



Headteacher Update – 15th April 2024

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

Welcome back to Baines School at the start of the Summer Term. I hope you have all had a good break over Easter with your families, although the weather has certainly been a challenge at times!

As always there is much planned for this term with our Year 10 students who are on the Excellence Programme visiting Manchester University, college visits, work experience, Race for Life, Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions, Geography field trips, the James Baines Book Award, Year 7 Musical in a Day, Sports Day and Rewards Day just to name a few. All the students will also be having end of year examinations as well and will be being prepared for these during both their lessons and in the home work they are being set.

School Improvement

Since I took up post at Easter 2023, I have raised the expectations at Baines School (alongside our Senior Leadership Team and Governors) to ensure that all students have every opportunity to succeed at Baines School. I want all students to be prepared for their next steps both in terms of the academic qualifications and preparation for the wider world.

The impact of these raised expectations has included improved student attendance which puts our students at an advantage over others, in terms of their access to education. Student behaviour has also improved, "Pupils appreciate the recent changes made to the behaviour management systems. These have established stronger routines to help pupils engage with their learning. The school has improved the strategies to address poor behaviour. Some pupils, parents and carers believe that the raised expectations of pupils' behaviour are too high. However, most pupils value the improvements in behaviour. The new approach is making a positive difference. Typically, classrooms are calm and purposeful. Pupils can learn without disruption, and they are able to enjoy their social times." OfSTED November 2023. The strategies we have introduced have led to reductions in low-level disruption, detentions and serious incidents.

We have also increased staffing in key areas (including each year group now having their own pastoral officer) and now have our own school counsellor who supports the pastoral team. Students have had access to a number of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, including Diversity Club, Crochet Club, Art Club, Politics Club as well as all the usual sporting clubs (to name a few!), camp, Iceland, Poland, Austria, Manchester Science Museum and Jodrell Bank.

With this improved culture, students are readier to learn, and more importantly your child can learn in a calm and purposeful environment. I want to thank you for being invested in your child's education and embracing these changes, which have been difficult at times as it is always hard to change the status quo; however please be reassured that all of these well thought out, researched changes have had students' wellbeing and education at the center.

Unfortunately, there is a small group of parents who are very resistant to this change and I worry that when there is a shortage of teachers nationally, that we may lose talented staff due to being verbally abused and threatened by parents. Some of this is low-level but repeated abuse via emails or on social media. I am sure most of you will be horrified reading that this happens. Therefore, I am asking you to ensure our staff enjoy their work: please be reasonable in your interactions with our staff and be fair and kind. If you have a genuine concern, please contact the school through the channels available. All staff have their own email addresses and you should start first with your child's Progress Tutor for example, psm@baines.lancs.sch.uk.

The students at Baines School will be our next generation of professionals, whether it be a doctor, nurse, solicitor, engineer, teacher – the list goes on. Everything we do is to prepare them to be the best version of themselves.

Maths Feast

On Wednesday 8 of our year 10 pupils took part in the AMSP Maths Feast at Blackpool Sixth Form. One of our teams finished in joint 3rd place against 17 other teams from all over Lancashire including Grammar schools. The pupils displayed amazing problem-solving skills and outstanding resilience to successfully complete questions that even some of the teachers looked puzzled by! They were also rewarded for their consistency, effort and teamwork as the only winners of the 'Scoring Highly In All Rounds' award. It was a real joy to see some of our top mathematicians finish above local schools and all the schools in Blackpool. Well done Eli, George, Alfie, Olivia, Reece, Lucas, Oliver and Freya!



Easter Bingo



Thanks to you all who attended the Easter Family Bingo and all staff who supported it, especially Mrs Wild, Miss Pyatt, Mrs Duhig and of course our bingo caller Mr Johnson!

It was a lovely event, with a lot of delightful families and alumni attending. There were lots of prizes won and Beth in Year 11 won the grand prize in the raffle!

We raised a fabulous £265.52 which will be put towards Student Council Projects.

Year 11 Interventions

Thank you to all parents and carers for their continued support for our intervention sessions and encouraging our students to attend them. The Easter sessions were very well attended and a massive thank you to all our staff who spent time over the Easter holidays with our Year 11 students.

In this final term, we will continue to run bespoke sessions; please ensure your child attends all that they are invited to.

Please remember that attendance at compulsory interventions is linked to Prom invitations.

