

21 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Dates to note

Inset Days – Monday 4/ Tuesday 5/ Wednesday 6 September

Y7 only – Thursday 7 September

Whole School Return – Friday 8 September

As we finish this year, I want to thank you all for your on-going support. This week has been our experience week and I wanted to share with you all the amazing and exciting activities that your child has been able to take part in. A montage of all the experiences can be seen using this link:

<https://youtu.be/-OhczmHnYw8>

Year 7

On Monday Year 7 took part in Wise Up where they participated in Team Building Activities; these were a lot of fun and a good challenge it was just a shame that the Great British Weather let us down!

Tuesday was Sports' Day, track and field events were well attended and the pupils who competed gave it their all, the support from the stands was amazing and the colour run was a particular highlight (as well as the staff race) .

Wednesday and Thursday were spent in school but there was a carousel of activities from Circus Skills, music workshops, the creation of a sensory garden, orienteering but a particular favourite for most students was the exotic animals – those brave enough even got to wrap snakes around their shoulders.

Year 8

Year 8 have had a very exciting week with lots of amazing opportunities being laid on for them.

On Monday Year 8 students remained in school and completed interactive workshops. They took part in creating fruit batteries with Energy Quest by completing an engineering workshop where they filtered water and discovered how to power the battery on a mobile phone using an orange. They learned a variety of techniques in forensic science and discovered that Mr Bradley Vardy had stolen the money for the new Astro turf. They discovered this by analyzing fingerprints, photos, and ink.

Finally, students cooked an amazing curry, and gained vital first aid skills.

On Tuesday Year 8 went to Northward stadium and took part in an exciting day of track and field events culminating in a color run.

The week was rounded off with two days of trips.

The first was to the museum of science and industry in Manchester where students could see displays on the industrial mill history of Manchester, and get to grips with science in the interactive gallery. The second trip was an amazing opportunity for students to experience water sports. Students gained water confidence, and team building skills. They took part in paddleboarding, raft building, kayaking and giant paddle boarding.

Students were buzzing after the water sports, and all commented that they had had an amazing time.

Year 9

Our Year 9 Experience Week started with some fantastic sportsmanship at Northwood Stadium for our annual Sports Day. A great effort was given by all, with many students meeting (and exceeding) their personal bests.

Tuesday saw our Year 9s travelling to Albert Docks, Liverpool. Here, we ventured back in time to discover the origins of slavery and how this has progressed. We even mulled over the question of modern slavery and how it may affect us all. We also saw a model of the Titanic and discovered Liverpool's seafaring past. The International Slavery Museum and Maritime Museum offered an array of educational pursuits that go beyond the standard curriculum.

On Wednesday we went for a walk on the wild side and explored Chester Zoo. The students thoroughly enjoyed seeing the animals, learning the difference between extinct, endangered and vulnerable, as well as considering the ethics surrounding conservation. The students were able to see animals that they had never seen before and experience the infamous Bat Cave, memories that will last a lifetime.

Thursday saw us move through a carousel of activities in school. We had three external providers who pushed our students beyond their comfort zones.

The Black Onyx Academy worked with our students to deliver a thrilling display of First Aid - most notably using Mr Pointon for many of the demonstrations. The students were then able to practise the techniques that they had learnt.

Momentum Cheer also visited our students and taught them the history of Cheerleading, as well as getting stuck in and teaching them some movements and chants. We saw some cartwheels, handstands and even some pyramids!

New Victoria Theatre also came into school to deliver a session about injustice and equality and how this can be portrayed through acting. This was a huge hit with the students who not only developed their drama skills, but were also able to reflect upon issues on our society surrounding social justice. We also had a Birches Head Academy Value hunt around the field, reinforcing our key values and skills, as well as developing the students team work and orienteering skills. Our students excelled at this, with many completing the course in record times!

Our final activity saw our students learning about the ancient Japanese belief of Senbazuru, whereby folding 1000 paper cranes can conjure up good fortune in your life. In legends, the crane is believed to live for a thousand years; and so each paper crane represents one year of the bird's life. After you complete 1000 origami cranes, the sacred crane will grant your wish.

