

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance to school is the single biggest contributor to pupil attainment and progress. It also helps us to ensure that we are providing the best care, guidance and support that we can to all pupils. Please support us by ensuring that pupils are in school each day where at all possible. Arriving on time for the school day and for lessons is also of the utmost importance. When a pupil arrives late they miss vital learning at the start of a lesson and disrupt the learning of others (as the lesson often pauses as the latecomer arrives). Pupils who arrive late to Academic Review in the afternoon or to lessons throughout the day, will incur negative points and are monitored regularly by Heads of Learning. Persistent lates can result in Penalty Notices being issued to parents/carers. We are very keen to avoid this, so please ensure and encourage pupils to arrive on time.

### **School Age Immunisation Service Community Flu Vaccination Clinics**

The School Age Immunisation Service has recently visited our school to offer school aged children the flu vaccination. If your child has not received their flu vaccination either in school or from their GP surgery you can now book your child into one of the School Age Immunisation Service's community flu vaccination clinics.

The clinics and dates up to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 are listed below -

<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Rising Brook HC Stafford</b>	<b>10am-6pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Tamworth Rugby Club</b>	<b>3pm-7pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Meir Matters</b>	<b>3pm-6pm</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Leek (LMH) Room 10</b>	<b>10am-5pm</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Smallthorne HC</b>	<b>9:30am-3pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Burton Fire Station</b>	<b>9:30am-3pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Longton Fire Station</b>	<b>9:30am-3pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Stone Rehab Clinic</b>	<b>9:30am-3pm</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Lichfield Fire Station</b>	<b>9:30am-3pm</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Wombourne Clinic</b>	<b>9:30am- 12:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Codsall Clinic</b>	<b>1:30pm-3pm</b>

**Please be aware \*\*The Flu Clinics are by booked appointment only\*\***

Please call **0300 124 0366** to book an appointment or with any enquires regarding your child's flu vaccination.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Last Thursday, BHA took part in **Christmas Jumper Day** which is an annual fundraising campaign in the UK organised by the charity Save the Children. We encouraged our children to "*make the world better with a sweater*" and raised £177 for Save the Children Charity. It was a great day with many children and staff taking part and looking festive.

### **AQA Unlocking Potential**

BHA welcomed Olympian Skater Jenna Downing into school on Tuesday to work with Y10 pupils on the AQA unlocking potential project. AQA Unlocking Potential is a mentoring programme for young people aged 11 to 16, delivered in partnership with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, whose specially trained mentors competed at world-class sporting events. The 6 week programme aims to help unlock hidden attributes and skills for children. This is an exciting opportunity for the selected BHA pupils and I will continue to bring you more news as this project develops.

### **School Library Bingo – The Reading Cloud**

Here at Birches, we use software called The Reading Cloud to manage our library system. As well as allowing us to check books in and out so that students can take them home to read, The Reading Cloud offers a host of interactive features so that pupils can get involved from home. From searching the library catalogue, to reserving those books they are yearning to read, there really is something for everyone to have a go at. Pupils also have the opportunity to write their own reviews for their favourite books and we publish one of these to the site each week for everyone to read!

Please take the time to encourage your child to regularly visit <https://www.readingcloud.net> to inspire their passion for reading!

### **Principal's Excellence Lunches**

This week I celebrated with the nominees from every year group for this Learning Programme's Principal's Excellence Awards. Children were treated to a traditional Christmas Lunch with a choice of dessert. I hope you will join me in congratulating all those nominated for demonstrating our academy value's consistently.

### **Dates to remember.**

13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December – Reward Assemblies

WC 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunches

22<sup>nd</sup> December – INSET DAY

8<sup>th</sup> January – INSET DAY

9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – School Opens to pupils.

12<sup>th</sup> January – Y8 and Y9 school photographs

19<sup>th</sup> January – Y7 & Y10 Review Day

25<sup>th</sup> January – Y11 Review Evening

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](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely



Ms K Dixon  
Principal