



Head Teacher Newsletter October 2022



Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been a very hectic but rewarding start to the new term. Our Summer exam results were pleasing in many respects, but we have some areas that we need to improve and they will be the main focus of the new academic year. They will be a high priority on our school improvement plan, which is currently with our governing body for submission.

Our Year 7 students have settled well and we are at full capacity in that year group (221 students). It was also fantastic to see over 500 people attend our Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 22 September. The school was very busy and over 250 Baldon students supported the evening and our visitors. From the feedback responses - 100% of parents enjoyed the evening and thought the school did an excellent job hosting the event.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Year 7 Welcome Event on Tuesday 11 October. It was lovely to see so many of you and recognise the positive start that Year 7 has made to their school life.

We have introduced our new school timetable, which has increased each school day by 15 minutes. Staff are on duty every morning and evening and this is supporting safe entry to and from school. We also introduced a free breakfast club at the beginning of the term and we are currently averaging around 60-70 students per day, who are receiving a free breakfast. We are providing free toast, spread, cereal and milk and I would formally like to thank Chartwells for supporting this programme. The school also raised money through non uniform days last year to support the breakfast club. We are also delighted to announce that we have been successful with the Kellogg's Breakfast Award, which gives the school £1,000 to spend on breakfast food items. We are fully committed to providing a free breakfast to all our students if they require it.

The New Road proposed works began on Monday 26 September and this will see a traffic calming zone erected with a 20 mph zone created just outside the school. With our increased number of students and parents this is a welcome addition to our site and will support safer travel and transport. The final part of the project will be completed in the new year. We have over 100 cycles and scooters in our school bike shed daily and we have a very diverse group of students who travel in a variety of ways. We are currently working with Mitie and IML to increase our cycle storage capacity and relocate the sheds nearer to the school to prevent theft and damage. It will also provide greater shelter and safety to students bringing their cycles / scooters to school. Although we cannot enforce the wearing of helmets, we strongly advise that all students riding a cycle to school should wear one to protect themselves in the case of an accident or injury. We would also advise that all students secure their cycle to the shed or fence to ensure it is protected from theft or mistaken identity.

Our Extra-Curricular programme is also well underway and we have 34 different activities for the students to choose every week. All faculties are involved in this which is fantastic. The staff support our students incredibly well and ensure that we have a very broad and positive after school programme. It is great to

see so many students enjoying after school clubs and we will continue these activities for the remainder of the year.

Our Attendance Rewards have been taking place throughout the week and the attendance team is rewarding all students with an attendance of over 96% with spot prizes being announced during morning break. It is absolutely essential that all students attend school and aim for the minimum attendance goal of 96%. The government and local authority are making attendance a clear priority this year after Covid and it is essential that all students make every effort to attend school or they run the risk of poorer GCSE or BTEC grades and missed opportunities with employment, education or training when they reach school leaving age.

Have a great half term holiday.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Ian Noble'.

Mr Ian Noble
Head Teacher

Staff Training Days for 2022/23

Our school will be closed to students during our next academic year on the following dates for staff training days

- **Friday 9 December 2022** - Staff training day
- **Monday 9 January 2023** - Staff training day

Change of Details

A reminder that if you change any of your contact details, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can update our systems. It is important we have up to date addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses for all of our students so you do not miss out on information.

Attendance and Behaviour Update

It has been a really positive start to the school year in terms of attendance and behaviour. Students have settled into their new routines well and are making good progress. The new Year 7 students have made a great start and are keen and enthusiastic to learn.

Students who get the scholars bus have displayed real maturity waiting for the bus which unfortunately does not arrive until 3.30pm. Students can wait inside the building until closer to the time instead of waiting outside. This shall obviously become a more attractive option to them as the nights draw in and temperatures drop but overall our neighbours have commented positively as to their behaviour whilst waiting for the bus to arrive.

Students achievements are also now visible to parents as they happen with our full implementation of Class Charts across the school. In the first 5 weeks of this term students have amassed over 150 000 positive achievement points compared to only 8000 negative. Students are doing particularly well in Science. Mathematics and History. The highest performing year group is Year 7 and our top students in each year group are:

- Year 7 - Robbie Hampton 327
- Year 8 - Shannon Curran/Mathew Vose 292
- Year 9 - Ahmbreen Dhillon 282
- Year 10 - Amber Warren 274
- Year 11 - Macey Hailstone 273

Well done to these young people.

Student attendance is fairly strong despite the various illnesses which appear to be sweeping through local schools. As you are aware attendance is crucial to students making good progress so please continue to send your children to school if at all possible and our outstanding pastoral team shall make sure they are cared for while they learn in a safe, warm and supportive environment.

