



## Headteacher Update – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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

### Former Pupils' Association

On Saturday the Former Pupils' Association met for its annual general meeting before the party celebrating its 120-year anniversary! Approximately 50 people attended, where they could catch up with each other and meet old and new friends. Thank you to our catering team who made a lovely buffet, and a huge thank you to the Baines Band, who reformed for one night only!! Millie (graduated from Baines in Summer 2025) on the drums, Noel, Gabe and Nat on guitars (graduated Summer 2024) and Libby on vocals who is currently in Year 11. The oldest guest left Baines in 1952 and reminisced with our students who attended regarding what school was like then.

The FPA is a very special group of people who get involved in all aspects of school life, not least with their sponsoring of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. We will see more of the FPA over this year as they become even more involved.



### Battlefields Visit – An account from Mr Egan, Visit Leader and History Teacher at Baines School

The school visit to the Belgium battlefields was a powerful and unforgettable experience, bringing history to life in a way that no classroom lesson could. Walking through the landscapes of the Somme, we began to understand the sheer scale of the fighting during the First World War. The wide, open fields looked peaceful during the visit, but it was hard to imagine the destruction and loss that once defined the area.

One of the most moving locations we visited was Essex Farm Cemetery. It was here that John McCrae wrote the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*. Seeing the simple graves and preserved trenches made the soldiers' experiences feel real and personal.

We then visited Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. Row upon row of white headstones stretched as far as we could see, each representing a life lost. The scale of it was overwhelming and deeply moving.

At Langemark German War Cemetery, the atmosphere felt different. The darker stones and mass graves highlighted the shared tragedy on all sides of the conflict, reminding us that loss was universal.

The visit ended with the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony. Standing beneath the Menin Gate as the Last Post was played was incredibly emotional. Hearing the bugles echo through the crowd created a moment of silence and reflection that brought the entire experience together.

Overall, the trip helped us understand the human cost of war and the importance of remembrance in a way that textbooks simply cannot convey.



### **Attendance Games!**

We launched our Attendance Games last week, where year groups, led by the year group's Senior Gladiators (Leaders!).



The first week's results are in.....



### Mobile Phones

Last week students were informed of a slight change regarding mobile phones in school. Students will be expected to turn phones off and put them in their bags by 8.25am each morning. At the end of the day, they are not allowed to get their phones out of their bags until they are off school premises. This is to support our continued drive to safeguard students and is in line with new government guidelines.

Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

*'Encourage, Engage, Empower'*

## Uniform

We are seeing more skirts being worn inappropriately by being rolled up or deliberately shortened. Our school uniform policy does state that skirts should be knee length. We are aware of how costly it can be to keep updating uniform, so we do give a certain leeway as students grown taller, however, we ask that parents and carers work with us on this.

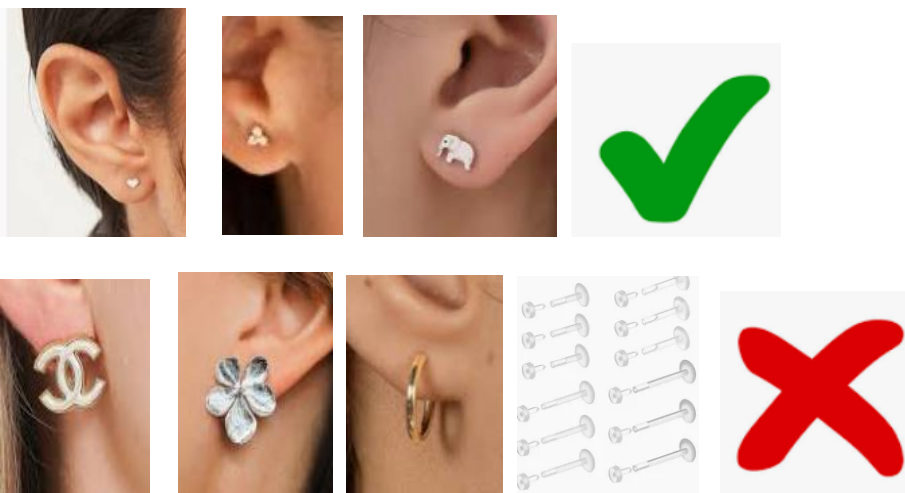
Students who continue to roll up their skirts will unfortunately be sanctioned to support them to make better choices. If skirts are genuinely too short, we will offer to swap the skirt for a bigger one, if possible, if you would prefer.

Uniform and Leisure have launched a new website, and as part of this they have changed the code to ensure you receive free delivery of uniform items directly to school. Please use the code – BAINESFD.

Our core value of professionalism begins with the uniform that students wear.

## Jewellery

All schools have policies regarding jewellery. Our expectation is for students to wear a wristwatch and one pair of small studs only in the first hole in the lower lobe. Large studs should not be worn, hoops should not be worn, and earrings in other areas of the ear should not be worn, including retainers.



This is not a new rule.

If a student wears multiple earrings, earrings not in the lower lobe (first hole) or other jewellery then they will be asked to remove them. No student is singled out over this, it is the expectation for all and all members of staff will uphold this expectation.

## Word of the Week

Word  
of the  
Week

# integrate



(verb) To combine one thing with another to make a whole; to bring people or groups into equal participation into another, larger group.

*From the Latin, 'interger', meaning 'whole'*

"The new pupil managed to **integrate** quickly into life at Baines."

## 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.

We recently heard some very sad news, regarding the brother of an ex-student. Adil left Baines School a few years ago, and staff were absolutely devastated to hear about his brother.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/supporting-a-family-with-the-loss-of-their-beloved-son-absi>

In light of this very sad news, please find below some tips regarding swimming, which can be discussed with students.

### Essential Safety Tips

- Never Swim Alone: Use the buddy system to ensure someone can help or call for aid.
- Supervise Children: Keep children within arm's reach at all times.
- Check Conditions: Check weather, water temperature, and tide reports.
- Know Your Limits: Stay within your swimming ability.
- Avoid Alcohol: Never consume alcohol while swimming or supervising children.
- Enter Slowly: Enter water slowly to avoid the "gasp reflex" caused by cold water shock

### Beach and Open Water Safety

- Swim Between Flags: Only swim between the red and yellow flags on lifeguarded beaches.
- Understand Flags: Red flags mean it is unsafe to swim; yellow flags indicate caution.
- Identify Hazards: Watch for strong currents (rip currents), tidal changes, and hidden objects.
- Avoid Dangerous Areas: Stay away from piers, rocks, and designated boat zones

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## Stars of the Week:



## Golden Ticket Winners



7: Poppy  
8: Tyler  
9: Leyla  
10: Niamh  
11: Leila  
Well done to all our students  
who have been awarded  
Golden Tickets.

Students with the  
most positive points  
this week:  
Year 7 → Kloe  
Year 8 → Rory  
Year 9 → Hannah  
Year 10 → Joe  
Year 11 → Isla

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

## Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
24-04-2026	Bronze DofE Practice Walk
27-04-2026	GCSE Art & 3D Exam Week
28-04-2026	GCSE & BTEC exam season starts
04-05-2026	School closed – May Bank holiday
06-05-2026	Year 7 Blackpool Zoo trip
20-05-2026 – 22-05-2026	Year 10 River Wyre Field Trips
22-05-2026	School closes for half term and returns on Monday 1st June 2026

Clare Doherty

Headteacher

*Nil Sine Labore*