

15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

The start to 2023-24 has been very positive. Assemblies for all year groups this week have focused on 'Consistency Across the Academy' (CATA). Pupils have received high praise for demonstrating their understanding. It is great to see a larger number of positive points awarded to all pupils when comparing to this time last year.

'Consistency Across the Academy' aims to outline 'the way we do things' (the BHA way) in our community. Our 'Consistency Across the Academy' rules ensure we have high expectations regarding routines and behaviour always centred around always establishing a positive safe working environment. There are four strands to our 'Consistency Across the Academy' approach to learning which outline our rules regarding behaviour before during and after the lesson. All staff and pupils are expected to follow these rules ensuring a consistent, clearly understood approach to learning takes place. Further information can be found in your child's planner or on the school website.

Our start of the school day is working really well, all pupils are greeted at the school gates by a Senior Leader. I have been incredibly impressed with the politeness and friendliness demonstrate by the majority of pupils as they enter the academy.

Year 7

Next week all Year 7 will be taking their CATs tests. These tests will help teachers to scaffold the learning appropriate to your child's need. Please do not worry about these tests. There is nothing to revise for.

Electronic Door Locking System

Key doors within and around the academy now have automatic locks on to ensure that the school site is kept safe. The doors are internally set around the academy bells allowing pupils sufficient movement time to ensure they can safely and calmly get to their lessons.

All pupils are led out of school at the end of the day to enhance their experience, as part of CATA, teachers lead all pupils out calmly to ensure they leave the site in a safe and calm manner.

P6

Our compulsory offer of P6 (period 6) will not be in place for Year 11 this year. Instead, subjects will deliver bespoke, targeted sessions throughout the year as extra-curricular activities.

Also, at the appropriate times of year, we will be offering a revision residential, half term and Easter revision sessions as well as an ambition day focusing on exam technique, revision toolkits and looking after yourself.

In school, as always, we will have small group intervention focussing mainly on Maths and English. We have put a lot of support for your child within the school day this will allow them to focus on their homework, sports and social activities after school.

As events arise, we will write to you and add key information to our website. If you have any specific concerns about your child's progress, we have a 'Y11 Review Evening' on the 28th of September where you can speak to us directly or contact your head of learning/learning coach to discuss further.

Attendance

Over the course of this year, achieving good attendance must be a priority to support each and every one of our pupils to achieve everything they are capable of personally and academically. **Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child(ren) attend(s) school.** There is huge evidence to show that it makes a massive difference to their life chances. We are asking for your support to encourage your child to develop good attendance habits and routines so that your child attends school every single day.

Part of the Frank Field Education Trust

Social Justice through Excellence in Education

Birches Head Academy is a trading style of the Frank Field Education Trust incorporated with the Company Number 09904025, which is an exempt charity. Registered office: 164 Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 6EA

Good attendance habits can be developed by:

- Supporting your child to maintain a consistent bedtime and morning routine which enables them to have 8 hours of sleep each night.
- Ensuring they are organised for the day ahead by setting out their uniform and packing their bag the night before.
- Encouraging your child to attend school every day unless they are truly sick. Be mindful that complaints of illness can be a sign of anxiety.
- Approaching your child's school for support and help if your child appears anxious about attending school as by doing this wider support can be accessed and any problems addressed swiftly.
- Knowing the school term dates and start time of the day to support good attendance and punctuality.
- Taking holidays during the holiday period and not during term time.

The academy attendance target is 98%. We have an extensive programme of support to work with pupils to remove barriers and support them to achieve good attendance. Should you have any concerns about your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Learning.

In order to keep our pupils safe, we have been reviewing the way pupils go home during the school day.

From Monday, **18th September 2023** pupils will **NOT** to be allowed to leave school site unaccompanied during the school day. An adult, either named on our system or given permission by one named on our system must come to collect pupils.

Free Breakfast

To ensure a prompt start of the day all pupils are expected to enter the school through the side gate. The gate will open at 8.00am and breakfast club will be available from this time, offering all in attendance a **free breakfast** consisting of either a toasted bagel or cereal. Pupils are expected to be through the side gate by 8.30am. At 8.30am the side gate will close and any pupils who arrive to school after this time will be deemed as late.

Dates to note

Open Mornings Y6 – Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 September

Open Evening Y6 – Wednesday 20 September 6pm – 8pm

3G Pitch Grand Opening – Thursday 28 September

Y11 Parent Review Evening – Thursday 28 September 3.30pm – 6pm

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