



Head Teacher Newsletter May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of another half term, our Year 11 students have now completed almost three weeks of their GCSE examinations, with the exam season expected to finish at the end of June. The students' attitude, work ethic and commitment are excellent and we look forward to celebrating their achievement on results day in the summer.

Our focus on general school standards and expectations, concerning uniform and relevant equipment, has been positive and we thank you for your continued support with this. We continually monitor punctuality to lessons and all students should aim to have excellent attendance at 96% or above.

We always strive to have a positive relationship with parents and carers so that we can give the best possible support to your child. However, we are receiving an increased number of abusive and demanding telephone calls which will not be tolerated. All staff have been instructed to terminate any calls that become aggressive and irate. I am sure you agree that staff should be respected and communicated with in a polite manner.

Governors have appointed Mrs Louise Pippin as Deputy Head Teacher, effective immediately, and we congratulate her on a successful promotion to this post. We look forward to welcoming Mr Justin Peel who begins his headship at Baldon School on Monday 5 June 2023.

Mr Peel said *'I am very excited to be joining the school on Monday 5 June. The final half term of the year is an exciting time and affords me valuable time to get to know the school and its community a little better.'*

Mrs Pippin said *'It is a privilege to be appointed and I look forward to continuing the school's journey. We have excellent students, staff and families at Baldon; working effectively and collaboratively, always striving to maximise the potential of each student.'*

Enjoy the half term break and another bank holiday weekend.

Mrs Alison Ayre
Acting Head Teacher

ParentPay

A gentle reminder to please regularly check your child's school meal account on ParentPay and settle any outstanding payments as soon as possible.



If your child is in Year 11, please be conscious of how much money you put onto their account – the aim should be to have a balance as close to zero as possible when they leave. We will not be allowing Year 11 students to go into a minus balance.

If you haven't already, please activate your ParentPay account as future trips will be recorded here as we move towards a cashless system. If you do not have your activation code, please contact Gayle Eglington in the admin office.

SIMS InTouch

When replying to texts and emails from the school please ensure you include your child's name and details on what the text is regarding. This will enable us to manage information correctly.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is of high importance here at Boldon School. We have a duty of care towards our students, and therefore do not endorse them leaving the site throughout the course of the day without prior communication from parents or guardians.

Whilst we would encourage all appointments to be made outside of the school day, we understand that this is not always possible; we also understand that sometimes unforeseen circumstances or emergencies do arise.

However, if your child is going to be absent and this is known in advance, please ensure that the Attendance Team is notified on 0191 536 2176 (option 2) at your earliest convenience. In the event that your child needs to be collected from school for any other reason - such as unforeseen circumstances or emergencies, please contact Main Reception in the first instance on the same telephone number as above to ensure that your message is directed to the appropriate member of staff.

Students should not be encouraged to directly contact parents/carers throughout the school day using their mobile phones to request to leave early, and parents/carers should not expect to arrive on site and be able to collect their child without first having discussed the reason for leaving with a member of staff.

We pride ourselves on our open communication with our young people and their parents/carers, as this enables us to work effectively together to secure the best outcomes for our young people and to provide appropriate support where required.

