

10 November 2023

Dear All

I hope you have all had a restful half term.

Today we have reflected and remembered those affected by conflict by holding a 2 minute silence and also our own Remembrance Service. Thank you to all pupils, Governors, staff and visitors who all have paid their respect today and please have a look at our Facebook/Twitter page to see the poppy Installation the Art and Design pupils have created.

Rewards

I am pleased to share with you that throughout Learning programme 1 we awarded 151339 positive classchart points for a variety of reasons. More pupils are being awarded positive points when comparing to this time last year.

Well done to all KS3 pupils who have been working hard to improve their timetables via TT Rockstars, the maths department are incredibly proud as am I with the huge numbers of pupils keen to improve their skill. The top 3 per year group have been announced this week in assembly and their names will be celebrated on Facebook and Twitter. Well done to all.

Truancy

On Thursday morning a small % of pupils were collected by SLT and taken to the main hall to have an assembly with myself. This assembly focussed on poor behaviour within and around the academy, specifically focusing on truanting including being removed from lessons, wandering the corridors, not going to removal rooms and leaving a classroom without permission.

It was decided any pupil reported and caught truanting will receive an immediate suspension. This is an incredibly serious safeguarding concern.

Pupil Voice

All pupils within the academy will complete their first cycle of pupil voice over the next two weeks. In this activity, pupils will reflect on their first Learning Programme of this academic year, their feelings about the safety and welfare within the academy, their learning, homework and the current rewards and extra-curricular offer we provide at BHA. Once this has been completed with all year groups we will share an action plan with all families to ensure you know how we are continuing to listen to our pupils and make meaningful changes to improve academy life.

Theatre Performance

On Wednesday, our KS3 pupils have been on a journey to find out all about Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, daughter of the last Maharaja of the Punjab. They were immersed in an hour-long drama production to be educated on this fascinating story based around the women's suffrage movement to campaign for the right to vote. The production was incredibly engaging for our pupils and alongside the historical context it also promoted diversity and tolerance.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils enjoyed this opportunity and the interactive elements of the performance, with some of our Year 9 pupils expressing how interesting they found the story and enjoyed the chance to get involved. The theatre company were extremely impressed with how our pupils conducted themselves and got involved.

Free School Meals

The Local Authority has introduced a Free School Meal Eligibility Checker online application form. Any parents that wish to apply for a new FSM claim (that haven't done so before or wish to resubmit from a previous failed claim) can access this at: <https://www.stoke.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

The system should give you an outcome of the application within a few minutes and the Local Authority will inform the school directly.

If you have difficulties completing the form online, please e-mail FSM@stoke.gov.uk with your contact details and details of any issues.

Dates to remember

13th -16th November – Week focus on Anti Bullying to promote the national campaign Make A noise About Bullying.

17th November – Review Day for Years 8 & 9

11th December – Principal's Reward Lunches

13th- 20th December – Rewards Assemblies (all years)

22nd December – Inset Day – school closed for pupils

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