



## **Headteacher Update – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

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

Welcome back after the half-term break; I hope you enjoyed some quality family time together.

This week we will be formalising our approach to reading for our Year 7 and 8 students, as they will be following a reading programme one morning a week during form time with their Progress Tutors. Students in Year 7 will be reading Holes, Private Peaceful, Spook's Apprentice, Artemis Fowl...Eternity Code and Skellig, whilst our Year 8 students will be reading Point Blanc, Chains, Face and The Wish List. Some students will also continue to attend reading support in form time, to allow them to develop their phonics and comprehension skills.

Miss Hallam is also starting a Year 7 and 8 numeracy form time intervention, where students who are struggling with a specific topic, for example place value or long multiplication, will attend a form time booster to help them close any gaps, so they can continue to make progress in their mathematics lessons. This will happen each Thursday and Friday for Year 7 and 8 students, respectively.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, please contact the Progress Tutor in the first instance.

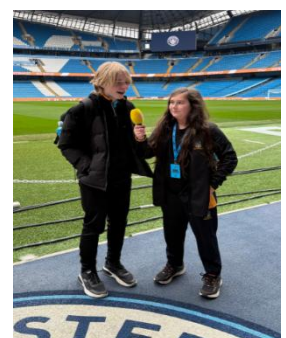
We will also be trialing a new system with Year 7 students to support them in completing their independent learning. Independent learning is a crucial skill and a habit we instill in students from Year 7.

This week in assemblies, students will learn about overcoming difficulties, and be asked – are they a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? Do they wilt (like a carrot), do they become hard (like the egg), or do they adapt to their surroundings to ensure they succeed (like the coffee bean)?

All students get one chance at their education, and we make no apology for our high expectations for behaviour and attendance in our community. We know that *Nil Sine Labore* — nothing without effort — is the foundation of every success.

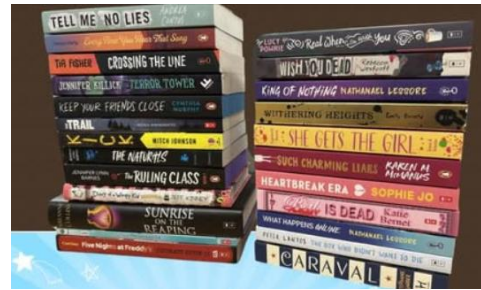
### **Manchester City Visit**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February Mr Cox took 50 Year 8 students to Manchester City to discover what it is like to be a footballer for the day. During the stadium tour, they looked at what a player would do from the morning they woke up through to going home. They look at how they prepare for a match day, and how they recover. The day complemented the students' learning on health, fitness, and diet, as they learned about preparation, fitness, diet, performance analysis, training and nutrition. The students really enjoyed the day, especially seeing how the learning can be applied in the world of work.



## Book Fair

Thank you to all the families who purchased from our book fair prior to half-term. Thanks to your generosity we have now been gifted the books you can see in the photo from Scholastic book fair to add brand new stock to our library for all our students to enjoy. Please encourage your children to come and take a look.



## Milly Year 9

Well done to Milly who has had successful trials at Burnley Football Club and is now part of the Emerging Talent Centre. Milly is also on the Elite Coaching Pathway programme with Blackpool Football Club.

Milly also qualified for the finals of the 3x3 UK tournament which will be held in August at the AO Arena in Manchester.

Nil Sine Labore Milly!



If you have a sporting, musical, performance (or any unlisted!) successes for your child at Baines please contact [news@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:news@baines.lancs.sch.uk) and our Baines Buzz team will be able to follow it up

## Word of the Week

Word  
of the  
Week

**ambiguous**



(adjective) Open to one or more interpretation; not having one fixed meaning

The Latin prefix 'ambi-' means 'both ways' (e.g. **ambidextrous**: using both hands equally)

“The end of the play was rather **ambiguous**.”

“There was a lot of **ambiguity** in the movie.”

# 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 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](mailto:jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk))

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding lead on [jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

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.

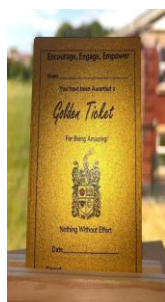
Chroming has been in the news again recently due to a TikTok challenge. Below is a news article from two years ago, highlighting the dangers for parents and carers

<https://ssslearning.co.uk/safeguarding-articles/chroming-risks?srsId=AfmBOopTY47BLNEluRGXAKYnneSMelkWH0rAzdbTNjvmRXMNUfB4UnM3>

## Stars of the Week:



## Golden Ticket Winners:



7: Priya  
8: Henry  
9: Oliver  
10: Lola  
11: Levi  
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:  
Year 7 → Ella  
Year 8 → Hayden  
Year 9 → Oliver  
Year 10 → Poppy  
Year 11 → Thomas

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

## Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
23-02-2026	School Re-Opens
26-02-2026	Year 8 Work Explorer Day - work with a parent for the day
27-02-2026	Year 11 and 10 Mock Examination Results Day
28-02-2026	Musical Rehearsals / Trip to Fylde Rugby Club
02-03-2026	Secondary School Offer Day
04-03-2026	Year 10 Consultation Evening
05-03-2026	Year 9 Vaccinations / World Book Day
06-03-2026	Year 11 School Photographs
09-03-2026	Year 9 Options Evening 5.30-7.30pm
16-03-2026	School Musical Dress Rehearsal 5-9pm
17-03-2026	School Musical 7pm start
18-03-2026	School Musical 7pm start / Year 11 Consultation Evening
19-03-2026	School Musical 7pm start / Year 11 Elevate Exam Preparation for students & parents
20-03-2026	BAE Stem Competition
24-03-2026	Year 9 Macbeth Theatre Trip
25-03-2026	Belgium Battlefields Trip (departs and returns on Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> March)
27-03-2026	School Closes at 3pm for the Easter holidays (school re-opens on Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April)

Clare Doherty

Headteacher

*Nil Sine Labore*