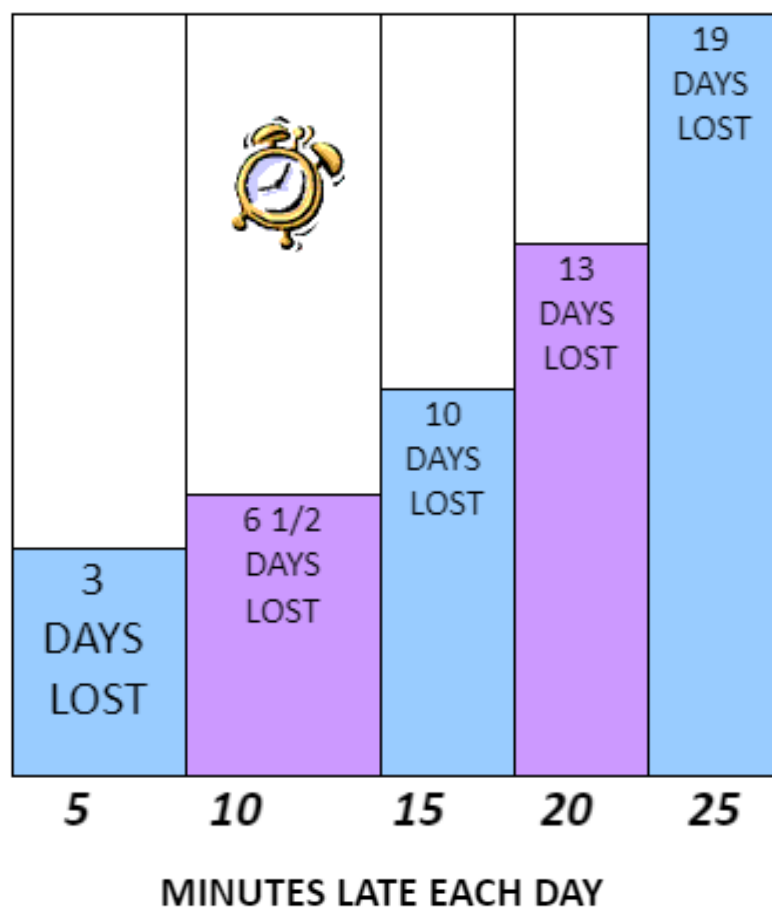
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Fairclough and Miss Thompson (Designated Safeguarding Leads).

Attendance

We, as a school, are determined to deliver a first-class education and a broad/balanced curriculum where all students reach their full potential. To achieve this, students need to be in the classroom and therefore their attendance is an important factor in reaching these goals.

We understand there may, at times, be unavoidable and genuine reasons for your child's absence and the school should be informed as soon as possible. We do always encourage our students to attend school in the first instance.

If appointments need to be made, please try your best to make them outside of school hours. If this is not possible, please contact the attendance team on option 2 to discuss the appointment in advance. Please provide evidence of appointments via the school e-mail, a copy of the letter or a text. Failure to do this may result in the appointment not being authorised. It is important that you do not ring the year leads to discuss appointments.



Categorising Attendance and Learning Hours Lost

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100% 99%	190 days 188 days	0 2	0 10
Good	98% 97% 96%	186 days 184 days 182.5 days	4 6 7.5	20 30 37.5
Cause for concern	95% 94% 93% 92% 91%	180.5 days 179 days 177 days 175 days 173 days	9.5 11 13 15 17	47.5 55 65 75 85
Unsatisfactory	90% 89% 88% 87%	171 days 169 days 167 days 165 days	19 21 23 25	95 105 115 125
Serious Cause for Concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85% 84% 83% 82% 81% 80%	161.5 days 159.5 days 158 days 156 days 154 days 152 days	28.5 30.5 32 34 36 38	142.5 152.5 160 170 180 190

Careers Week 2023 - Employment and Training Conference

We welcomed 40+ representatives to our school to talk to students and parents about live employment and training opportunities in the local area.



Tyne and Wear Fire Service

Year 11 students put on a fire kit to take part in practical training and teamwork activities, based on the role of a firefighter, at Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Phoenix Centre in Sunderland.



NCS Opportunities



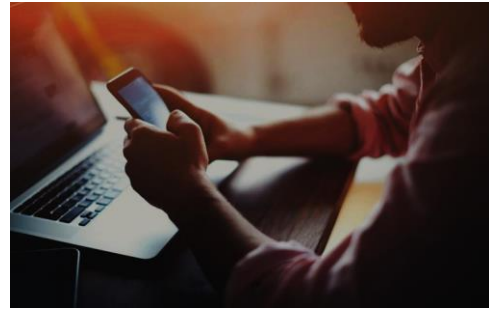
NCS have invited Year 11 students to choose from a range of experiences away from home. There are a choice of dates across the year during the school holidays. The maximum cost is £95, but your place could even be free depending on your circumstances.

