JULY 2021

Birches Head Academy

ISSUE NO.2

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SUMMER TIME

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY



PRINCIPAL: KATIE DIXON

I would like to start by thanking everyone for their patience, support and understanding throughout the year. It has been an extremely difficult year. Everyone has been directly affected by isolation and loss. We have all had our freedoms curtailed and had to cancel plans at short notice. Students have had to suffer lockdowns and periods of isolation bringing huge disruption to the education. A lot has been written and said about the loss for our young people; how they are a lost generation.

However, there is a different way to look at the same experience, a different story to tell. We can describe our young people not as the 'lost generation' but the 'crucial generation' who have built resilience and awareness of the fragility of the world. They are a unique generation who understand the way people work together, the way that self-sacrifice saves lives and self-discipline builds community. I am very proud of all our young people, of how they have adapted and responded to the uncertainty and change they have faced this year at school. They have shown resilience, understanding and patience and I have every confidence that when we return in September any 'gaps' or losses can be addressed and overcome. I think we need to be positive and optimistic that the story we need to tell is that when people and communities work together amazing things can happen.

Have a wonderful summer, keep healthy and safe and let's hope for a better year next year!



BIRCHES HEAD VALUES

BY MRS ROONEY

At Birches Head Academy, we strive to develop the values of respect, honesty, courage, compassion, justice, integrity, gratitude and humility. During the summer term, year 7 have focussed on the value of compassion which they understand is sympathy and concern for the suffering or misfortunes of others. They have worked together to raise over £200 for a year 7 student at another school in the city who has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and needs pioneering treatment. They have held regular cake sales and we are particularly proud of Emily and Saleena from 7CU who organised and led the viewing of a film to raise even more money. Well done year 7!







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"TAKE CARE AND SEE YOU SOON!"

- MRS ROONEY



SUMMER TIME

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At Birches Head Academy we aim to challenge our students to develop Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication skills. During the summer term, hundreds of LORIC points have been awarded and, as a result, many FFET award certificates and prizes we're given out during the end of term assemblies. We are particularly proud of the following students ago have exceeded our high expectations.

Y7 FFET Awards:

Harvey P. W. (LEGO Robotics) Aaris Z. (LEGO Robotics & remote learning STEM challenges) Imogen D. (Remote learning STEM challenge) Isla M. (Remote learning STEM challenge) William K. Zuzanna K. Jake B.

Y8 FFET Awards:

Henry T. (LEGO Robotics & remote learning STEM challenges) Chris C. (LEGO Robotics) Codie T. (LEGO robotics) Lazaros K. (LEGO Robotics) Meilano M. (Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize) Nikola S. (Remote learning STEM challenges- multiple completed with great evidence!)

Y10 (Involved in Biodiversity project and also helped with RHS Tatton Flower show) Samuel C. Jay N. Patrick S. Patricia R. Daniel J. Zaiden B. Danyhal F.

Ash F. Jonas C.

Victoria B.

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"CONGRATULATIONS!"

- MRS ROONEY





We have been unable to host our 2020 and 2021 annual Awards' evenings due to government guidance. Despite the pandemic, our students have achieved so much and have been awarded the certificates, trophies and prizes which they deserve. The students who have moved on in their learning journey have received their awards in the post and have been invited to visit us during the next academic year to see their name displayed on our awards' board and their trophy. We look forward to being able to host our 2022 Awards' evening.

Outstanding GCSE results 2020 Chloe L. 2021 Clayton H. G. Outstanding Achievement sponsored by SJC 2020 Ryan V. B. 2021 Matilda T. L. Outstanding sports performance 2020 Sam I. 2021 Thomas N.

Sports' personality of the year 2020 Summer B. 2021 Thomas S. **Technology and Innovation sponsored by KMF** 2020 Henry T. and Isaac B. 2021 Aaris Z. and Harvey P. Service to the school in memory of Shelia P. 2020 Sumbal H. 2021 Year 10 STEM club

Special recognition in memory of Matthew B. 2020 – Tyler F. 2021 – Louise T. Outstanding contribution to the community 2020 – Keira P. 2021 – Mackenzie W. Schools partnership collaboration award sponsored by Staffs University The Franklin Scholars' Group 2021 – Saleena S. and Emily Mc.

Outstanding leadership contribution 2020 – Josh T. 2021 – Neve T.



"YOU'RE ALL AMAZING!"

