



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

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

It has been an extremely busy time for our staff and students this past week, especially for Miss Addenbrooke, Mr Kaseke and our extremely talented performers. After months of rehearsals, including weekends and evenings until 9pm, our cast of Grease absolutely rocked (like Grease Lightning!). The backstage crew ensured everything ran seamlessly and our band made up of Mr Kaseke, Libby, Lilly, Willow and Ava, performed all the backing music flawlessly, and our cast (Skye, India, Maisy, Macey, Lucy, Willow, Esme, Candice, David, Maisie, Leila, Noah, Indiarna, Lucia, Harry, Cerys, Tye, Ava, Jed, Evie, Libby and Iris), performed brilliantly. They brought the characters alive, with all students having the opportunity to sing, dance and act. It was humbling to see not only their talent, but how our older students took the younger ones under their wings, mouthing lines with them, encouraging them and holding their hand when necessary. It made me so proud to be the Headteacher at Baines School and be part of this truly wonderful family.

A huge 'Thank you' to both Mr Kaseke and Miss Addenbrooke. They have spent hours beyond their normal role rehearsing with the students, as well as participating in the recent Winter Gardens Show, and only last week were recording, moderating and marking all the performances for our Year 11 Performing Art students.

### **Year 11 Update**

Mr Flynn and our Senior Leadership Team have been meeting with all the families of Year 11 students, with more meetings over the next few days. As part of our 'Project Power Up', we have been sharing successes and next steps in the final run up to the summer examinations.

Elevate revisited on Thursday, guiding students on high lever strategies to help them with their revision. The importance of note taking, summarising, blurting (writing down everything you know), revision checklists, exam specification and practice papers were discussed. This was then complemented with a parent session in the evening.

### **Year 10 Update**

Students in Year 10 are in the final stages of preparing for their Literature GCSE. To further support the students, their only homework / independent learning will be Literature-based and they will receive this on a much more frequent basis. Students need to ensure they understand plots, characters, and themes on subsequent reads, and create a quote bank, so they can memorise short and versatile quotes. They need to learn what each character represents (their function in the plot) and how themes are presented, rather than just what happens and understand the social, historical, and biographical context of when the text was written, and how it influences the themes. They also need to analyse how and why, as well as learning to break down poems (seen and unseen).

All students have been given very bespoke advice on their next steps and the independent learning they are expected to complete will support this.

### **Year 9 Update**

Year 9 students have now completed their Careers Unit in their RESPECT lessons and attended consultation evening and the Wyre District Careers Events 'Prosper'. Our Careers Advisor, Mrs Uphill, has also spent time with some students who requested further advice.

They have learned about the different key Stage 4 qualifications we offer and post 16 options, including apprenticeships, T Levels, A Levels and vocational courses. All the students also had the opportunity to participate in a taster day, where they had short lessons introducing them to the Key Stage 4 qualifications. We are now at the point where all students should have handed in their Options Form by today. If you know your child has not, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible.

### **Bradley Year 9**

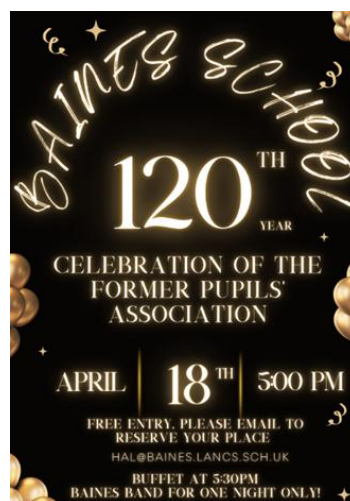
Bradley has been awarded the Lewis John's Award for Best Attendance for the 2025 presentation evening. This award shows dedication and commitment to the cadets throughout the year, with his name engraved on the trophy to be displayed in the cadets. An absolutely brilliant achievement which Bradley should be so proud of.



**Nil Sine Labore!**

### **120 Years of the Former Pupils' Association**

On 18<sup>th</sup> April, members of the Former Pupils' Association are invited to attend a celebration at Baines School.



If you are part of the FPA please be sure to email [hal@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:hal@baines.lancs.sch.uk) to confirm your attendance.



(verb) To accept, admit or recognise that something is true or exists or has happened.

*Includes the English word, 'know' and 'knowledge'*

"She **acknowledged** her mistakes."

"He refused to **acknowledge** the danger ahead."

## 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.

**As social media continues to be in the news, especially highlighting the dangers of TikTok challenges for example, below is some advice regarding risk taking behaviour:**

### Key Advice for Parents

- **Encourage Healthy Risks:** Allow children to stretch their comfort zones by trying new activities, sports, or taking on challenges like climbing or public speaking, which builds resilience.
- **Encourage Open Communication:** Talk openly about dangers (alcohol, drugs, online safety) rather than lecturing.
- **Set Clear Boundaries:** Involve children in setting rules and consequences for breaking them, which helps them take ownership of their decisions.
- **Stay Connected:** Know where your children are, who they are with, and build trust so they feel comfortable coming to you.
- **Model Decision-Making:** Discuss scenarios and ask open-ended questions to help them evaluate potential consequences of risky choices.

- **Follow Through:** Be consistent with agreed-upon consequences to establish safety limits.

- **Support & Monitor:** Provide opportunities for controlled risk-taking, such as skateboarding or acting,

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to channel their need for adrenaline into safe activities.

As always, if you need any support or further advice, please contact school.

### Stars of the Week:



### Golden Ticket Winners



7: Lewis  
8: Scarlett  
9: Ollie  
10: Lucy  
11: Sage  
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:  
Year 7 → George  
Year 8 → Daniel  
Year 9 → Amelia  
Year 10 → Benjamin  
Year 11 → Shafia

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

### Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
23-03-2026	Geography Field Trip
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*