



## Headteacher Update – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

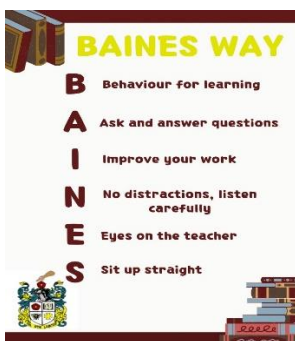
Welcome back to all our students and staff after the Christmas break. I hope you all had a restful Christmas and I wish you all the best for 2024.

The final week was a wonderful one with the students' successes being celebrated and their hard work, attendance and behavior rewarded. Year 11 students went to the Trafford Centre and came back to school laden with bags with Christmas shopping. The film afternoons went well and finished with a Christmas sing off. Thank you to Mr. Noon and the refectory staff for preparing nearly four hundred hot dogs, pop corn and drinks for the students. The Year 7 and 8 Christmas disco was a perfect way to finish the week, with the DJ commenting on the students being a credit to the school.

We will be running similar reward events for the students prior to the Easter holidays. To be eligible to be included students will be expected to have 95% attendance and positive behaviour over the set period.

Our wellbeing team organised and distributed over 20 hampers prior to the Christmas break. Our food hub has been well organised by Mrs. Wild and we will continue to provide food, toiletries and cleaning materials for any families who need some support. This will be handled discretely, please just email [wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk) and let us know what you need.

In the last Headteacher Update I introduced a number of new staff. I would also like to introduce Mr. Bond who will be our cover supervisor. There are always times when either due to unforeseen circumstances or training courses that lessons need to be covered by someone other than the usual teacher. Mr. Bond will allow a more consistent approach to this and hopefully reduce the number of supply teachers we need to use. Mrs. Radford will also be joining us for three days a week, and will teach some key stage three mathematics and also work as a Learning Mentor with some of our Year 11 students.



We introduced the Baines Way to students prior to Christmas and will continue to use this shared language to support students in terms of our expectations for teacher exposition. This will also help to ensure that learners are not passive but are actively engaged in their learning.

Mr. McGrath will be sending out some information this week regarding our drive to ensure that students always look professional at school. As a school it is important to ensure that students are prepared for next steps which is why we introduced the 3Ps – Positive, Professional, Perseverance.

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### Change to break and lunchtime

The Student Council has raised breaktime as a concern as the students feel they do not always have enough time to purchase and eat food from the refectory and then also go to the toilet. It is important that students feel they are listened to, so as from today, break time will be extended by 5 minutes and lunch time shortened by five minutes. This will not affect the start or end of the day at all, but will hopefully mean that all students have enough time at morning break.

Students in Line Ups 8.30am

Form Time 8.30 – 9.00am

Period 1 9.00 – 10.00am

Period 2 10.00 – 11.00am

Breaktime 11.00 – 11.20am

Period 3 11.20 – 12.20pm

Period 4 12.20 – 1.20pm

Lunchtime 1.20 – 2.00pm

Period 5 2.00 – 3.00pm

## 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))

This week, all students will take part in an assembly where they will be asked to consider what makes them happy. The top ten tips for happiness include:

- 1. Socialise** - Make time to talk to your friends and family. Properly. Face to face. Not just online or on the phone.
- 2. Don't bottle up your problems** - Talk things over with someone you trust and always ask for help when you need it.
- 3. Get some exercise** - Go outside and play some sport, or just go for a walk. When you exercise, your body produces chemicals called endorphins that give you a natural high. Exercise also tones you up and makes you feel better about yourself.
- 4. Learn a new skill** - It can be anything you like. Learn how to play the ukulele, how to juggle or how to cook a soufflé.
- 5. Be creative** - Paint a picture, write a song, a poem or a story; or sculpt a scale model of the Taj Mahal from blu tac!
- 6. Do something for someone else** - Give to charity, help an old lady across the road, organise an event, or volunteer at your local animal sanctuary.

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**7. Watch less TV** - It's not a popular idea, but it works. Don't have the TV on all the time; decide what you really want to see and only watch those programmes. You'll have so much more spare time, you'll sleep better and you'll save electricity as well. You will feel more purposeful!

**8. Grow something** - Plant some seeds or a bulb and care for your plant as it grows.

**9. Appreciate your surroundings** - Take pleasure in blue skies and frosty mornings, or a warm house and the sound of rain on the windows.

**10. Count your blessings** - Concentrate on the positive and think of three good things that have happened to you every day, even if it's only, "I had a nice lunch, Maths went quickly and I learned a new chord on my ukulele."

Students will then be challenged to set themselves a target for this term; this could be linked to attendance, behaviour, attending an enrichment activity, completing a certain activity in PE, achieving a target grade in a subject etc. All targets should be SMART though.

<b>S</b>	<b>Specific</b>	Make your goal specific and narrow for more effective planning	
<b>M</b>	<b>Measurable</b>	Make sure your goal and progress are measurable	
<b>A</b>	<b>Achievable</b>	Make sure you can reasonably accomplish your goal within a certain time frame	
<b>R</b>	<b>Relevant</b>	Your goal should align with your values and long-term objectives	
<b>T</b>	<b>Time-based</b>	Set a realistic but ambitious end date to clarify task prioritization and increase motivation	

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: Coel  
8: Vincent  
9: Candice  
10: Rae  
11: Callum  
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 → 8RAD  
Year 9 → 9CDS  
Year 10 → 10KBL  
Year 11 → 11JHU

The overall Golden Ticket Winner of the Half-Term is.....Reuben in Year 7!  
Overall form winners are: 7HWD, 8KJO, 9CDS, 10SMK and 11KBL

## Stars of the Week



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## Dates for your diary:

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School reopens Assembly theme – New Year
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 11 Elevate Exam Support for students (during the school day)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Assembly theme – Resilience (years 7-10), Mock Interview Preparation (Year 11)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 11 Mock Interview Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Poland Trip departs (3am)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	Poland Trip Returns (ETA 10pm) Assembly theme – Holocaust Memorial Day (Fragility of Freedom)
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

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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