- MRS ROONEY



SUMMER TIME

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Year 7 celebrated their many achievements during their first year at Birches Head Academy. They were particularly excited to receive cinema vouchers for their outstanding behaviour and monkey forest family passes for their fantastic Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. 7CU were very proud to win their form award with Saleena and Emily winning a special prize for leading the year group's compassion for Ashton fundraising campaign. Year 7 you are amazing!







Year 8 received prizes from their form tutors, subject teachers, assistant head of year and head of year. A special congratulations to Henry T and Isaac B who won the Technology and Innovation award sponsored by KMF for their outstanding STEM work. 8DCX won the whole school inter-form European football competition for learning the capital cities and locations of all of the European countries in the tournament. Well done year 8, we are very proud of you!







Today year 9 students celebrated their many achievements at their rewards' assembly. Three of the many winners were R Seddon for 100% attendance, T Wilkinson for positive communication and T Madew for the highest number of positive achievement points. Well done year 9!







Year 10 celebrated their many achievements this week which included a special reward for the year 10 STEM club whose contributions to the FFET display at the Tatton Park Flower Show have been incredible. Well done year 10, you are brilliant and will be fantastic leaders of our school during the next academic year!





PERFORMING ARTS

BY MISS WILLIAMS AND MR HAWKE

Recently our Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts students and Year 9 students who have opted for Performing Arts, took part in a theatre workshop put on by a theatre company called Punchdrunk. Punchdrunk are an immersive theatre company that travel the globe, incorporating the audience into their performances. The students explored showing different levels of tension as well as discovering new ways of telling stories through their physicality. The students were extremely focused throughout and did an incredible job at representing the school. The skills they looked at in this workshop will definitely help them in their drama and dance practice. Well done team Performing Arts! (Please see next page for photos)





"KEEP PRACTICING AND HAVE FUN LEARNING!"

- MISS WILLIAMS AND MR HAWKE



SUMMER TIME

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PERFORMING ARTS

PUNCH DRUNK WORKSHOP



Earlier this year, students in 7B1 took part in a virtual songwriting project with professional chamber orchestra Manchester Camerata to create a song for a musical version Roald Dahl's "George's Marvellous Medicine". The song has been professionally recorded, and is now available to listen to on YouTube using the search term "Manchester Camerata The Dream Farm Birches Head Academy", or at the following link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=ORICpS7dI-4&list=PLmfFOu9ExpKrxyKtB1N-</u> <u>vRWm84EF8Vd3U&index=24</u>

Well done to all the students involved!

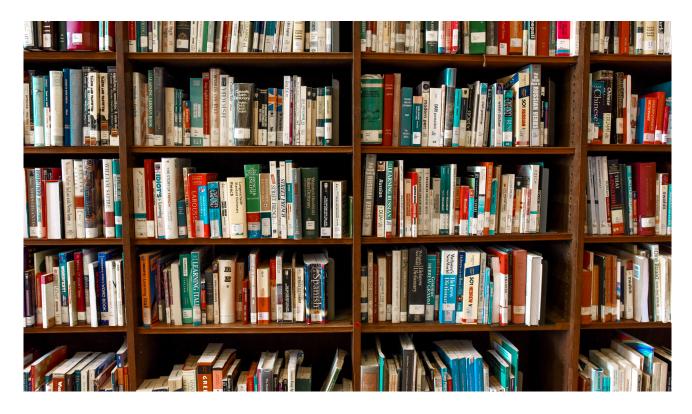




READING AND LITERACY

BY MISS ROBERTS AND MRS SANDERS

BHA is a reading school - it's just what we do! Books and reading are very much a part of the fabric of the school, and, as any student will attest to, the library is at the heart of the school. This year, there have been some fantastic achievements with our pupils' reading. Every time a student finishes reading a book, they take an Accelerated Reader quiz on it. Since September, 1,623 quizzes have been passed, meaning that 1,623 books having been read this year across Years 7 and 8. There were also dozens of books read that were not part of the AR programme - equating to almost 2,000 books being read for pleasure this year. Another fantastic testament to our wonderful students is the fact we can say that the majority of students in Years 7 and 8 have increased their reading ages this year - despite the many uncertainties we have all faced.



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"HAVE FUN AND KEEP ON READING!"

