



Headteacher Update – 6th May 2024

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

This week we have kicked off the GCSE season with style, with our Year 11 students accessing their first booster session ahead of the Travel and Tourism examination, and our photographers, 3D and fine artists completing their 10-hour examinations. On a personal note, I am extremely proud of our Year 11 students; the resilience they have shown as they meet this challenge head on is incredible. We have over 100 students attending (what we have affectionally call) 'Period 6' every Wednesday where they do Walking Talking Mock Examinations in a targeted mathematics intervention class, and then do a follow up shadow paper in their RESPECT lessons. The students have taken Mr Mycock up on his mantra of 'Do something today, that your future self with thank you for'.

Staffing Changes

I am absolutely delighted to share that we have appointed two new Deputy Headteachers who will officially start from September 2024.

Mrs Aly Spencer – Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)



Aly Spencer has had connections with Baines School for most of her teaching career, and she is delighted to be joining our team in September 2024. For the past ten years she has been training teachers across all subjects in schools across the northwest in her role as Head of Initial Teacher Training. In addition, she brings expert knowledge and skills from her work as an Ofsted inspector. Aly already has strong links with our school, with our staff, and with our students. In her letter of application, she recognised that "Baines is connected to generations of families and careful analysis of the recent progress shows that the school is on the cusp of great things." She is utterly committed to driving our school to the next level, and is looking forward to meeting you all very soon.

Mr David Uphill – Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)

David Uphill has worked in schools on the Fylde coast for the last 21 years and the last 7 years at St George's school in Blackpool, a member of Cidari Multi Academy Trust. As a local boy he understands the history and expected standards of being part of the Baines Family and is ecstatic to be appointed as permanent Deputy Headteacher after being seconded to Baines school in this role from last October. David is passionate, energetic and fully invested in working to continue the positive improvements that are already evident. "I am truly honoured to now have the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of the next generation of the Baines Family in my new capacity. As Deputy Headteacher I am excited to harness my passion for supporting the well-being of students and fostering a supportive environment where each individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed".



"I am committed to driving positive change within our school community, working collaboratively with parents, staff, and students to create a culture of inclusivity, empathy, and excellence. Together, we will strive to ensure that every child feels seen, heard, and supported as they navigate their way to a successful educational journey." "With enthusiasm and dedication, I look forward to working alongside you all to propel our school forward and to inspire a future filled with limitless possibilities for our students. Here's to a bright and promising future ahead".

Duke of Edinburgh and Former Pupils Association

The Duke of Edinburgh Programme is made up of three progressive layers which when completed leads to Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver, they involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition. It is a recognized mark of achievement and respected by employers. It also provides students with an array of opportunities to develop skills, build relationships with others, have fun and make memories.

Baines School has run the Duke of Edinburgh Award for many years, including Gold when we had a sixth form. This year we have groups of students completing the Bronze Award in Year 9, and Silver in Year 10.

As with everything, there is a cost attached to running the DoE Award, however moving forward, at their recent 117th Annual General Meeting, The Baines School Former Pupils Association (BSFPA) have offered to sponsor it!

Originally set up in 1906 as the Old Boys Association, BSFPA is an organisation of past pupils and staff who are interested in maintaining a connection to the school and its present-day pupils. They hold various events throughout the year and are committed to raising money to provide extra educational opportunities that we believe are so important to pupils' development. They work very closely with the school to support the pupils and offer a network of former pupils (our Alumni) who come into school to talk to students about career opportunities and to help them develop good workplace skills.

On Saturday 27th April 2024 the BSFPA gathered for their 117th Annual General Meeting followed by their annual gathering, which took part in the Drama Studio / Year 11 Common Area. Our school chef Mr Noon made a beautiful meal for the FPA and our Head Students provided hospitality with Tom performing one of his favourite songs. It was wonderful to see some new, younger members in attendance, especially Mike Wallace, a past student who now lives in Canada, able to attend. People in attendance spent time together, exchanging stories about their time at Baines School and they were delighted to meet former teaching staff who were also present.



If any past students or staff are interested in finding out more about the BSFPA, please contact school.

School Improvement

Over the past few months, our team has been diligently reviewing our existing processes to identify areas for improvement. We recognise that creating a positive and supportive atmosphere is essential for enabling our students to thrive academically and socially. As such, we have implemented several enhancements aimed at promoting positive behaviour and maximizing student progress.

