

9 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Dates to note

Y11 Leaver's Assembly – 14 June
FFET Awards Assembly – 16 June
Y11 Prom – 22 June
Awards Evening – 29 June
Experience Week – W/C 17 July

Notices

Summer Exam fortnight

All students in Year 7 - 10 will be taking their end of year examinations starting Monday 19 June. Year 7-9, assessments will take place during their normal timetabled lessons. In Year 10, we start to prepare them for formal examinations by completing all exams in the hall and longer practical exams (please see timetable).

You can support your child by helping them to prepare a revision timetable. Subjects will provide students with a revision list and support them with revision techniques over the next 2 weeks.

CEO & Principal – Parent Drop in

Starting Wednesday 14 June at 3.30pm – 4.30pm, all parents are invited to attend a drop in session, every fortnight on a Wednesday until the end of term. This will be an opportunity to talk with the CEO and Principal without an appointment. Parents should arrive at Main Reception to register throughout this time period.

Uniform Expectations

As we enter the final half term of this academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity again to thank you for your continued support to ensure your child has the correct uniform.. Can I take this opportunity to remind all that an Academy tie is compulsory and must be worn by all students. Ties can be purchased from school via parent pay.

If you have any items of school uniform that no longer fit your child, please bring into school so we can add to the rest of our pre-loved items of uniform.

ParentPay Accounts

Could we please encourage everyone to review their ParentPay accounts and add funds as required to settle any outstanding debts. Please be reminded that school meals must be paid for in advance. We are having to chase a number of families regarding outstanding payments and ideally payment for lunches should be made over the weekend or a Monday morning for the week ahead. Having said this, funds can be added at any time. Text reminders and phone calls will be made to ensure this problem does not escalate further.

If your child has free school meals (FSM), this is to the value of £2.30 each day. Generally, this covers a "meal deal" at lunch time and if your child is having food items at break time, payment for these items must also be added to ParentPay as the FSM allowance will not cover this.

Curriculum notices

Learning programmes

All pupils follow a Learning Programme in each subject. They detail the programme of study for each subject, setting out the core knowledge each child is expected to learn. All pupils follow the same Learning Programme. This means that all pupils are taught the same broad and balanced curriculum. The Learning Programme sequences the learning in a set period of time (7 or 8 weeks). It also outlines key words for each week and the homework which supports learning. It is really important that parents take an active interest in the learning that their child is experiencing. By following the Learning Programmes, parents can supplement the work being done in the Academy through further enrichment activities or independent study. All learning programmes are on the website, you can access them following the link below.

<https://bircheshead.org.uk/learning-programmes/>

Homework

Homework is an important part of the curriculum for every child. Homework gives students another opportunity to review class material and allows parents a chance to see what is being learned in school. Attached is a guide as to how your child accesses their homework for each of their subjects. Some subjects use online resources and others set paper based homework's.

Literacy Update

We are exceptionally excited to announce a change to Academic Review with the introduction of Birches Head Academy Literati. This consists of a library of interesting, culturally educational and immersive books that each tutor group will have read to them by their tutor. This means that every academic year, your child could read up to 9 different books! We hope to add to our already growing reading culture at Birches Head Academy.

“Be More” Curriculum Update

FFET Awards

On Friday 16th June, we will be holding our first Frank Field Education Trust (FFET) awards ceremony to celebrate the students that have worked hard to achieve the Bronze, Silver or Gold award. The FFET awards are our flagship reward and has been created to record and celebrate students' achievements as they journey through the different stages of Academy life. Students will have the opportunity to develop their cultural capital experiences through Social and Intellectual Capital opportunities. A series of challenges which students are rewarded for upon completion have been devised and students can gain points through our knowledge rich curriculum, as well as our Be More Curriculum. Students will receive an FFET Award at three different levels of challenge in each of the different stages (Gold, Silver or Bronze). Year 7 and Year 8 students aim to achieve awards at Foundation Level, Year 9 students aim to achieve awards at Intermediate Level, Year 10 and Year 11 students aiming for awards at Master Level. Our aim is that all children will go for Gold at every stage.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

Our Year 10 students are out on their Silver DofE qualifying expedition from Thursday 8 June to Saturday 10 June this week. They will be walking around 13km per day with their back packs, tents and all of their food for the 3 days. They will be journeying all the way from Buxton to Waterhouses and taking in the Manifold Valley and Thors Cave along the way. Let's pray this weather continues for them.

STEM Update

Wednesday 14 June- 30x Year 7 students will be attending the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery for an Exploring Urban Nature Workshop.

Sports Update

A group of students took part in a city athletics competition on Tuesday 6 (Year 8) and Wednesday 7 June (Year 9/ Year 10) and represented the school. The students did incredibly well competing with sportsmanship throughout the event. All students who took part in the event and as a school scored

over 1000 points. The students did really well and should be proud of the way they performed. Bring on next year!

We will be posting lots of pictures from the ceremony on our Facebook and Website for you to see how well our students have been doing.

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email on info@bircheshead.org.uk.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Dixon', written in a cursive style.

Ms K Dixon
Principal