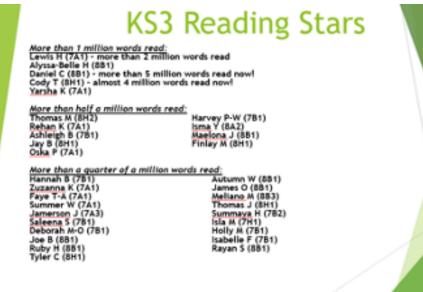
- MISS ROBERTS AND MRS SANDERS



<u>READING AND LITERACY</u>

READING STARS

We are incredibly proud of all our Reading Stars in Years 7 and 8. These are the students who have read more than a quarterof-a- million words as part of their independent reading since September. Our 'Millionaire Readers' (those who have read more than 1 million words), will each be presented with a certificate and a prize by Ms. Dixon before the end of term.



READATHON

At the end of May, almost 30 students from Year 7 took part in our annual Readathon in the library. Pupils asked family and friends to sponsor them for a whole day of reading and, by the end of the day, had finished reading an incredible 97 books between them. The money raised goes to the Readathon charity, which provides books and storytelling sessions for children in hospitals up and down the country. A percentage of the money also came back to the school, enabling us to buy some fantastic new books for our library. We are so proud of all out students, who ended up raising almost £400.



WORLD BOOK NIGHT

23rd April saw us usher in World Book Night with some exciting celebrations. Year 8 students were given the opportunity to listen to some exciting, adventure-themed campfire tales being read aloud. The video was then uploaded to Teams for the rest of the school to enjoy with a hot chocolate later that evening.



SUMMER TIME

<u>READING AND LITERACY</u>

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ



On 10th May, Year 8 students took part in the national event 'Drop Everything and Read'. At 10am, they put aside their work, picked up their books and read, just for the sheer pleasure of it, for 10 minutes. Here are some photos of some of the students (and staff!) getting lost inside a story.







NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS QUIZ

At the start of May, four of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the regional heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz, competing against 31 other teams from right across the West Midlands on all things books and authors. We are thrilled to announce that, of all the state schools involved, Team Birches came third on the leader-board - a truly incredible achievement! We are so proud of the boys - they are all winners in our eyes.



CAREERS

BY MRS HOLDCROFT

The Careers Department consists of Mr Gordon (Careers Lead) and myself as the Careers Administrator. We are based in Room G99 on the Maths/Art corridor and are available for any student who has a careers question. If you are passing the room you can drop in to see us or you can send us a message on Teams. We have prospectuses for the local colleges (although these are also available online) to help students decide where they want to study post-16 and are available for appointments at Parent's Evenings. Our Local Authority Adviser is Mr Shaw and he comes into school on a Monday and a Friday. He works mainly with Year 11 students regarding their Post 16 applications but if you feel that a student would benefit from an appointment with him I can arrange this for you.

The school webpage also has a section on careers at <u>https://bircheshead.org.uk/statutory/careers/</u>. This contains a lot of useful information regarding careers at BHA, Post 16 pathways and links to careers websites.





"STAY SAFE AND ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!"

- MRS HOLDCROFT



<u>CAREERS</u>

GREAT MINDS TOUR BUS

On 7th May Staffordshire University's "Great Minds Tour Bus" visited the Academy along with three University Student Ambassadors. All Year 10 students visited the bus where they had a virtual Campus Tour and learned about the Uni applications process and Uni life and had a quiz (with prizes).





VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCES

The Careers Department have been busy launching virtual work experiences for pupils in years 9,10 and 11 using https://www.vwes.co.uk/ These are just some of the Careers which students can explore:

Automotive Engineering Mechanical Engineering Finding an Apprenticeship Software Engineering Electrical Engineering	Civil/Structural Engineering Architecture Construction Site Management Apprenticeships in Quantity Surveying	Careers in Construction Plumbing Bricklaying Electrician Plastering Carpentry
Law	Social Work	Teaching
What is a Trainee Solicitor? Solicitor or Barrister? Legal Apprenticeships Meet a Trainee Solicitor	Careers in Social Work What is Social Work? Criminology	Routes into Teaching Primary School Teaching
Uniform Services	Healthcare	Care
Careers in the Police Army Careers RAF Careers Royal Navy Careers	Hospital Careers GP Careers Types of Nursing Dentist Careers Pharmacy Careers Parametic Careers	Careers in Childcare Adult Care Careers Careers in Mental Health Care Family Support Worker



