



## Headteacher Update – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

The weather has certainly been mixed this week, starting off cold each morning and then ending up warm and bright in the afternoon. When it has rained we have opened up the indoor areas for students to ensure they keep dry and warm, but we do ask parents and carers to ensure that students have a coat. The Northern Lights have been visible this week after a geomagnetic storm, and you can see from the photo how beautiful they looked above Baines School on Thursday night.

Our Year 11 students have now completed their prelim examinations, although they will all be sitting a mathematics paper 3 after the half-term break in their normal lessons. The students have been exceptional. They have clearly worked hard, they have been sensible and well prepared, and we look forward to our results day on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

We finish on Friday for half-term, and I wish you and your family a restful break. We start back at school at 8.30am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### Attendance

We want to celebrate with our school community the improvements that we have made in the attendance levels of our young people this term. Many students have improved their attendance level when compared to the same time period last year and Year 7 have made a great start to their secondary education. This also means that many more students have been rewarded for their positive attendance and there are many more students who are eligible to win the attendance raffle this term for an Amazon voucher.

Thank you to all parents and carers who are clearly echoing our message at home that attendance at school is crucial in supporting progress and that every day in school matters.

We are also applying fully the regulations around unauthorised absence, including holidays taken during term time and remind families that we have a one-week October half term, breaking up after school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October and returning to school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### Whole Nuts

Due to some members of our school community having severe air borne nut allergies to whole nuts, we have decided to become a whole nut free school. Please can you keep this in mind when packing snacks or packed lunches? Things like Nutella are fine but please avoid whole nuts.

## Science Competition



Our very own Travis in Year 7 not only won the science competition but was also lucky enough to meet British Astronaut Tim Peake and was on ITV Tonight on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Well done Travis who has made an amazing start to his education in the Baines Family.

## Show Racism the Red Card



To help raise awareness of racism, we are running the 'Wear Red Day' on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Students are allowed to **wear appropriate own clothes** on Friday with an **item of clothing or accessory which is red** (not nails or hair though!) and bring in £1 (if able) for the charity Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) to help them with the great work they are doing nationally. As a school we are passionate that our students understand that people are treated as equals, and that all people get the dignity and respect they deserve, and their differences be celebrated.

## Annual Careers Fair

Every year Miss Kinder, our Careers Advisor, organises a phenomenal careers fair to allow our students to see what is available for them when they leave school. It empowers them to take ownership over their next steps.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will go around the fair during the school day (Year 9 period 3, Year 10 period 4 and Year 11 period 5), with parents and carers able to join their children from 3pm to go around together.



**BAINES SCHOOL**  
**CAREERS FAIR**

Our Post-16 Careers Fair is a fantastic opportunity to explore a range of Further Education, Higher Education and future career opportunities for your child.

**DATE**  
Wednesday 16th October 2024

**TIME**  
3pm until 4pm for Parents & Carers

**LOCATION**  
Baines School Sports Hall

**WHO**  
Years 9, 10 & 11

**JUMP START YOUR FUTURE CAREER!**

### Year 6 Tours

If you enjoyed our open evening and want to see a little more, or if you couldn't make open evening and want to get a taste of what Baines has to offer, then you are invited to our Open Morning.

We are looking forward to showing Baines at its best.

Ticket booking is essential as it is during the school day. On the day you must sign in at the main school office who will have a list of attendees.

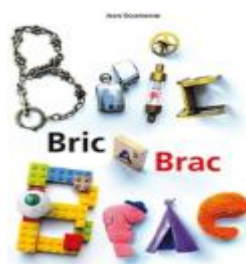
To book your places please visit:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/baines-school](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/baines-school) or contact [headspa@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:headspa@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

### Christmas Fair Donations

Our Christmas Fair will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November this year from 3-6pm. Our bottle tombola, tombola and white elephant stalls only run due to the generosity of the Baines Family. If you have capacity to make any donations, we would be very grateful.

Anyone who would like to be considered for a stall please contact [cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk), as the stalls are given on a first come, first serve basis.



Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

*'Encourage, Engage, Empower'*

## Our Mental Health Team

At Baines School we have our very own mental health team who work together with parents, carers and other agencies to ensure that our students are safe and have the support they need to be able to not only access education, but for some students to take part in daily activities. Mental health is very much a journey and we work to support our students who need this invaluable support.

Mrs Streeley – Assistant Headteacher Wellbeing and Mental Health

Michelle Fell – School Counsellor

Mrs Kenyon – Mental Health and First Aid Lead

Pastoral Team – Mrs Moxham, Mrs Waterland-Jones, Mr Mosely, Mrs Porter, Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Stanley and Mrs Fisher.

Penny the Wellbeing Dog

Please contact the wellbeing team on [wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk), if you feel your child needs support.

## Smart Phones

In March this year Jonathan Haidt, psychologist, released a book called 'The Anxious Generation' about the impact smartphones are having on young people. Movements like the one below have been driven by the understanding that parents can unite to protect their children from the harmful effects of phones.

