all that we have done. Our Year 11 students have also attended better this academic year than the national Year 11 cohort, which gives them a competitive advantage over others!**

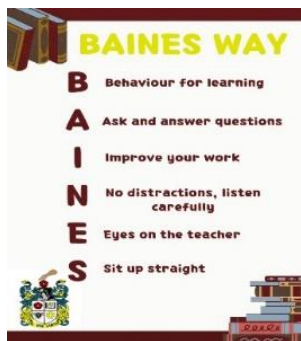
This term we are focusing on the following areas:

- Improving punctuality to school which will be achieved through education of our young people, rewarding strong punctuality to school, using detentions for those who are late to school and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to the parents of students who are persistently late.
- Contacting home daily where a child is missing from school without good reason. Parents/carers should use the Synergy App to report the reason for their child's absence on each day of that absence which will avoid the absences being automatically unauthorised because we don't have a valid reason.
- Addressing the attendance of those students who are Persistently Absent (below 90%) through effective communication with home, celebrating when attendance improves, using a staged approach to support families to improve attendance which may result in Fixed Penalty Notices or court proceedings for those with the poorest attendance or where a family doesn't engage with school.
- Providing young people and families with a simpler version of the Attendance Policy so that everyone understands the expectations better.

If you would like support with attendance issues, please contact your child's Progress Leader in the first instance.

## The Baines Way

This week we are introducing 'Improve your Work'.



## 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](mailto:rsh@baines.lancs.sch.uk))

Please find attached a link for Internet Matters – a parental support page regarding Only Fans [https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/what-is-onlyfans-what-parents-need-to-know/?gclid=CjwKCAiAzJOtBhALEiwAtwj8tu8mVbAPeRcSOURVnBFjvTmLAeb1Ggu42mF-RAUnBYCkzbltS7vChhoCTDkQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/what-is-onlyfans-what-parents-need-to-know/?gclid=CjwKCAiAzJOtBhALEiwAtwj8tu8mVbAPeRcSOURVnBFjvTmLAeb1Ggu42mF-RAUnBYCkzbltS7vChhoCTDkQAvD_BwE)

It has also come to our attention that electronic vapes are being made to look like rubbers or pencil sharpeners and can fit in a pencil case. If you have any concerns regarding this, or would like support for your child, please do contact school.



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](mailto:wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk). We will be extremely discrete.

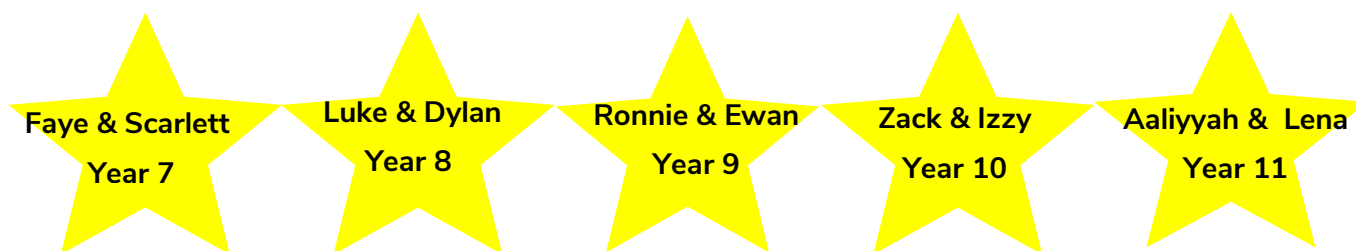
## Golden Ticket Winners



7: Georgina  
 8: Lilly Forsythe  
 9: Leah  
 10: Jack  
 11: Lucia  
 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 → 8AMN  
 Year 9 → 9CDS  
 Year 10 → 10DVN  
 Year 11 → 11JHU

## Stars of the Week



## Dates for your diary:

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	Poland Trip Returns (ETA 10pm) Assembly theme – Holocaust Memorial Day (Fragility of Freedom)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Jodrell Bank Trip
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	All day musical rehearsal 9am – 3pm
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Assembly theme – Children’s Mental Health Week Year 11 Mock Examinations Week 1
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Steve Wright Presentations British Values/Diversity (during the school day)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Iceland Trip departs (returning midnight 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2024)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Assembly theme: Safer Internet / Year 9 Options Assembly / Apprenticeship Week Year 11 Mock Examinations Week 2
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Ski Trip departs (and returns 16.02) Year 10 Consultation Evening 4-7pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	<b>School Closes for half term at 3pm</b>

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

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

Clare Doherty

Headteacher