This custom has spread all over the world thanks to Sadako Sasaki, who was just two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She later developed leukaemia and, inspired by the Senbazuru story, began folding cranes - first for her health, then for world peace when she realised she would not survive. She made 644, and her family and classmates completed the 1000 in her honour. She died at the age of 12 on October 25, 1955 at the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital.

Our students learnt the craft of making origami cranes and began to create their own Senbazuru, with 208 cranes made in one day!

Year 10 Aspirational (Experience Week Monday 17th – Friday 21st July)

On Monday, all Year 10 students attended Northwood Stadium for their annual sports day where they took part in multi- events such as long jump, javelin, shotput, sprints, and middle distance. To end the day, we all had a colour run and cheered the staff race.

On Tuesday, some students started their work experience placements in a range of sectors such as estate agents, catering, electrical, motor vehicles, production, fashion, retail, health and wellbeing, property development, floristry, legal, childcare, hair & beauty, finance, sports coaching, and construction. They completed an online diary and will receive an employer review and certificate of participation.

In addition, other students enjoyed a carousel activity where they received a variety of workshops including disability in the workplace awareness, Stoke 6th Form T-Levels, Unifrog careers platform, CV writing and first aid training. All students who participated will receive a first aid awareness certificate.

On Wednesday, students experienced a workshop called My Perfect University, the aim of the programme is develop further understanding of higher education. Students then presented their campus designs and the winning team received a prize.

On Thursday, students opted either to attend Manchester Metropolitan University. They experienced train travel and the city of Manchester, or students could attend a Staffordshire University campus visit experiencing introduction to HE, play mobile engineering, poetry and drama sessions. It was also graduation day which students experienced the atmosphere on campus.

International Trips

This week some students were fortunate enough to be able to travel to either Spain or Poland as part of the international trips experience choices.

Tossa De Mar, Spain

During experience week, 34 students from year 7, 8 and 10 participated in a trip to Spain. They stayed in Tossa De Mar, a picturesque resort on the Costa Brava. Highlights of the trip were a street art tour in Barcelona, viewing Antoni Gaudi's architecture in Parc Guell and the Sagrada Familia, and trips to Girona and Figueres. All students represented the school incredibly well and took full advantage of every opportunity. They all thoroughly embraced the Spanish language, art, history and culture.

Poland

This week a group of Y9s and Y10s took a trip to Poland, visiting the historic city of Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. They took a walking tour exploring cultural highlights, including the Jewish quarter, with the renown Schindler's List Passage and the beautiful St Mark's square in the evening, soaking up the atmosphere.

On Monday students embarked on a guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, which created a sense of realism to the magnitude of the horrors inflicted on ordinary people, by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The imposing thunderstorm added to the solemnity of the day. In the evening students enjoyed a round of cosmic mini golf and found some fabulous Jewish murals and street art.

Tuesday saw a completion of the tour, a trek to Wawel Castle and a chance to explore St Mark's square, including the indoor market in daylight. Finally they were able to buy souvenirs as memories of their trip. All staff were incredibly proud of the way our students conducted themselves over the entirety of the trip, they were a credit to BHA.

Notices

3g Pitch

We are really excited to announce our brand new 3G pitch is nearly complete and will be ready for students to use in September. The PE department will be running inductions in all PE lessons to explain the importance of looking after this amazing new facility. The 3G pitch will be open for

students to play ball games at lunch times, students must bring trainers with them in their bag if they want to use the pitch.

Staff training dates

In order to support the ongoing development of provision here at BHA, the school will be open for staff training only on the below dates:

- **Monday 4th September 2023.**
- **Tuesday 5th September 2023.**
- **Wednesday 6th September 2023.**

Academy staff will be working on site for these days undertaking important training and developmental work for the benefit of the school community.

- **Year 7 only** will start at the Academy on **Thursday 6th September 2023.**
- **Year 8, 9, 10 and 11** will return to the Academy on **Friday 7th September 2023.**

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