SUMMER TIME

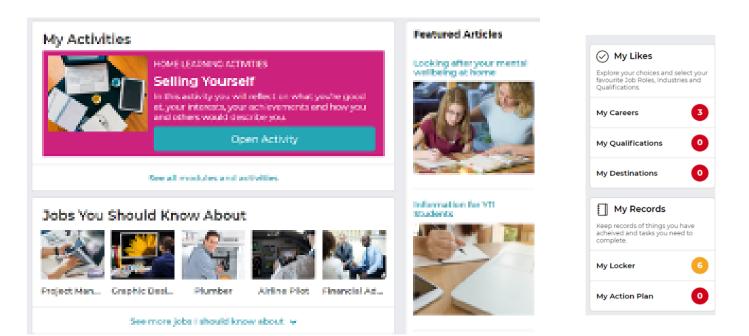
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<u>CAREERS</u>

START

Students have also been introduced to START https://www.startprofile.com/ . This is an online careers platform designed to connect students with their future career potential. Students can explore careers they are interested in, find out what qualifications are needed and also learn about the earning potential of different careers.

To help them keep track of their interests, hobbies and extra curricular school activities and careers events these can be recorded in their "Student log". This will help them when they come to prepare their CV's.



Details to get in touch with our Careers Office:

Jermaine Gordon: Careers Lead: 01782 233595 Liz Holdcroft: Careers Administrator: 01782 233595 Clive Shaw: Local Authority Adviser: 07880 179791



SPORT

BY MR DAVIES AND MISS BUNCE

Over the past two weeks the students at Birches Head Academy have been competing in an interhouse athletics competition due to this year's sport day unfortunately being cancel due to COVID. The aim of this competition was to compete against each other in the same year group, in a variety of different athletics events. The form with the most points once each event had been completed was crowned the winner/champion of their year group.. Every student excelled and went above and beyond trying to earn as many points as possible for the form class. For example, in Y7 there were some stand out boys such as M. Longson who got the best score for his shot-put event in the entire year.





"STAY HEALTHY AND ACTIVE!"

- MR JARVIS AND MISS EWARDS



<u>Sport</u>

The Y9 Boys got the quickest 400m time in the school with M. Bell getting 1 minute 8 seconds. Additionally, the Y9 Girls doing excellent in the 800m as L. Longson, S. Jones and K. Miletova getting good running times. Throughout theses two weeks the students showed compassion and support to each other, and everyone showed resilience to try their best and aspire to be more. In the other year groups the Year 8 Boys did exceptionally well in the 100 metres as E. Sherwin, T. Armstrong and A. Sipavicius got below 14 second in their 100m sprint race. Similarly, the Year 8 girls did amazingly well in there Shot Put event as A. Walters, L. Kirkham-Sherwin and B. Sherwood all got over 12 meters!









MATHS

BY MISS FLETCHER AND MR BRENNO

This year, the maths department has embraced new ways of teaching. Using online resources and communication we have successfully delivered the curriculum to our pupils. Next year we will deliver maths to our pupils with an even more engaging and accessible curriculum. We look forwards to a year of exciting classroom teaching.



66 "KEEP ON CHALLENGING YOURSELF!"

- MISS FLETCHER



Supporting your child with Mathematics



Add number games/board games to your child's collection – counters, dominoes, pack of cards. They depend on numbers, counting, calculation and scoring.

Make the most of your child's hobbies. If they have a favourite band, get them to compile statistics such as charting weeks or songs sold. If your child is car mad, talk about relative engine sizes, fuel economy, speed and performance. Watch and play sports that involve scoring, timing, counting, measuring





Cooking is great for helping your child to get to know weights and measures. Count out portions of ingredients, use weighing equipment, use timers and countdown to treats. This is a good way to introduce ratio and proportion too. Try to use the metric system as this is commonly used in school.

Here are a few ideas to increase your child's mathematical cultural capital over the holidays and will keep them challenged too! Enjoy your summer and enjoy the maths. The maths department.



STEM

BY MR MOLONEY

Birches Head Academy has a rich history of providing additional opportunities in the area of STEM. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and more recently many organisations are using the acronym "STEAM" to include Art as colleges, universities and employers look for creative thinkers in the world of STEM. The remote learning period during lockdown saw lots of our students get involved in extra-curricular STEM challenges which aim to help develop problem-solving skills and apply learning from lessons across STEM subjects. 2020-21 has seen students taking part in a number of STEM challenges on Teams as well as national STEM competitions, including: the Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize which asked students to develop an innovative solution to helping problems in society; BP Home for Nature Challenge- where students use innovation to help wildlife thrive in the modern urban environment; the Nancy Rothwell Award which combines the fields of Art and Science.



