



Headteacher Update – 13th July 2026

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

As we approach our final week of this academic year, it is hard to believe what a whirlwind it has been, both personally and professionally for both staff and students.

We have seen improved GCSE results and attendance figures which are now consistently above the national average, but school is so much more than just the academics!

Our creative arts have gone from strength to strength with our Christmas Concert, the school musical and our first ever outdoor music festival, featuring our very own staff band! The Baines Band reunited for one night only to celebrate the 120-year anniversary of the FPA. We had our first Paint Party (looking forward to the next one!), we celebrated our talent at the Seaside Art Exhibition and just last week we saw a wonderful art exhibition put on by our talented artists, with food prepared by our Hospitality and Catering Department.

Mr Egan is now our newly qualified Careers Leader and under his leadership our Year 10 students have had a full week of work experience, with Year 8 and 9 students participating in our first Workplace Explorer Days. We had mock interviews, CV workshops, Professional Masterclasses, NHS Experience Day and we participated in the BBC Careers Tour.

Our PE department continues to ensure that we offer a plethora of activities to engage students, including football (girls and boys), netball, rugby, rounders, athletics, cross country, golf, swimming, gymnastics, cricket and our sports days.

We are incredibly proud to announce that our PE Department has achieved the **School Games Gold Mark Award** for our commitment to physical education, school sport and promoting active lifestyles.

This national award recognises the dedication of our pupils, staff and wider school community in making sport and physical activity an important part of school life. Achieving Gold reflects the fantastic opportunities we provide for all children to participate, compete, lead and develop a lifelong love of being active.

Throughout the year, our pupils have enjoyed a wide range of sporting experiences, including inter-school competitions, festivals, after-school clubs and inclusive activities. We are particularly proud that so many children have represented the school in a variety of sports, while others have taken on leadership roles by supporting events, encouraging younger pupils and helping to organise activities.

This achievement would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, the support of parents and carers, and the encouragement of our local sporting partners. We would like

Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

13th July 2026

‘Encourage, Engage, Empower’

to thank everyone who has contributed to making this award possible.

Receiving the School Games Gold Mark is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the positive sporting culture we have created together. We look forward to building on this success by continuing to provide exciting sporting opportunities and inspiring every child to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

Congratulations to everyone involved on this fantastic accomplishment!

Our outdoor education programme has developed further with both the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Join In Award, Forest School and the PGL residential, with educational visits to Poland, Belgium Battlefields, Paris, Blackpool Zoo, numerous theatre visits and of course the Geography field trips!

Our student council has been strengthened under the leadership of Miss Wild and they have supported numerous community and charity events, including Macmillan Coffee Morning, Show Racism the Red Card, Save the Children, the Christmas Fair and Brian House Fundraising. The student council also supports the development of our young school leaders.

Our Literacy Team, Mrs Streetly, Mr Davies and Mrs Simmons have ensured reading is at the forefront of what we do, with World Book Day, the James Baines Book Award, our Book Fair, Reading Programmes and numerous Library Events running throughout the year. We are excited to take this further next year, with the introduction of Lexonic to support our students who need additional literacy interventions, and we will be introducing a full Reading Canon for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Staff have used their knowledge of students well, to ensure appropriate academic support is in place in the form of strategies such as Project Power Up, Elevate Sessions our Period 6 Boosters which run all year round for our students.

Staff have also run a very robust enrichment programme including Mandarin, British Sign Language Club, Summer School, Reading Clubs, chess, Pokémon, Dungeon and Dragons, art, STEM, cooking.... To name a few!!

Staff are passionate that all students will find their 'thing' at Baines School, and have offered nearly 200 additional programmes for students to get involved in.

#Belong@Baines!

Sports Day 2026

This year's Sports Day was filled with energy, enthusiasm and outstanding teamwork as pupils took part in exciting Football and Bench ball competitions. The atmosphere was fantastic, with pupils encouraging each other and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

The Football competitions showcased skill, determination and commitment with each team working together, communicating effectively and showing resilience whether winning or losing.

The Bench Ball competitions were equally exciting with fast-paced games requiring quick thinking, teamwork and accurate passing. Pupils demonstrated outstanding cooperation, supporting teammates and celebrating each other's successes.

What stood out most to the PE staff over the day, was the positive attitude shown by all the pupils; they

Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

13th July 2026

'Encourage, Engage, Empower'

displayed respect for opponents, officials and teammates making the day a true celebration of our values at Baines School!



Year 10 Maxwell Football Winners



Year 10 Collingwood – Bench Ball Winners



9 Bidwell – Football Winners



Year 9 Collingwood – Bench Ball Winners



Year 8 Collingwood – Football Winners



Year 8 Parr – Bench ball Winners



Year 7 Maxwell – Football Winners



Year 7 Bidwell – Bench Ball Winner

Outdoor Music Festival

On Wednesday 8th July we had our very first outdoor music festival, and what a performance it was! Our students were amazing, with several standout performances from the musicals Annie, Michael, Frozen to

Mrs C J Doherty

Headteacher Update

13th July 2026

‘Encourage, Engage, Empower’

name a few.

Our newly formed staff band performed Shallow, which was a huge hit, with vocals from Miss Addenbrooke, Mrs Macfarlane, Mr Holman, on the guitar were Mr Kaseke and Mr Paterson with Mrs Spencer on the keyboard.

