



## Headteacher Update – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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

Working in education is not just a job; it is very much a vocation, and an extremely rewarding one. When I became a teacher, it was because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of our students, support them in their education and remove barriers to help them succeed and flourish. This has not changed.

In the past two years since I was made permanent Headteacher of Baines School, I have been attacked online, sworn at by parents at the school entrance, spat on by a parent and most recently a male parent squared up to me.

The parents who behave in this way are very much in the minority here at Baines, but their behaviour does make it so much more difficult. It distracts from our core business which is to ensure our wonderful young people get an excellent education. Parents still have every right to raise concerns, but calm, focused communication makes solutions far more likely

I am proud of the journey Baines School has been on and stand by the decisions I have made to ensure that students can learn in a safe, peaceful, and productive environment and that teachers can teach without interruptions. We have increased the support our students receive for their mental health and have our own school counsellor and have dedicated SEND and pastoral teams who ensure students' needs are met and barriers reduced.

Teaching is not a 9-5 job, and I often come home thinking about students. What else can we put in place to support the family that has just been made homeless? Did we send enough food for the family who are struggling at the moment? What more support can we provide for the student who has just lost a parent? And when a police report comes through at midnight, what needs to be ready for that child at 8.30 in the morning?

Recently there has been another personal attack on me on Facebook. These attacks tend to be written by parents who are not happy how their child, who has not followed our rules, has been dealt with. Some are no longer at school due to this. Every school has rules which need to be followed. These rules are essential to create a safe, orderly, and respectful environment that maximises learning, protects students, and teaches vital life skills like responsibility and self-discipline. Rules ensure that a school functions properly, providing a fair atmosphere where everyone can thrive, while reducing distractions that hinder education.

As adults, it is also a concern, when we know that there are genuine worries regarding the impact that social media has on our children, what message are we sending to them?

I would ask that any parent or carer with genuine concerns contacts the school, so we can look to resolve them. We welcome prospectus parents and carers on tours of the school, during the school day, as we have absolutely nothing to hide.

All the incidents that have been mentioned have been reported to the Local Education Authority, our Legal Team, and the police. We are also working with our other local schools who face similar issues.

Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

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*'Encourage, Engage, Empower'*

We have recently had an OfSTED inspection, which has verified our journey, the actions we have taken and the impact they have had. I look forward to sharing this with you when it is published.

### Year 7 Girls' Football



### KS4 Examinations

Our Key Stage four examinations kicked off last week with Travel and Tourism on Friday. The students left the exam hall with big grins on their faces, as they searched for Mr Mycock to tell him everything!

This week we have Spanish, French and German examinations, as well as construction. The students have their own examination timetable along with their booster timetable, which we run separately to ensure students are fully prepared and calm ahead of their next exam. We are very proud of our students and the maturity they have shown so far. If you have any concerns regarding your child's mental health over this period, please do not hesitate to contact school. We have put additional resources in place for any last-minute wobbles.

On examination day, students can wear their Baines tracksuit if they feel more comfortable. Leavers' hoodies should only be worn with the brown uniform though please.

### Word of the Week

Word  
of the  
Week

**professional**



- (adjective) - Work that requires special training  
- Work or behaviour that is of a high standard

"The presentation he gave was very **professional**."

"It was an incredible moment when she became a **professional** football player"

## 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))

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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.

**TikTok** – Some parents have recently asked for advice regarding reporting posts to TikTok.

Below is some advice from TikTok on how to report an issue. You can also contact school regarding online posts. Our Network Manager, Mr Stanley, has just successfully had a post removed regarding some of our students. Remember, you must be at least 13 years old to create and have a TikTok account. Users aged 13 to 15 have their accounts set to private by default, and certain features, such as going live, purchasing virtual coins, or sending gifts, require users to be 18 or older. To keep children from harm online, our advice would always be to limit their exposure and wait until they are older.

You should also report online abuse to the police.

To report an issue to TikTok, go to your profile, tap the Menu (☰) -> **Settings and privacy** -> **Report a problem**. Select a relevant topic and follow the prompts. If the issue persists, select "No" to "Is your problem resolved?" and choose "Need more help?" to submit a detailed report or use the online feedback form.

#### How to Report Problems (App & Web)

- **Via App:** Navigate to **Profile > Menu (☰) > Settings and privacy > Report a problem**.
- **Topic Selection:** Browse topics (account, video, live) to find specific issues.
- **"Need more help?":** If suggested solutions fail, select "No" to "Is your problem resolved?" followed by "Need more help?" to submit a support ticket.
- **Web Form:** Use the online [Share feedback/Report a problem form](#) for issues, including bugs, privacy violations, or account access issues.

#### Specialized Reporting

- **Safety/Abuse:** Use specific webforms for cyberbullying of minors, nonconsensual intimate images, or child sexual exploitation/abuse.
- **Copyright:** Use the dedicated copyright infringement form, providing screenshots and profile links for faster resolution.
- **Content:** Select the "Report" button on a specific video, comment, or direct message to flag violations.

TikTok generally reviews reports within 48 hours

#### Stars of the Week:



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## Golden Ticket Winners



7: Joseph  
8: Riley  
9: Rueben  
10: Jonah  
11: Thomas  
Well done to all our students  
who have been awarded  
Golden Tickets.

Students with the  
most positive points  
this week:  
Year 7 → Bobby  
Year 8 → Luna  
Year 9 → Alexi  
Year 10 → Oscar  
Year 11 → Iris

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

## Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
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

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