We are sharing this purely for information for the parents of our young people but it is one of the reasons we have the rule that mobile phones must be switched off and in the bottom of students' bags. 237 notifications is a big distraction! <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

**SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD**

### Kids & smartphones – what's the big deal?

When children first started getting smartphones a decade ago, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it's overwhelming.

- HARMFUL CONTENT**  
Smartphones act as a gateway to pornography, violent and extreme content. Often kids don't seek them out but are exposed to them via algorithms and messaging apps. Once seen, these things can never be unseen. 90% of girls and 50% of boys say they're sent explicit content they didn't want to see.
- ADDICTION**  
Tech companies intentionally make apps addictive, because the more time we spend, the more data they harvest, the more money they make. By leveraging dopamine circuits, they trigger brain responses akin to slot machine gambling. 1 in 4 young adults show signs of behavioural addiction to smartphones.
- ACADEMIC DISTRACTION**  
The average teen receives 237 smartphone notifications a day – one every few minutes – making focusing on schoolwork hard. Studies show that excessive smartphone use has negative impacts on academic performance. Children at schools with effective smartphone bans get GCSE's 1-2 grades higher.
- GROOMING**  
Sites like TikTok, Snapchat and Roblox are used by sexual predators to target children with their first smartphones, blackmailing them into sharing sexual content. Sextortion is now the fastest growing crime against teens. Since 2022, there has been a 66% rise in 'self-generated' sexual abuse imagery of children under 10.
- CYBERBULLYING**  
Disagreements between pupils used to stop at the school gate, now they follow kids wherever they go, 24/7. Young people who experience cyberbullying are twice as likely to attempt suicide and self-harm. One in six teens report being cyberbullied in the past month, according to the World Health Organisation.
- MENTAL ILLNESS**  
Rates of depression, anxiety and suicide in young people have spiked globally since 2010, when children first began getting smartphones. The first generation to grow up with smartphones are now adults – data shows that the younger they got their first smartphone, the worse their mental health today.
- OPPORTUNITY COST**  
Underpinning all these harms is one that is potentially the most significant of all. For the first time in human history, children are spending more time on devices than they are playing – an activity crucial to our healthy development. Smartphones are experience blockers, distracting children from engaging in the real world. The average UK 12-year-old now spends 29 hours a week – equivalent to a part-time job – on their smartphone. This leaves little time for the real world activities and relationships that enable us to learn the essential life skills we need to transition into adulthood. The average daily time that teens spend with friends has plummeted by 65% since 2010.

Join the grassroots parents movement to protect childhood from Big Tech  
[www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join)  
For all links to stats references see [www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem)

## Erin Devine

Erin graduated from Baines School in July 2024 and we are absolutely delighted to hear that she has been selected to play for Leeds Rhinos. Well done Erin!



## 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))

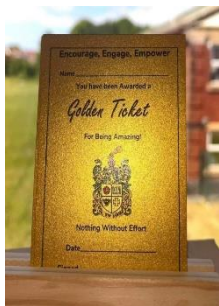
This link has been shared before, however after another death in the news this week, please find the below the link for Talk to Frank – the dangers of chroming.

<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/glues-gases-and-aerosols>

If you need any support with any of our safeguarding updates please contact one of the safeguarding team.

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: Alexis  
8: Hannah  
9: Lucas  
10: Isaac  
11: Adam  
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:  
Year 7 → Mia  
Year 8 → Finley  
Year 9 → Victoria  
Year 10 → Amelia  
Year 11 → Lauren

Form winners for the most positive points include:  
Year 7 → 7BID  
Year 8 → 8COL  
Year 9 → 9STE  
Year 10 → 10OGD

## Stars of the Week



## Dates for your diary:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2024     | Celebration assemblies<br>PA Assessments all week  |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2024  | Careers Fair 12-4pm Years 9 – 11                   |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024     | School closes for Half-Term 3pm                    |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024     | Theme of the week – Setting a goal                 |
| Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024  | Year 10 (5pm) and 11 (6pm) Information evening     |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024     | Blackpool and Fylde College Assembly – Year 11     |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024     | Chemistry Week starts<br>Assembly – Remembrance    |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024   | Year 8 Consultation Evening 4-7pm                  |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024    | Theme – International Men's Day                    |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 | Year 7 PGL departs                                 |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024    | Year 7 PGL returns<br>Year 11 Remembrance Assembly |

**Clare Doherty**  
Headteacher



## Girls Football

Wyre Juniors U12 Jets are currently in their 3<sup>rd</sup> season as a team and play on Sunday mornings in the top division of the Poulton and District Primary Girls League.

We train on Tuesday evenings 5pm to 6pm at Garstang Academy.

Could you be the girl to help push this team on and take us forward, not just for this season but when we move to 11-a-side next season and into the future.

We are looking to take on a minimum of 3 new players.

Could you be the player/s we need? Are you up for a new challenge? If so, why not give it a go.

For more information, please contact the Jets manager Gordon King on 07891 161662

