



Headteacher Update – 28th April 2025

Parents, Carers, Students, Family and Friends of Baines School,
All Year 11 students will have now come home with their Examination Booster Timetable following Mr Mycock’s assembly on Friday. Booster sessions allow students to come off timetable for a few hours prior to their next examination to do final preparations. We ran this for the first-time last year, and had very positive feedback from the students.

Independent Learning Update

We are continuing to prioritise **independent learning** for all students here at Baines; thank you for your support with this so far. You’ll have read in a previous update that independent learning has a significant impact on student confidence and competence, and our school mission statement reminds us that nothing comes without effort.

If any students do not have access to technology and would benefit from borrowing a laptop, please email Mr Hurst (shu@baines.lancs.sch.uk) and we can try to sort something out.

Studying at home needs to be habit for all. We have started to issue consequences for those who are not yet demonstrating perseverance and consistency. We want to avoid these detentions and empower them to see the benefit, because we know that consequences for students have implications for their parents and carers too.

So if you’re struggling to motivate your young person to manage their independent learning, here are some useful tips to remove barriers:

<p>If time is a barrier Maybe they have commitments to other hobbies or there is limited time at home to help them.</p>	<p>After school interventions are available to all in all subjects. Have they thought about using the fantastic facilities in our ILC to complete their work before or after school? Even lunch times would give them time and space to work. Creating a weekly timetable or a family system to make it a predictable priority could work. There are 168 hours in a week, are they using their time on the right things?</p>
<p>If motivation is a barrier Is it just not on their radar? Do they lack interest in doing any sort of study at home? Do they resist or argue when prompted?</p>	<p>This barrier may require a slightly stricter approach, especially if your young person is opting to do other things first. Can you set time limits on social media? Can they earn their social time in exchange for completing independent learning? Have you checked Synergy together to see when things are due and what they need? Set timers and interim rewards to motivate and enthuse. Use ‘when’ and ‘then’ language. “When you’ve done your Sparx, then you can do your own thing.”</p>
<p>If equipment is a barrier Lack of access to the right tools, such as internet or a space to work.</p>	<p>Please contact your child’s progress tutor if a lack of equipment is preventing them from getting into a daily habit with their independent learning. We can help.</p>

In keeping with our school culture and ethos, we always try to celebrate and reward our young people to inspire them to make the right choices.

Have you considered creating rewards at home for completion of their independent learning? Before they go out with friends or play their games, could they earn their social time by showing you their completed work?

This praise-based approach is often more effective and leads to a happier house.

Get in touch if we can do more to help you.

Careers Update

**INDUSTRY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Baines School is looking for volunteers to support their **Year 10 Work Experience Programme**. This will take place on the following dates: 26th June, 27th June, 30th June, 1st July and 2nd July 2025. Students will be provided with one day's work experience, which will take place at school.

We are searching for volunteers from the following professions and industries:

**COMPUTING
CREATIVE
PHOTOGRAPHY
HEALTHCARE
MEDICAL**

**PERFORMING ARTS
MUSIC
PSYCHOLOGY
TEACHING
TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

Please contact our Careers Adviser Miss Kinder to express your interest or for more information about what is involved:
kki@baines.lancs.sch.uk

We are busy planning our Work Experience Week for Year 10! We have already secured employers / industry volunteers for some job sectors, but we are in need of further help with our search. If you work in any of the sectors stated above and would like to come into school to inspire our students then we would love to hear from you. Please spread the word with your family and friends if you know anyone with relevant job roles or experience.

Former Pupils Association (FPA) Annual Gathering

The FPA met for their annual gathering on Saturday at school. It was a lovely event with a good turnout. Our Head Students welcomed the past students to the school and spoke to them about their current studies as they prepare for their GCSEs, and shared their success with the Duke of Edinburgh which is sponsored by the FPA.

We looked at old year books and even some of the old uniform, with caps from 1908 on display. After a two-course meal, we sang the Baines Song with gusto!

