

BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Edition: LP1 2022-23



SPANISH EXCHANGE TRIP SUCCESS

TWELVE LUCKY YEAR 11 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN IMMERSED INTO SPANISH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

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Frank Field
Education Trust





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WELCOME

At the beginning of our first learning cycle of the 2022-23 academic year, our student leadership team introduced all year groups to our academy values – respect, honesty, integrity, courage, justice, gratitude, humility and compassion (see page 3).

We have immersed ourselves during Learning Programme 1 in the values of respect and honesty. We have learnt that respect is being considerate to someone else's feelings and rights whilst honesty is being truthful and sincere.

During staff briefings, assemblies and academic review sessions, students and staff have reflected on the following quotes –

“I SPEAK TO EVERYONE IN THE SAME WAY, WHETHER HE IS THE GARBAGE MAN OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.” – ALBERT EINSTEIN

“IT IS ONLY WHEN YOU ACCEPT HOW DIFFERENT YOU ALL ARE, THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW MUCH THE SAME YOU ALL ARE. DON'T EXPECT ANYBODY TO BE THE SAME AS YOU, THEN YOU WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE IN MANY WAYS THE SAME AS EVERYBODY.” C. JOYBELL C.

“HONEST DIFFERENCES ARE OFTEN A HEALTHY SIGN OF PROGRESS.” – MAHATMA GHANDI

“ANYONE WHO DOESN'T TAKE TRUTH SERIOUSLY IN SMALL MATTERS CANNOT BE TRUSTED IN LARGE ONES EITHER.” -ALBERT EINSTEIN

“A HALF TRUTH IS A WHOLE LIE.” -YIDDISH PROVERB

On Monday 31st October, our second learning cycle will begin. We will have our first review day for Year 8 and 9 on Friday 18th November.

We look forward to immersing ourselves in the values of gratitude and humility and we invite you to help us to teach our children the importance of feeling and expressing thanks and ensuring that we treat everyone with humility.

OUR ACADEMY VALUES

HUMILITY
the quality of having a modest or unarrogant view of one's own importance



COMPASSION
the quality of feeling pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others



HONESTY
the quality of being truthful



INTEGRITY
the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles



ASPIRE TO BE MORE

GRATITUDE
the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness



COURAGE
the quality of having strength in the face of difficulty



RESPECT
the quality of having due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others



JUSTICE
the quality of being fair and reasonable



BRONZE READING AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to our first cohort of Bronze Reading Award winners in KS3 this year. These students have all finished reading at least 3 books since September. We are very proud of you!

SPANISH EXCHANGE TRIP SUCCESS



Twelve lucky Year 11 students have been immersed into Spanish culture and language on a recent exchange visit to Granada, Spain.

Students studying Spanish at BHA had the opportunity to put their language skills to the test during an October exchange visit with our partner school, Escolapios Granada Genil, in the beautiful city of Granada.

Students experienced first-hand what it's like to be a student living in Spain. This trip was the first exchange with the school in Granada, and was a great opportunity to learn language outside of lessons and truly experience a whole new lifestyle and culture.

Granada is a city in southern Spain's Andalusia region, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. It's known for grand examples of medieval architecture dating to the Moorish occupation. Students spent two days at our partner school, presenting to various classes in Spanish and English, where they interviewed the exchange students that are going to visit Stoke in September 2023.

There was lots of opportunity to practice the language and learn about the lifestyle and culture of students their own age. One evening students enjoyed a flamenco show, by a singer, a guitarist, and dancers. Mollie Ward, Year 11 student said: "the show was amazing, it gave me goose bumps!". During the trip, students also visited several different locations to learn about the Spanish culture through tours, dance, museums, food and more. This opportunity will raise cultural awareness, create a real opportunity to improve linguistic skills, build confidence in students and improve communication skills amongst students.

Our project, in partnership with Escolapios Granada Genil, aims to focus on well-being and the environment for the future. Our plans for 2022-2023 are to combine two STEM Projects, The Landscape Gardening Club and the Eco Club, with the Language Detectives Club and work closely with our partner school on two important concerns among young people today, environmental issues and well-being. This project will also provide opportunities to enrich the learning of the students at BHA.



Noah Playfair, Year 11 student said: "I was proud of myself that the Spanish students could understand what I was saying". Malaika Karim, Year 11 student added: "The Alhambra was such a beautiful place to visit and it was great to learn more about the history of Spain"

The experience was funded by the Turing Fund, who provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for students. The development of this exchange programme complements our school curriculum and high expectations that our students will engage



in learning a foreign language to GCSE level by 2025. Katie Dixon, Principal at Birches Head Academy said: "It was a fantastic experience for our students to be able to see how Spanish schools work... I was very proud to see them using their language skills talking and presenting to the Spanish children. I look forward to the return visit!"

Shirley Kliment-Temple, Exchange Organiser and Teacher of Languages said: "It was great to see the confidence of the students grow in such a short period of time. Working with the students and teachers in the Spanish school will give language learning a real boost in our Academy."



