

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Polite Reminder - End of the day – Traffic Measures**

The school finishes at 3.10pm, from approximately 3.05pm the school will prevent cars from leaving the site until approximately 3.20pm. This is to ensure that the pupils can exit safely. Cars will be asked to queue in the 2 lanes on the school drive and use the top and bottom car parks. Staff will direct traffic to leave when it is deemed appropriate to do so.

### **Emergency Procedure**

As many of you will be aware, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, Birches Head Academy received a call from a local resident advising us of an incident in the local community. We immediately contacted Staffordshire Police and were advised to delay the release of our pupils until the disturbance was investigated and the area was deemed safe for pupils to leave school.

I want to reassure you that the system of protective measures that we quickly put in place meant that any risks to safety were well managed and controlled by BHA staff. Our pupils acted maturely and demonstrated our school values of respect and courage when following safety instructions.

I understand that situations like these can sometimes be worrying for pupils and parents. We will be reviewing and resharing our emergency procedures with parents and pupils very soon, with the intention of the school carrying out a practice emergency drill.

### **Year 9**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 40 Year 9 pupils attended Stoke Sixth Form College for an 'Aspire Day'. This event was crafted to guide pupils in exploring their potential, interests, and future career aspirations. The educational visit was a great opportunity for some of our pupils to begin thinking about their option choices and was extremely valuable.

### **International School Award**

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, Mrs Owen was honoured to be asked to represent BHA on a visit to The Houses of Parliament to collect an International School Award. We are delighted to be awarded an intermediate certificate as part of our continued commitment to foster international work. We will continue to embed international work within our school's culture, meaning that we have begun to form many international relationships with schools across the globe.

We aim to give our pupils opportunities to take part in international visits and this year we have visits planned to the following:

- Piancavallo, Italy – Ski Trip – 15-19 January 2024
- Chengdu, China – 20 – 28 April (details to follow next week)
- Granada, Spain – 13 – 17 March
- Castelló, Spain – June (dates to be confirmed)
- Berlin, Germany – 16 – 18 July

There are many reasons why we have decided to get involved in the International School Award. When implemented, the programme benefits the entire school, including teachers and pupils, as well as the potential to create positive ripples in the wider community. Pupils get to develop an increased knowledge, awareness and tolerance about other countries, cultures and languages. They also develop their confidence in communicating with people from different backgrounds.

We will continue to work with the British Council over the next few years as we continue in our international journey and hope to receive the top accreditation one day.

**Dates to remember.**

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

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Y9 Options Evening

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or 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