Families brought deck chairs and picnics, and there was food available to buy as well. It was a huge success and we are looking forward to planning an even bigger event next year!!

Thank you to everyone who performed and everyone who supported.

KS3 Graduation

On Friday 10th July we celebrated the graduation of our Year 9 students from their KS3 studies as they start their KS4 studies in September. The students had been set challenges over the year and graduated with either a pass, Bronze Award, Silver Award, Gold Award or Platinum.

It was lovely to see more students than ever achieving the Gold and Platinum Awards.



Saying Goodbye

It is that time of the year where we also have to say goodbye to some staff.

Mrs Park is retiring from the Learning Support Department after a long career supporting our students. Mrs Leese is leaving after several years on our site team.

Miss Mainey, Mrs Macfarlane, Mr Hurst, Mr Newcombe and Mr Kelley are all moving on to new opportunities.

All these staff have been instrumental in the achievements we have seen as a school and have all contributed to our students' successes.

We wish them all well for the future.

September 2026 Start

School is open for a staff INSET day on Monday 1st September, and then open for all students on 2nd September. However, there will be a staggered start, with Year 7 and 11 students expected at school by 8.30am and Year 8, 9 and 10 students on line ups by 11.15am.

Uniform reminder for September 2026

From September 2026, the Government has put new rules in place to support families by lowering the cost of uniforms for new Year 7 students. To support all families, we are intending for all students to be able to follow the changes.

Our compulsory branded items will include:

1. Tie (we gift this to all new students);
2. Blazer;
3. Skirt or brown trousers (the skirt must sit on a student's knee);
4. Tracksuit.

Students can continue to purchase and wear the gold and black PE kit, however if families would prefer an alternative they can purchase completely plain, unbranded black T-shirts and knee-length black shorts. No branded T-shirts or shorts can be worn instead of the gold and black PE kit (as that defeats the purpose of having a more economical choice). Students are not allowed to wear cycling shorts or hotpants.

Students have always been allowed to wear plain black (no logo) leggings for their actual PE lesson.

Students representing school in competitions can be loaned kit for matches.

The rugby shirt is now optional, however if students play rugby, they are strongly recommended to have a spare as they will get muddy!!

The brown jumper will remain branded, but this has always been an optional piece of uniform.

Polo shirts which are worn all year round for Year 11 students and from Easter for all other students, have had an unbranded option for two years now anyway.

Another change from September 2026 will be for all students who wear skirts, will have to wear black tights underneath them. The uniform looks more professional with black tights and is something that other schools have already moved to. We will monitor this during the summer term, as it will be slightly warmer.

A final reminder that if students do choose to wear a small amount of make up, it must not be excessive. Anyone with excessive make up, false or uplifted eyelashes, false eyelashes, false nails or fake tan will be politely reminded to remove them, whilst we follow our uniform policy with them.

Mobile Phone Pouches

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have already purchased the pouches. If you are in receipt of free school meals and feel you would struggle with the cost, please do contact school.

Any students who do not have a mobile phone pouch will not be allowed to bring their phone to school.

We have had an outpouring of positive messages from parents and carers who are pleased with the steps we are taking to ensure their children are protected from the effects of social media during the school day. We have also been approached by several other schools interested in this initiative.

We have noticed previously how a lot of our Year 7 and 8 students are still act like children in the way they behave and play on the yard at break time and lunch. It is lovely to watch because none of us want our children to grow up too quickly in a world which can be difficult to manoeuvre. Mobile phones have made some of our

students grow up far too quickly.

Open Evening September 2026

Our Open Evening this year will be on Tuesday 22nd September. We are absolutely thrilled with the number of families who have already participated in a Year 5 tour (every Tuesday and Wednesday morning). If you would like to come on a tour as a prospective parent, please contact info@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Word of the Week

Word of the Week	achievement (noun) a significant success or goal reached through hard work, skill or perseverance. <i>From the Old French, 'achever', meaning 'to finish' or 'conclude'</i> "The Year 9 pupil was proud of his achievements in school that year." "Giving her presentation in front of the class was a huge achievement for her."	
---	---	---

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)

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding lead on

jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk

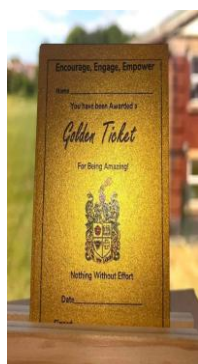
If you are worried about the mental health of your child or need some food from our food hub (tins, pasta, cereal etc), sending home, please contact the wellbeing team on wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk. We will be extremely discrete.



Stars of the Week:



Golden Ticket Winners



7: Jack
8: Georgia
9: Tommy
10: Julia

Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:
Year 7 → Marleigh
Year 8 → Benjamin
Year 9 → Amelia
Year 10 → Max

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

Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Monday 13th July	Year 7 Musical in a Day
Tuesday 14th July	Year 7 Musical in a Day
Wednesday 15th July	Sports Assembly Year 9 & 10 Paris Trip Departs
Thursday 16th July	Whole School Activities Day
Friday 17th July	Celebration Assemblies School closes for summer holidays at 1pm
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	School re-opens for the new academic year Year 7 and 11 are expected to be in school by 8.30am, all other year groups should arrive to be in line up by 11.15am.

We hope you have a restful break together over the summer and look forward to welcoming you back on 2nd September 2026.

Best wishes,

Clare Doherty

Headteacher

Nil Sine Labore