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"EVERYTHING IS THEORETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE, UNTIL IT IS DONE."



ISSUE NO.2

<u>Stem</u>

Lego Robotics:

Since returning to the Academy, Y7 and Y8 teams have been involved in separate Lego Robotics Competitions. A team of Y8 students took part in this year's virtual EEP Robotics Challenge, programming a Lego robot to carry out a number of missions around the theme of helping the environment. Most recently our Y7 Lego Robotics Team took part in the FIRST Lego League 2021 competition organised by Newcastle College. The boys represented the Academy with exemplary standards and I am pleased to say that the team was successful in winning the Best Robot Design award. The team were commended on the way they answered the judges' questions and articulated the process behind the design and

approach to the competition. The Y7 boys involved were: Aaris Zaccariah & Harvey Parker- Watson.

They have both received Industrial Cadet Silver badges (Nationally recognised STEM awards) for their participation. The Academy intends on expanding the Lego Robotics Club across all year groups- if you are interested be sure to get involved in September!

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Project:

Birches Head Academy are working in collaboration with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on a project aimed at increasing levels of biodiversity around the school and the local area. From September, a team students will lead the project with opportunities for students from all year groups to get involved in building insect houses, bird houses, bat boxes, homes for hedgehogs, and much more! We hope to create new homes for nature at the Academy, with the hope of using remote camera traps to monitor and record the species which are living in the Academy grounds, or just visiting for the season.

RHS Tatton Park Flower Show:

Students from Year 7 and Year 10 have been involved in seeding, planting and potting a number of edible plants (runner beans, sweet peas, edible flowers & peppers to name just a few) which will go on display at this year's RHS Tatton Park Flower Show, working in collaboration with Ellesmere Port College and the Frank Field Education Trust. Students will be creating the display and arranging the plants they have grown on Thursday 15th July and will go on display at the show from 21st-25th July 2021. Wish them luck! September 2021 will see the start of a new after-school gardening club at the Academy for anyone who is keen to get involved, roll up their sleeves and get busy with some gardening.











HISTORY

BY MRS TIMPERLEY-GOODWIN

This week the majority of year 10 historians visited Burghley House. This was built by William Cecil (Lord Burghley) who was one of the most powerful and influential members of Elizabeth I's government. Students were able to view the House and were given information on how the House was influenced by Elizabethan fashion, from stained glass windows to religious elements. They experienced a lecture on William Cecil and in particular his charity funded almshouse. Students learned about the different reasons Cecil established his almshouse.





- MRS TIMPERLEY-GOODWIN



<u>HISTORY</u>





This knowledge will be extremely useful in their GCSE Elizabethan England paper, where we know a question will be asked about Burghley's almshouse. All students were a credit to themselves and the academy. The staff at Burghley's House commented on how well behaved students were and they were delighted to answer the many questions students asked. A successful and aspirational trip all round. Well done year 10 historians!





GEOGRAPHY

BY MRS UNDERWOOD

As part of their GCSE studies Yr10 students recently visited Llandudno. The Geography students investigated the pebble beach, wave action and the strength of longshore drift along the coastline.

This was followed by an environmental survey and questionnaire in the town centre, and finally a spot of fun at the fantastic Ski Centre, where the students tobogganed on the slopes of the Great Orme.

We manged to cram a lot into the day, the visit helped the students immensely with their studies and they were a credit to the school with their enthusiastic questions to and their exemplary behaviour. A huge thank you to Mr Burndred for both organising the visit and also for his chauffeur service.













DUKE OF EDINBURGH

BY MR KUMAR AND MISS EDWARDS

Congratulations to the Year 9 and Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh participants who have successfully achieved their expedition section by completing two camping and walking trips in the Peak District. Over fifty students have walked over 30 miles in two weekends across scenic landscapes. On their first expedition they walked from Baslow to Matlock and the second expedition was from Wardlow Mires to Monyash. Students developed their map skills, camp craft, leadership and resilience whilst pushing themselves physically and mentally.

Well done to all students involved and good luck on completing their volunteering, physical and skills section of the award. The school would also like to thank all staff involved for giving up their weekends to support our students in their endeavours.





