

BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Edition: LP4 2022-23



SPANISH STUDENTS VISIT BHA

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READING AWARD WINNERS
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YEAR 11'S LAST TRIP



Frank Field
Education Trust





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WELCOME

During LP4 our values focus turned to 'Justice and Integrity' and our LORIC skill focus has been initiative. Students have been rewarded for demonstrating these values and skills throughout the learning programme. Students have watched assemblies about understanding Autism and mental health awareness and a student leader led assembly about World Red Cross day. Students have shown great integrity in how they listened to and understood everyone's differences.

Year 10 students have shown the initiative in applying and interviewing for a student leadership role, many of which have been successful in doing so. They have met with the current year 11 student leadership team who have shared their expertise on the role and what to expect. They have also worked together to raise money for the Turkey/Syria appeal by selling cakes, sweets and Ice-lollies at lunchtime to staff and students.

We have celebrated many occasions throughout learning programme 4. The King's Coronation was commemorated with many students being invited to an afternoon tea party in the History department, nominated by their Head of Year for displaying the academy values.

As we move into Learning programme 5, our values focus turns to Compassion and our LORIC skill will be Communication. There are lots of exciting things to look forward to in our final term, including Experience Week, Culture Days and Sports Day.

On Monday 15th May, our fifth Learning Programme Cycle will begin.

We look forward to immersing ourselves in the values of **justice and integrity 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 integrity.**

OUR ACADEMY VALUES

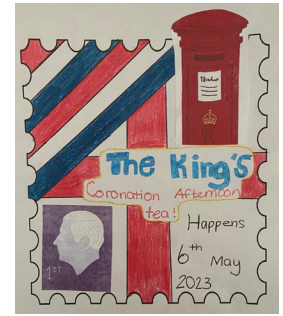
HUMILITY the quality of having a modest or unarrogant view of one's own importance	COMPASSION the quality of feeling pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others	HONESTY the quality of being truthful
INTEGRITY the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles	ASPIRE TO BE 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

SILVER & GOLD READING AWARD WINNERS



Here is our latest crop of KS3 bronze, silver and gold Reading Award winners. They have all done exceptionally well with their reading this half-term!

BHA CELEBRATE THE KING!



On 6th May 2023, we were delighted to welcome 20 students from across KS3 to the library for our Coronation Tea Party. The students involved were all competition winners who had designed invitations to the coronation for their favourite book character. It was a truly fantastic afternoon, with students getting involved with some literacy-based coronation activities, playing Royal Bingo and even posing for 'selfies' in our royal selfie frame.

Ms. Dixon even came to look at the winning entries and was very impressed with the standard!



In their Key Stage 3 English lessons this week, students have been learning about the upcoming King's Coronation by looking back at the Queen's coronation in 1953 along with some of the traditional elements and modern adjustments which will make up Saturday's ceremony. As part of this, we have considered the connotations of royalty, and the role of the monarch, and begun to think of how King Charles' reign may differ from that of Queen Elizabeth II. We have been preparing to celebrate this historic occasion by creating coronation collages, hanging bunting, and writing newspaper articles. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed the activities. Well done to all who have contributed to our amazing decorative corridor!



OUR STUDENTS DON'T

MISS A BEAT

IN A STEEL PAN WORKSHOP

On 28th April 2023, we were delighted to welcome Wade and Rebecca from Steel Pan In Motion to visit us to teach 24 students from across school how to play a Steel Pan.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed their day of music making and were fantastic ambassadors for our school. We learnt about the history of the steel pan, some of the techniques used to play them and learnt to play 2 songs.

We learnt to play a version of 'Happier' by Marshmello and a traditional Caribbean song called 'Footsteps'. The students had an amazing day learning something brand new and look forward to getting our school Steel Pans out to practice for a performance in the summer term! Thank you Wade and Rebecca



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.

YEAR 7'S GUIDE TO POMPEII

In English, year 7 have been looking at different types of non-fiction writing. We have written a script for an audio-guide to Pompeii. We were lucky enough to have our own recording studio set up to bring them to life. Students excelled at the task and enjoyed the process of "doing something different".