As always it was humbling to listen to the former staff and students talk about their time at Baines School so passionately, making memories that they still have. They truly do fit our mantra of 'Belong at Baines'. This is what we wish for all our students.



Baines School Former Pupils' Association and Baines Alumni (Written by David J Astall, President of Baines School FPA)

Once a Bainesian always a Bainesian. Attending Baines School isn't just about your years as a pupil or member of staff..... It's about being a member of the Baines family.

I am a former teacher at the school (1989 – 2015) and President of the FPA as well as the Secretary of the Baines Alumni. The Alumni is a free to join organisation and is designed to keep Everyone Talking. If you wish to join the mailing list then simply email me.

Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

28th April 2025

'Encourage, Engage, Empower'

The FPA is open to both former pupils, current and former members of staff of the school. It was founded in 1906 by the Headteacher Thomas Whittington, 'the father of the school', and still has its founders' objectives at its core.

These are:

- To promote the interests of Baines School in every possible way;
- To help former members of the School keep in touch with one another;
- To help develop the current pupils to reach their full potential.

Thomas Whittington created the modern school; he gave it its name, its badge, its motto and its school song! He also encouraged pupils to be independent, supportive and work as a team. His views on education are still being put into practice around the world. His Motto: Nil Sine Labore still holds good today is Nothing Without Hard Work.

From the moment you attend Baines School you become a member of the Baines Family; but why should it end when you move on to other establishments? You will always be a Bainesian. But why not take it one step further and help the school to survive by joining the Former Pupils Association. The current cost of membership is a mere £10 per year.

For many people, leaving school often means the last time they ever see many of their classmates and former teachers. However, at Baines School, the FPA is there to ensure this does not happen, so close friends do not lose touch.

The FPA has a membership of all ages and occupations around the globe. It supports the School in many ways, and is a vital network for engagement between the Family of Baines across the generations. We encourage communication and preserve the school by being the custodians of the school archive – a collection of everything Baines.

Since becoming President, it has been my aim to foster communication with the former pupils and staff with the production of a regular newsletter and the Baines Alumni website. We currently sponsor the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the School and monies for other projects.

But an organisation of this type needs to develop if it is to survive and that means we need new (younger) blood. We need people with ideas to connect to the younger generation to help us survive for another 120 years.

David J Astall, President of Baines School FPA

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/bainesalumni/> Email: bainesalumni@btinternet.com

Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadets

Harry Snelson, Blackpool and Fylde Cadet Leader, has been in touch with school to advertise the group to parents/carers and students.

Police cadets are a free cadet group that not only learns about the constabulary but also other emergency services and important causes such as guide dogs. This also means, uniform, sessions and trips are completely free for the cadets. The cadets also do a lot of work in the community such as helping with events,

litter picking, putting on sessions for younger children and much more! The cadets are asked to volunteer 3 hours a month at events, which most of the time will only be half an event!

Extra qualifications can also be gained while in cadets, for those that are currently in year 11 they can start a Level 2 BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community in September. Also, after being a cadet for a year, the cadets are eligible to complete their bronze DofE award.

Not everyone in cadets wants to go into the police, some cadets do it so they are out and about.

The North cadet unit run out of Blackpool and The Fylde College on Ashton Road on a Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm. Cadets are aged 13-18, but if there is a student that will be 13 before Christmas that would like to apply, then they can.

If you have any questions, please email the Blackpool Co-ordinator at Nicola.Leigh@lancashire.police.uk

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:

Mrs Macfarlane (DSL – Associate Assistant Headteacher)

Mrs Moxham (Pastoral Manager)

Mrs Doherty (Headteacher)

Mrs Streetly (Assistant Headteacher Wellbeing and Mental Health)

Mr Moseley (Pastoral Officer)

If you have any ideas how you feel we could improve our safeguarding of students, please feel free to email Mrs Macfarlane (jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding lead on jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk

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

Here is some more information on Kooth for parents and carers –

Kooth is free to access via any internet-connected tablet, computer or smartphone. There are no waiting lists or thresholds to meet and a referral from a medical professional is not needed. Your child can join Kooth anonymously simply by visiting www.kooth.com.