Prime Drinks

Some students are bringing in Prime drinks and then selling them at vastly inflated prices. Please be advised that Prime Hydration drinks shall not be allowed in Boldon School after half term. If a student is found with one of these drinks they shall be removed and disposed of. Please pass this message on to your child.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Tuesday 4 October saw the Macmillan Coffee Morning take place in the Food Technology rooms. Staff volunteers were in early doors to start making scones for the masses. Soon after, KS3 students started to bring down their fantastic competition entry cakes, based on the theme of Royal Indulgence. The room came alive before school and at break time as both staff and students flooded the event, buying 'Guess the Sweets in the Jar' tickets and donating pennies in exchange for sweet and savoury treats. The morning was a huge success and the school raised £250 towards the excellent cause.



Student Bake Contest Winner – Shannon Curran - Well done!

Year 8 Football



After a slow start and a 4-0 defeat to Whitburn first game of the season, our Year 8 lads have been nothing short of outstanding in their last 3 fixtures. Our first home game in a while saw a comprehensive 6-0 win over Jarrow thanks to goals from Tyler (x2), Joe, Mohamed, Charlie and Oli.

In the following week, we welcomed St Wilfrid's where we took a very early 2-0 lead with 2 great finishes from Tyler. The second half was a totally different game and we managed to defend really well as a unit and held on to keep a clean sheet.

Last week, we welcomed Hebburn in a double-header (league and league cup). It was a highly competitive game against a very strong Hebburn side. After being up 3-0 at half time (including a fantastic free kick from Oli), Hebburn pulled it back to 3-3. It wasn't until the last minute where Scotty was fouled in the box and a penalty was awarded. Oli smashed it into the bottom corner to make it 4-3.

Many thanks to our Year 10 lads Aidan, Bradley, Owen, Jackson and Kyle who helped officiate our games.

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 boys football team kicked off the season with a 2-0 win against Jarrow. They then suffered defeat to a very strong St Joseph's side, the score ended 2-0 but the lads showed excellent resilience to keep the score down.

In the second set of fixtures the Year 7 team faced Hebburn, they battled to claim a point in a 0-0 draw. In the final game Boldon were beaten by Jarrow 1-0. The Year 7 students have shown outstanding character and attitudes throughout all of their games. Star player was captain Jay Johnson.

Year 10 Football

Our first game of the year in the county cup against Parkside. We came away 3-1 winners in a tough game. The start of the game was very scrappy, with neither team taking control of possession. Once we got our foot on the ball 3 quick goals by Kyle Nesworthy saw us head at half time. A nervy start to the second half, saw the visitors get an early goal, however we managed to hold them off and be in the draw for the next round. Man of the Match goes to Kyle Nesworthy.

U16 Table Tennis



Eight students split into two teams representing our school in the South Tyneside School Sport Network U16 Table Tennis Tournament, where our A team secured runners up position beating St Josephs in a very tough semi-final. Losing to a very strong Harton team in the final. All students played very well in a competition with a very high standard of players.



Duke of Edinburgh Practice Walks

We had 19 students out for our first practice walk since Covid. Students completed a 16km walk in one day around Hadrian's Wall in Hexham. Varying weather conditions over the 4 days made some challenging walking conditions, but great preparation for the expedition later this year. All students were a credit to themselves and were able to put map reading skills into practice. It is a really exciting time for Duke of Edinburgh, with another group of Year 10's ready to start their practice walks in the spring. Then opening it up to a new cohort of Year 9 students at Christmas.



Leadership Academy

Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen to participate in the Leadership Academy this year; Lucas Nixon, Jude Nixon, Leah Carson and Grace Barnes. These students were picked because of their attitude towards staff, PE lessons, extracurricular activities and when they participated in leadership activities in Year 8. The leadership academy aims to bring outstanding students from local schools together to form an influential and inspiring leadership cohort. The goal is to help grow and develop the leadership prowess and inter-personal skills of each pupil. As a result, leaders will be able to assist more competently and efficiently with PE provision and other active opportunities within our School. This allows leaders to build responsibility, gain confidence and develop vital life skills.

Finally, special mention to our Year 10 leaders; Madison Robinson, Cerys Russell, Kyle Nesworthy and Owen Gray who completed the course previously in Year 9 will also have the chance to further develop their leadership skills throughout Year 10.



the customs house
arts and entertainment for all

WHAT'S ON: 18.10.22

SHOWS ON SALE

Please note: All ticket prices includes
a contribution towards our restoration levy.

Should you require your tickets immediately,
we would recommend selecting the *Print at Home e-ticket* option.

COMING UP...

[Click here to see what is coming up](#)