Here are some of the key improvements we have made:

1. ****Clear Expectations:**** We have refined our behaviour expectations to ensure clarity and consistency across all levels. These expectations are communicated regularly to both students and staff, providing a solid framework for behaviour management. The reason for this is to allow the majority of our students to learn in conditions most conducive for progress.
2. ****Positive Reinforcement:**** Our focus is not only on addressing negative behaviours but also on celebrating positive actions. We have introduced a range of incentives and rewards to recognise and encourage students who consistently demonstrate positive behaviour.
3. ****Supportive Interventions:**** Recognising that every student is unique, we have developed a range of targeted interventions to support those who may be facing challenges. These interventions are tailored to the individual needs of students by our wonderful pastoral team and are designed to provide the necessary support to help them succeed.
4. ****Parental Engagement:**** We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are crucial for student success. We are committed to keeping you informed and involved every step of the way. We encourage open communication and welcome your feedback and suggestions.
5. ****Continuous Improvement:**** Our work in this area is ongoing, and we are committed to continuously reviewing and refining our behaviour systems to ensure they are effective and responsive to the evolving needs of our student body. As part of our high expectations we will now be moving to a system to further enhance behaviour for learning in our classrooms and have contacted the parents/carers of students directly involved.

We firmly believe that by creating a positive and supportive environment, we can empower our students to reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of our young learners.



Attendance continues to improve, with our Year 7 students having 95% attendance on Thursday which is a phenomenal result. Thank you for all your support encouraging your child to attend school regularly.

Students who attend school regularly perform better, are more resilient and better equipped for their next steps.

Forrest School



Forrest school is continuing with a new group of recruits!

They have had their introductory lesson and on Tuesday they spent time with Kate making pizza wraps, learning how to light a fire, whittling, den construction and making a swing in the environment garden! The students continue to develop resilience, communication and team work skills.

New Year 7 Students

Baines School
14 Dale Lane

Friendship Friday

Friday 7th June - 9am to 2pm

What will it involve?

- Team building
- Friendship forming
- Forest school
- Craft activities

Why are we offering this?

We know that the move to secondary school can be daunting for all students. However, if you're the only person coming from your school or there are only two of you, the move can be even trickier as you may worry about not knowing anyone and not making friends.

We want everyone starting at Baines to feel settled and supported. By coming to Friendship Friday you will get to spend time with your new Year 7s, Blackie, the pastoral staff and meet other teachers and students throughout the day. This means that when you come for transition day with the rest of our year 6 students on the 5th July you will already know lots of friendly faces.

Details about the day

We want you to feel comfortable so you may wear your own clothes but please make sure these are practical for the activities we will be doing. Trousers/joggers/leggings need to be full length and no vests or crop tops please.

Please arrive at main reception at 9am. The day finishes at 2pm. We will provide all refreshments so please make us aware of any dietary requirements.

On Friday 7th June we will be welcoming all our new Year 7 students who are coming from a school by themselves or with one other person, for Friendship Friday.

This will provide an opportunity for students to become more familiar with some of the other children who are joining the Baines Family ahead of Induction Day in July. They will take part in Forrest School, games and team building activities.

We do still have some spaces in Year 7, and if you are interested in joining the Baines Family please contact Mrs Streetly directly (kst@baines.lancs.sch.uk) for a conversation and tour.

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 (rs@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

Please see the link below for parental/carer advice regarding dangers of sextortion following a rise in reported cases nationally.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-68918550>

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: Willow
 8: Harrison
 9: Kristy
 10: Millie
 11: Kal-El
 Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Form winners for the most positive points include:
 Year 7 → 7JCU
 Year 8 → 8KJO
 Year 9 → 9TPN
 Year 10 → 10KBL
 Year 11 → 11Florence

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 6 th May 2024	School Closed May Bank Holiday (one day only)
Tuesday 7 th May 2024	Assembly Theme – Mental health Awareness Week
Monday 13 th May 2024	Assembly Theme – Rewards GCSE Examination Season Commences
Monday 20 th May	Assembly Theme – Celebrations
Friday 24 th May 2024	School closes for one week
Monday 3 rd June 2024	School opens for Half Term 6 Assembly – Headteacher message
Tuesday 4 th June 2024	Year 7 Consultation Evening 4-7pm
Friday 7 th June 2024	Year 6 into 7 Friendship Day
Monday 10 th June 2024	Assembly theme – Charity Week
Friday 14 th and Saturday 15 th June 2024	Year 9 Bronze Expedition
Monday 17 th June 2024	Assembly theme – LGBT Pride / Diversity Day
Tuesday 18 th June	River Wyre Field Trip Year 10 Geography
Thursday 20 th June 2024	Year 11 Leavers Day Year 8 HPV vaccinations in the hall
Friday 21 st June 2024	Year 10 Careers Day at B&FC
Monday 24 th June 2024	Assembly theme – Launch of Race for Life Year 10 Experience of a Work Place Week
Wednesday 26 th June 2024	GCSE Season ended DT – ECT including mentors
Thursday 27 th June 2024	Celebration of Achievement 7pm
Friday 28 th June 2024	James Baines Book Award

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

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

Clare Doherty
 Headteacher