Our staff loved the enthusiasm and excitement the students showed towards this activity.



BIRCHES HEAD'S OWN MASTER CHEF

On 31st March 2023, Nicolas completed the Junior Chef Academy in association with Compass Group and Stoke on Trent College. Nicolas attended every session of the 10 week course and graduated with preparing a celebration three course meal for teachers and parents. The next step is to pursue his dreams of being a Michelin rated chef.



YEAR 10 ON TOUR

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

Year 10 went to Somerville College at the University of Oxford High Achievers Programme and Residential with the Sixth Form College in collaboration with Higher Horizons +. Supporting young learners in Birches Head Academy to be the best they can be and get the most successful outcomes to progress on to further study. The residential included visits to the National History museum, Ashmolean museum, Christ Church College, Explore workshop, English and Chemistry lecturers.



ONE LAST TRIP:

YEAR 11 RESIDENTIAL

At the end of March our Year 11s took part in a Revision Residential at Laches Wood; this was a great opportunity for them to participate in outdoor adventures and build some lifelong memories before leaving us in June. During the trip they also had some excellent revision sessions delivered by the English, Maths and Science departments.



BHA & GRANADA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

40 Birches Head Academy students have now travelled to Granada to work with our partner school, Escolapios Genil Granada mostly funded by the Turing Fund. From the 40 successful applicants, 20 were then partnered up with 20 Spanish students, with the aim of initiating a traditional exchange.

In March, some of our students went to stay with the Spanish families for the whole time of our visit to Spain, some found the confidence to stay for the weekend and the remainder stayed in a converted monastery attached to the school. All the students went into school for a few days and practised their Spanish.

During the Granada trips, students also visited several different locations to learn about Spanish culture through tours, dance, museums food and more.



Before the Easter holiday, 20 Spanish students and 2 Spanish teachers came to stay in Stoke. Some stayed with their Stoke partner for the whole time, some for a weekend, whilst the others were hosted by members of staff, governors, and local families with connections to BHA. Careful checks were undertaken, and risk assessment were scrutinised. The organisation was a challenge but well worth the effort as the curiosity in participation has greatly risen.



When the students visited Stoke, they came into our school for a few days, visited Trentham Gardens, painted plates together at the Emma Bridgewater Factory, we visited the Stoke 6th Form College to meet up with some of our former students and participated in various well-being workshops: art, pizza making and music at the B-Arts Studio, a combined and participatory arts organisation. During our celebration evening, our Year 11 band came to play for us.

Communicating our objectives with the wider community is an important part of the Turing Fund.

One student, Dan Cartwright Year 10 and his Spanish partner, Alberto Ayala took part in a radio programme, BBC Radio Stoke, Eze on a Sunday Morning with Reverend Geoff. The 2022-2023 BHA Turing Project has been filmed by Junction 15 which hopes to capture the success of this trip.

The Spanish school sent a film that they made during the trip which you can enjoy if you scan this code.



Projects like these, support the intent to enrich the MFL curriculum by providing opportunities to correspond with speakers with link schools around the world, and to visit the country where the language is spoken to use the language and experience the culture.

Our relationship with our partner school in Granada will strengthen and this will help to raise aspirations for global travel and work with companies and sectors that embrace internationalism.

“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 gives language learning a real boost in our academy. We hope to make exchange visits an annual experience for all to take part in”. Shirley Kliment-Temple.

A GLIMPSE INTO OUR FUTURE...

ACADEMY AWARDS EVENING

THURSDAY 29TH JUNE 2023

EXPERIENCE WEEK:

EXPERIENCE WEEK IS FAST APPROACHING. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RANGE OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES OVER THE WEEK COMMENCING 17TH JULY 2023. STAFF HAVE BEEN PLANNING THE WEEK SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR AND IT'S NOT TO BE MISSED. FROM SKIING, AND MUSEUM VISITS, WORK EXPERIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL VISITS, IT IS GOING TO BE A WEEK TO REMEMBER.

