

7 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Dates to note

Experience Week – W/C 17 July

Last day of term – Friday 21 July – 12.45pm finish

Notices

Free School Meal vouchers

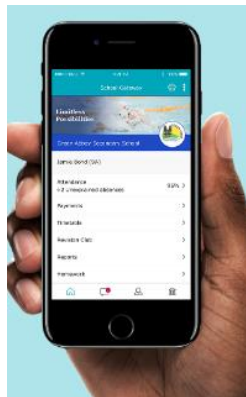
An e-mail containing the link to download the summer voucher will be sent out to eligible parents/carers on or around 17 July. This is again funded by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and is to the value of £75 per eligible child.

Y6/7 Transition Days

On Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 July, we welcomed our new Year 7 students for their transition days and first experience of what the next 5 years at Birches Head Academy will be like. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces, although some were a little nervous as is to be expected. I am sure they are all now eagerly waiting to join us in September and I look forward to overseeing their journey at Birches Head.

MP Visit – Thursday 6 July

Local MP Jo Gideon visited Birches Head Academy on Thursday 6 July. She met with a group of students who asked Jo some challenging and insightful questions. Jo was very impressed by our students and was made to feel very welcome.



Do you have the School Gateway App?

The School Gateway App is the best way to communicate with the school and stay up to date. You can directly message the school, see your child's timetable, current attendance percentage and much more!

All correspondence and information that is sent out to parents/carers can also be accessed here. As well as the ability to update or amend any of your contact details. Please see the school Gateway letter and Information sheet for more information.

Curriculum Update

History

Year 7 and 9 historians have been working on a competition organised by the "Peoples History Association of North Staffordshire", whose aim is to increase historical knowledge in the local area. Students focussed on Chartism; with year 9 exploring its significance in the short and long term, and year 7 exploring what aims they would add to a modern day Charter. We had only intended to submit the top 5 however the history department and Mr Baxendale were so impressed with entries, we have submitted many more!

“Be More” Curriculum Update

Music School 2023-24

In readiness for September, we are now accepting new sign ups for our Music lessons in school in small group lessons, paired lessons and individual lessons on a wide range of different instruments. If your child would be interested in learning to play a musical instrument, please ask them to come and see Miss Mooney or Miss Thomas for a sign up letter and more information about this and the new pricing for September. This is an exciting opportunity and a wonderful thing for all students to take part in.

STEM Championships


On Tuesday 4 July, 5 Year 10 students took part in a STEM Championship day against 3 other local schools. The event was hosted by St Margaret Ward Academy. I am thrilled to announce that our team beat the competition and came first. Well done to all involved!

Outward Bound

Next week over 100 pupils are heading up to the Lake District for our week long residential with the Outward Bound trust. They will be based right on Lake Ullswater and engaging with lots of team building activities whilst trying their hand at canoeing, rock climbing, caving and many more adventurous activities. The stand out activity last year was gorge walking which both staff and students loved. They also get the chance to do a 1 night expedition and wild camp somewhere nearby in the fells of the Lakes. This will help to equip them with the skills they will need if they opt to do the Bronze DofE award in Year 9. Our big focus for the week is resilience after all of the covid disruption and missed opportunities our young people have had to cope with over the past few years. Keep an eye on our social media for all of the pictures.

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



Ms K Dixon
Principal