"KEEP ON STRIVING FOR GREATNESS!"

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- MR KUMAR AND MISS EDWARDS



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Mental Health Awareness

USEFUL CONTACTS

Anxiety UK 03444 775 774 (helpline) 07537 416 905 (text)	Beat 0808 801 0711 (vouthline) beateatingdisorders.co. Uk Under 18s helpline, webchat and online support groups for people with eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia	Childline 0800 1111 childline.org.uk Support for children and young people in the UK, including a free 24-hour helpline	FRANK 0300 123 6600 talktofrank.com Confidential advice and information about drugs, their effects and the law.	Hope Again <u>0808 808 1677</u> hopeagain.org.uk Support for young people when someone dies
Me and My Mind meandmymind.nhs.uk Advice and support for young people struggling with unusual experiences, such as hearing voices.	No Panic 0330 606 1174 nopanic.org.uk/no- panic-youth-hub Charity offering support for sufferers of panic attacks and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)	On My Mind annafreud.org/on-my- mind Information for young people to make informed choices about their mental health and wellbeing.	Relate 0300 003 0396 relate.org.uk Provides help and support with relationships	YoungMinds 0808 802 5544 (parents helpline) youngminds.org.uk Committed to improving the mental health of children and young people



Mental Health Awareness

Weekly Wellbeing Guide

Good apps - There are lots of great apps out there to help with different things.

	CALMHARM Providing tasks that help you resist or manage the urge to self- harm. You can add your own tasks too and it is completely <u>private</u> and password protected. The four categories of task target the main reasons for why people self-harm. Distract helps to combat the urge by learning self- control; Comfort helps to care rather than harm; Express gets those feelings out in a different way and Release provides safe alternatives to self-injury. CLEARFEAR Developed for teenage mental health charity stem4 and uses the evidence-based treatment CBT to focus on learning to reduce the physical responses to threat by learning to breathe, relax and be mindful as well as changing thoughts and behaviours and releasing emotions. You can personalise the app and will be able to track progress and notice change.
•	DAYLIO enables you to keep a private diary without having to type a single line. Pick your mood and add activities you have been doing during the day. By collecting recorded moods and activities in the statistics and calendar, this will help you to understand your habits better, keep track of your activities and create patterns to become more productive
HEADSPACE'	HEADSPACE Mindful meditations and advice – the first ten are free, after which there is a subscription. There is strong evidence that regular practice reduces the physical stress response, reduces the activity of the amygdala, increases the activity of the prefrontal cortex and reshapes/restructures the brain to reduce stress
->	MINDSHIFT Designed to help teens and young adults cope with anxiety. It can help you change how you think about anxiety. Rather than trying to avoid anxiety, you can make an important shift and face it. Features help you learn how to relax, develop more helpful ways of thinking and identify active steps that will help you take charge of your anxiety.
	RELAXMELODIES A relaxation and sleep app that allows you to select sounds and melodies that you like and combine them to create a mix. This app can also be used in many other situations aside from sleep such as relaxing at the spa, exercising in your yoga or relaxation classes, massage sessions, or even when taking a nap!
NHS O	WELLMIND is a free NHS mental health and wellbeing app designed to help you with stress, anxiety and depression The app includes advice, tips and tools to improve your mental health and boost your wellbeing.
worrinots	WORRINOTS From meditation techniques to family-based games designed to help you to practise understanding your feelings. An app designed to help you to manage anxiety





Farewell to:



M. Warburton Teaching Assistant - Moving to Trentham Academy



M. Tierney Academic Mentor



J. Moore Art Teacher - Setting up her own business



D. Kumar Cover Supervisor & DofE Coordinator - Moving to Thistley Hough Academy



J. Ahmed Cover Supervisor - Starting his teacher training



M.Betts Geography Teacher

All the best for the future and good luck with all your endeavours. We will miss you!





Welcome to:

A big warm welcome to our new starters for the new term in September!



L. Fifield – Technology Teacher Joining us from Jewellery Quarter Academy, Birmingham



K. Mitchel – Maths Teacher joining us from Kidsgrove Secondary School, Stoke on Trent



K. Wainwright – Lead Practitioner in Science Joining us from Ecclesbourne School, Derbyshire



C. Virgo – Cover Supervisor



S. Ahmad – English Teacher



L. Broderick – Art Teacher