Kooth offers young people a range and choice of support options under one digital roof.

It has services that are accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This includes one to one text based sessions with experienced counsellors and wellbeing practitioners run from midday to 10pm on weekdays, and from 6 -10pm at the weekend. Appointments can be booked in advance or accessed via a drop-in text-based chat. Kooth also provides a fully safeguarded and pre-moderated community with a library of peer and professional created articles. And there are discussion forums too. All content is pre-moderated and age appropriate.

Kooth covers many topics on the website including relationships, LGBTQIIA+, exam stress, anxiety, eating difficulties, self harm, suicidal thoughts, body image, social media, bullying and family worries. All of these subjects affecting young peoples' mental health are presenting issues that Kooth and other mental health providers see from all age groups. Kooth is commissioned by the NHS and clinically approved for children from the age of 10, and is the only digital mental health provider to hold a BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) accreditation across the Country.

If you have any questions please let us know. If you would prefer to contact Kooth directly, please email parents@kooth.com.

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: Ethan
8: Oliver
9: Niamh
10: Kiara
11: Holly
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:
Year 7 → Luna
Year 8 → Finley
Year 9 → Isaac
Year 10 → Amelia
Year 11 → Amber

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

Stars of the Week



Dates for your diary:

Monday 28 th April	Assembly: Earth Day Year 7 Gideons Assembly Fine Art Exam
Tuesday 29 th April	3D Exam
Wednesday 30 th April	Fine Art Exam
Thursday 1 st May	Year 8 HPV vaccinations 3D Exam
Friday 2 nd May	James Baines Book Award 2025 (School Hall)

Monday 5 th May	School closed – May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May	Assembly: How to revise Remembering 80 th Anniversary VE Day
Thursday 8 th May	GCSE Summer Examinations start
Monday 12 th May	Assembly: Mental Health Awareness Week
Monday 19 th May	Assembly: Activities Day & Celebration
Tuesday 20 th May	Year 8 Science Trip
Friday 23 rd May	School Closes for May Half Term at 3pm
Monday 2 nd June	School Re-opens Assembly: Headteacher's Assembly HE* Event at Cardinal Newman College (Year 9 Excellence Cohort)
Monday 9 th June	Assembly: Race for Life launch
Monday 16 th June	Assembly: Charity Week
Friday 20 th June	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice
Monday 23 rd June	Assembly: School Diversity Week Year 10 Experience Day at Blackpool & Fylde College
Tuesday 24 th June	Year 10 River Wyre Field Trip
Wednesday 25 th June	Year 10 River Wyre Field Trip Year 11 Leaver's Day
Thursday 26 th June	Year 10 Work Experience Week Year 10 River Wyre Field Trip Celebration of Achievement – 7pm
Friday 27 th June	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Monday 30 th June	Assembly: Our Year in Review Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 1 st July	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 10 Work Experience Week Pre-admission Evening for the new Parents/Carers 6:30pm
Thursday 3 rd July	Year 6 Induction Day 1 Year 11 Leavers' Ball
Friday 4 th July	Year 6 Induction Day 2 (TBC)
Monday 7 th July	Assembly: Years 9 & 10 Race for Life Sports day during this week
Tuesday 8 th July	Years 7 & 8 Race for Life Year 10 Blackpool Sixth Form Experience Day
Wednesday 9 th July	Creative Arts Summer Concert 6pm in school hall
Thursday 10 th July	Year 9 Dissection labs event
Friday 11 th July	Sports Celebration Assemblies Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifier
Monday 14 th July	Assembly: Celebration & keeping yourself safe this summer Year 7 Musical In A Day
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 7 Musical In A Day
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 9 Dissection labs event
Thursday 17 th July	Activities Day
Friday 18 th July	Celebration Assemblies Years 7-10 School Closes for Summer Holidays at 1pm

Clare Doherty
Headteacher



BELONG AT BAINES