

2 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Emergency Procedure Practice

I understand that emergency procedures can sometimes be worrying for pupils and parents, but it is important to understand that emergencies can happen at any time, and we need to be prepared. Being prepared for emergencies can help us keep pupils and staff safe during stressful situations.

We will be holding a practice Lockdown Procedure next week with pupils and staff. This will be done sensitively with pupils so as not to cause any distress, in the same way that school would practice the Fire Evacuation Procedure. Lockdown procedures are important and would be used in response to an internal or external incident which could be a threat to the safety of staff and pupils in the school.

Applications for China Visit

I am very impressed by the number of applications received for our visit to China. The quality of pupils written letters and extraordinary views about why they want to go, indicates their passion to travel and experience a different culture. Our pupils have impressed me with their enthusiasm and courage to take part in such an amazing, life changing experience! Whilst it has been a pleasure to read each application, it will be a very hard task choosing who gets to go.

Year 11

As written in last week's newsletter, Year 11 had their first session with our partners 'Elevate', an award-winning organisation, helping pupils to be successful. There will be further sessions in March and April, but parents can also sign up to webinars which give practical advice on how to help your child. They have 3 sessions planned in the spring term:

How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!) February 6, 6:00-7:00pm

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams March 5, 6:00-7:00pm

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams March 19, 6:00-7:00pm

To sign up for one or more of the webinars, click the link below:

<https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

Childrens Mental Health Week

Next week is 'Children's Mental Health Week', running from 5th February to 11th February. The theme of the week is My voice matters. To support the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils we will be joining the event by doing a range of activities in academic review every day throughout the week and during PSHE lessons. Topics will include:

- How to use your voice for positive change
- We all have mental health.
- Anxiety and how to overcome stressful situations.
- Top tips to support your wellbeing- including reading.
- Self-harm- KS4
- The effects of bullying on mental health- KS3

To make sure as many pupils can study the combination of GCSE subjects they would like, we have asked Y9's to complete an initial straw poll this week during their PSHE lesson.. This will show us which combinations of subjects work best for pupils and will help us identify which subjects must run and which might not be viable (possible) this year. We will only be able to run subjects where there are enough pupils in each group. **Remember, this is not their final choice but only away to give us an idea of what they would like to study next year!**

Dates to remember.

Friday 9th February – Break up for half term

Monday 19th February – Pupils return.

19th February – 8th March Y11 Mock Exams

Thursday 7th 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.

Yours Sincerely



Ms K Dixon
Principal