YEAR 9, 10 & 11

CAREERS CONVENTION

During LP1, Year 9,10 and 11 students visited the Careers Convention in the hall on Friday 14 October. The exhibitors commented positively on the intelligent questions asked by our students.

If students need any further guidance, please visit the Academy website as a useful starting point. Any events/virtual work experience opportunities will be shared on the Careers/year Group teams pages.



BHA STUDENTS SUPPORT MACMILLAN CANCER FUNDRAISING



You raised £373.86!!!

Thank you for your incredible support of our mission this week to raise as much money as possible for Macmillan. Year groups have hosted cake sales throughout the week and today our student leadership team have baked cakes for our visitors from the Frank Field Education Trust.

Those of you who bought cakes at our year 11 review evening on Thursday contributed £92 towards our total and we will share the overall total when we have finished counting the money.

STUDENTS EXPLORE ASPIRATIONS SUMMIT WITH STAFFORDSHIRE CAREERS HUB

Marie Jackson from Stoke Sixth Form College did a TEAMS presentation to our Year 10 and Year 11 students about their Post 16 applications and what the College has to offer.

At the Year 11 parents' evening all three of the local colleges and our local Careers Advisor attended to provide help and support to our students and their parents/carers. They were very impressed with the aspirations of the students they spoke to and the fact that some of them have already booked onto their open events.

The Academy are starting a Peer Mentoring programme supported by the Princes Trust. On Monday 10 October a group of Year 9 students visited the Kings Hall in Stoke for the Aspirations Summit hosted by the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Careers Hub.

They had the opportunity to speak to over 50 representatives from various employers and training providers. All of them agreed that the visit was very useful.



BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY ALUMNI

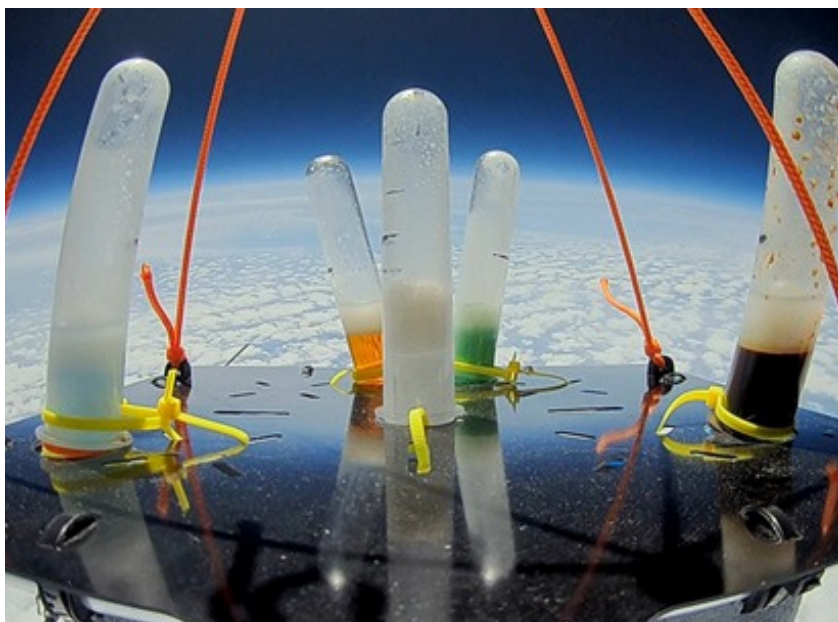
We are currently trying to update the Awards Board at the Academy and compile a record of alumni who went on to Higher Education.

If you are a BHHS/BHA Alumni could you let me know, by emailing info@birchehead.org.uk

- Your name and contact details
- Date of Leaving BHHS/BHA
- Uni/Higher education institute attended
- Course studied
- Date qualified
- Grade obtained eg BA Hons 2:1
- Current employment details.0

If you are still in touch with anyone to whom this applies could you ask them to contact us please.

YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR 2021-22 TEAM



Our KMF Young Engineer of the Year 2021-22 Team have submitted their report following the successful launch of their Science experiment into space using a weather balloon.

The team of students investigated how temperature and pressure affects the volume of household fluids and found some interesting results! Attached is a picture from approximately 30,000m altitude.

The awards ceremony for the competition is being held on 19th October 2022 at Port Vale F.C. Good luck Team BHA!

SUMMER EXAM SUCCESS 2022

We are pleased to report some outstanding achievements by our students in their GCSE and Vocational qualifications this summer.

This year several students were awarded the top GCSE grade of 9 in the subjects English, Maths, Science and RE. This means that they achieved a mark within the top 5% of the country!

Our focus on developing students' intellectual, cultural and social capital has resulted in success across academic subjects as well as our creative and sports studies.

The number of students gaining a good GCSE pass in both English and Maths has risen to 52%. with 63% of students gaining a grade 4 and above in English and 60% in Maths.

Mrs Dixon said: "This has been an incredibly tough two years. We all know how hard it's been at times, but also how hard students, the school community and parents have worked together to achieve these results. We are very proud of them all and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future".