For more information and booking head to the website <https://wearencs.com/>

Unifrog for Parents and Carers

We have set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process.

The sign up code you need is: **BLDNParents** and you can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code



unifrog

Creative Workshop

Year 7's took part in a creative workshop at the end of last half term. Thank you to all parents that were able to attend the showcase and hear the outcomes of the workshop. The students behaved extremely well and worked with our artists on improving their mental health and their perceptions of themselves. The theme was 'If you really knew me' and students were able to express their hopes and fears for the future. A big thank you to Hannah from Circmotif who facilitated the event and the local LCEP group for funding it.



Lion King Trip

On Wednesday 26 April we visited the Sunderland Empire Theatre to see the production of 'The Lion King'. The majority of students were from performing arts groups in Year 9 and 10. The show was outstanding and was the first theatre experience for many of our young people. The behaviour from all students was exemplary and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are hoping to organise more visits to the theatre in the new academic year.

Year 10 Hospitality

The Year 10 and 11 Hospitality classes have been making excellent progress in recent months. They have worked extremely hard towards their final practical assessment where they showcased an impressively high skill level. The students have taken great pride in developing their individual dishes and they show excellent culinary potential. Please enjoy some photographs of their mock exam!



Duke of Edinburgh

We have had two Year 11 groups doing their expedition, two days walking and one night camping in Alston. Students put into practice all the skills they have been taught and were successful in completing the expedition. Well done to all students involved.



PE/Sport Faculty

There are always plenty of activities taking place in the PE/Sport faculty to keep students active. We have many teams across a variety of sports, participating in competitions and representing Boldon School. Please see the separate PE/Sport Newsletter which celebrates all of the students' hard work, gives final scores, has photos of the teams and has shout outs to individual players.

Printing Workshop

In the Art department, Year 9 art, photography and textiles students have been involved in a printing workshop with local printing studio 'Northern Print'. Students learned how to complete a printing process called 'Dry Point Printing', they etched out their own designs and used a printing press to produce fantastic pieces of work. All students were fully engaged and put 100% into the workshop, our visitor from Northern Print was so impressed with their mature and focused attitudes!



LET'S CHAT

**11 - 19
YEARS
OLD?**

We help young
people with
all kinds of
things like...

**EMOTIONAL HEALTH
PHYSICAL HEALTH
LOW MOOD
SELF-HARM
BULLYING
EXAM STRESS
RELATIONSHIPS**

Message us for confidential advice and support



Send a message to

07480 635 607

and chat with a
school nurse

Find @SouthTynesideSchoolNurses at chathealth.nhs.uk

We do not usually inform your parents or anyone else if you contact our nurses. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we've received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a professional or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To view our NHS privacy notice please internet search: "NHS CCS privacy notice" or use this link bit.ly/nhsprivacynotice. Prevent our nurses from sending messages to you by texting STOP to our number.

NSR

 App coming soon


South Tyneside and Sunderland
NHS Foundation Trust



 ChatHealth

Boldon School

Reading Newsletter



At Boldon School, we appreciate the importance of reading, for both pleasure and for supporting academic work. In our termly newsletter, we will be sharing information about the variety of reading experiences that our students have been enjoying in lessons, recommending new and exciting materials whilst providing useful and informative tips to support your child's reading.

Boldon Library

A massive thank you to everyone who donated books to our school library. If you have any books that you would like to donate, please hand them into reception and they will be gratefully received.

World Book Day

World Book Day was on Thursday 2nd of March. We had a variety of exciting events happening throughout school. These included activities such as: the Masked Reader, World Book Day Quiz Day and book scavenger hunts.