UPBEAT Year 10

After running our UPBEAT program for Year 11 since November and seeing positive outcomes we are now launching it with our Year 10 students from Monday 15th April. The UPBEAT program focusses on pupils' Uniform, Punctuality, Behaviour, Effort in lessons, Attendance and progress towards Targets. It rewards pupils for making the right choices in school and preparing effectively to perform academically in their end of year assessments. Academic success is obviously very important to us at Baines School and by putting in the effort in lessons and being active learners, we know pupils will continue to improve academically. We also want pupils to develop in ways that future employers and colleges will appreciate, by improving attendance, punctuality, professional dress and impeccable conduct. This program allows pupils to earn UPBEAT credit that can be redeemed for Amazon vouchers, refectory credit, money off school trips amongst other rewards. More details have been shared with Year 10 pupils through an assembly and will be shared shortly with parents/carers of Year 10 pupils. If you have any questions about this program please email Mr Hurst, shu@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

Careers Update

Meet the Professional Acting Masterclass

We are hosting an Acting Masterclass on Friday 19th April during lunch time in the ILC. This is a fantastic opportunity to hear from an industry professional who has impressive contacts in the West End, Television & National Theatres. If you are interested in drama, acting or performing arts then come along to find out more! Students must register their interest by dropping into L13 to see Miss Kinder or by sending her an email at KKI@baines.lancs.sch.uk



Manchester University Trip – Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Next week, we will be taking our Year 10 Excellence Programme students to visit Manchester University to experience student life for a day. An important update for parents, lunch will kindly be provided by Manchester University therefore students will no longer be required to bring a packed lunch however we do encourage students to bring a drink and snack.

A final reminder for parents to submit the online consent form for the trip which will come from Evolve Lancashire, please check your emails for this form. The deadline for consent is Friday 19th April.

Apprenticeship and T Level Awareness Presentation for Year 9 Parents and Carers - Wednesday 24th April 2024

We are hosting an Apprenticeship and T Level awareness presentation which is being delivered by Lancashire Work-based Learning Executive Forum. This will take place on Wednesday 24th April from 4.00pm until 4.30pm at Baines School (based in the assembly hall). The purpose of this presentation is to increase awareness and understanding of these Post-16 pathways. Please see outline below of the information and impartial advice which will be covered in the presentation.

Apprenticeships:

- What is an apprenticeship?
- What do the apprenticeship levels mean?
- What industries you can get an apprenticeship in?
- Live apprenticeship vacancies in the area
- How to find an apprenticeship

T Levels:

- What is a T-Level?
- How are they different to apprenticeships
- The types of T-Level courses (subjects offered)
- Nearest T-Level providers

Please complete this sign up form to book your place on the talk: <https://forms.office.com/e/WUiASmDmKk>

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.lanacs.sch.uk)

Please see the link below for parental/carer advice regarding OnlyFans

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/what-is-onlyfans-what-parents-need-to-know/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwztOwBhD7ARIsAPDKnkABDjp3MIJibe80hy63VSOlrLvOeBswsJrc7Xa5pE7Ct-WjkDohNsaAsT2EALw_wcB

What is OnlyFans? What parents need to know

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: Keevey-Jane

8: Jayden

9: Elle

10: Natchaya

11: Thomas

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 → 8KJO

Year 9 → 9CDS

Year 10 → 10KBL

Year 11 → 11Attenborough

Due to Year 11 forms switching intervention sessions in the mornings we have renamed their forms after academics rather than use their form tutors to identify the group.

Stars of the Week



Dates for your diary:

Monday 15 th April 2024	School reopens Assembly Theme – Stephen Lawrence
Tuesday 16 th April 2024	Y11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams – all day in T13
Wednesday 17 th April 2024	Y11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams – all day in T13
Thursday 18 th April 2024	Y11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams – all day in T13
Friday 19 th April 2024	Y11 Performing Arts Unit 3 Assessments – all day in M11
Monday 22 nd April 2024	Assembly theme – Earth Day Y11 Performing Arts Unit 3 Assessments – all day in M11
Tuesday 23 rd April 2024	Y11 Performing Arts Unit 3 Assessments – all day in M11
Wednesday 24 th April 2024	Y11 Performing Arts Unit 3 Assessments – all day in M11
Thursday 25 th April 2024	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (School Hall)
Monday 29 th April 2024	Assembly theme – How to revise GCSE Art and 3D exams Week LAL
Monday 6 th May 2024	School Closed May Bank Holiday (one day only)
Tuesday 7 th May 2024	Assembly Theme – Mental health Awareness Week Year 7 Exam Week 1

Monday 13 th May 2024	Assembly Theme – Rewards GCSE Examination Season Commences Year 7 Exam Week 2 Year 8 & 9 Exam Week 1
Monday 20 th May	Assembly Theme – Celebrations Year 8 & 9 Exam Week 2
Friday 24 th May 2024	School closes for one week
Monday 3 rd June 2024	School opens for Half Term 6

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

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

Clare Doherty

Headteacher