This year was particularly special with our first ever DEAR day. DEAR stands for: Drop Everything and Read and involved all year groups. The idea behind this was to simply down tools and read a section of a story, depending on the period of the day. Our choice of text was 'The Landlady' by Roald Dahl. Our DEAR day was devised with the hope that every child will have participated in a collective reading activity where everyone is reading for pleasure. This was a fun, lively and rewarding experience in which staff and students were encouraged to be enthused about reading for pleasure. Please do take a look at the extract.



https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teaching/files/landlady_text.pdf

Access to Online Books

Myon.co.uk

This is linked to the student Accelerated Reading score to books will be of an appropriate level. Login is the same as their school username and password for Accelerated Reading.

Downloads eBooks and Audiobooks:



South Tyneside Council

Did you know that with a South Tyneside library card you get 24 hour access to hundreds of eBooks, audiobooks and online magazines, all free to download? You can register for your own library card. It only takes a minute and you can even sign up online!

<https://prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/southtyneside/join>

Once you have registered, you can start borrowing eBooks, audiobooks and magazines straight away.

Accelerated Reading:

Did you know that your child can take an Accelerated Reading quiz from home or on their phone? Click the link below to start a quiz:

<https://ukhosted49.renlearn.co.uk/6702473/>

Did you know? At the bottom of our library home page, we have an Accelerated Reading quiz that matches your child's reading level.

Accelerated Reader Levels
0.0 - 1.9
2.0 - 2.9
3.0 - 3.9
4.0 - 4.9
5.0 - 5.9
6.0+

Prime Reading

If you have an Amazon Prime account, you can also access free books from Prime Reading. Download them until they are read and then return them when you want your next instalment.



LGBTQ+ Novels

Heartstopper by Alice Oseman



Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.

Word of the Week

WORD OF THE WEEK

Quantity

Ways to use extractions and ellipsis, especially as a result of a stream of associative reading.

"If you hang out in hot, the sun all day, the multiple heat make you feel hot and gross!"



Recommended Reading

For each reading newsletter, we will be recommending specific books for certain year groups. This term we are recommending books for Year Seven. Also, for every newsletter, one faculty will create a list of recommendations. This time, it is PE. Here they are:

Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari



Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari is an incredibly insightful, honest novel exploring the delicate balance, and often injustice, of life and death - but at its heart is a celebration of friendship, culture, and life.

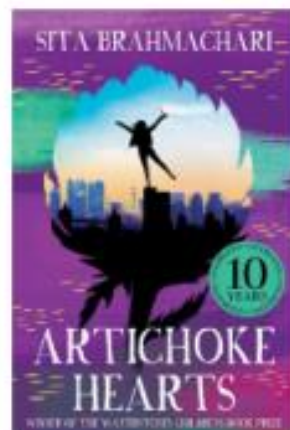
Twelve-year-old Mira comes from a chaotic, artistic and outspoken family where it's not always easy to be heard. As her beloved Nana Josie's health declines, Mira begins to discover the secrets of those around her, and also starts to keep some of her own. She is drawn to mysterious Jide, a boy who is clearly hiding a troubled past and has grown hardened layers - like those of an artichoke - around his heart. As Mira is experiencing grief for the first time, she is also discovering the wondrous and often mystical world around her.

Kick by Mitch Johnson



Winner of the Branford Boase Award. Budi's plan is simple. He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes and never letting anything stand in your way.

Freedom by Catherine Johnson



Catherine Johnson brings the horrific history of slavery to life in this important piece of historical fiction for a young audience.

Nat is a 12-year-old boy born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar cane plantation owned by the brutal English family, the Barratts. The story opens with his mum and baby sister being taken away to work on another plantation, leaving him to face his hardships alone. But when Nat is sent to England to look after some exotic pineapple plants, he starts to dream of freedom. When he gets there he discovers it's not true, there is no slavery in England, but in the hustle and bustle of crazy London, life is a bit freer. When Nat meets the amazing Shadrack Furman, his life is changed forever.

PE Recommendations:

