



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

My thanks to staff, students and families for all the efforts they have put in during the Autumn Term. It is always a really hard slog as the days grow shorter and the weather turns colder, but we have now reached the end of term and we can look forward to a couple of weeks rest. I would like to say a particular well done to Year 11 and 13 in how they approached their recent mock examinations.

Funding

If you recall Cheshire East is part of the F40 group which is a group of Local Authorities who are the worst funded in England; in turn we are about mid table within this group. For example we receive £100 less per student than if the school were in Cheshire West. I had expected good news regarding the new National Funding Formula (NFF) which will apply from 2018. Unfortunately I have been labouring under a misapprehension. I have been given the data below which illustrates what will happen:-

- The baseline funding is what we get now.
- The illustrative NFF Funding is what we would get under the new formula which would give us a cut of -2.9%. The government is committed to no school having a cut of more than -1.5% in any given year therefore in Year 1 (2018) we will receive £75000 less than we do now.

Headteachers across Cheshire East are understandably incensed and are finding it difficult to understand. There is a consultation available, open for the next couple of months, and I would urge you to take part in it. It is not easy to follow and I will, once I have read it properly, let you know how I would fill it in. Obviously feel free to fill it in as you wish. In the meantime, a note to your MP would not go amiss if you feel as I do. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/>

<u>School</u>	<u>Baseline Funding</u>	<u>Illustrative NFF Funding</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>	<u>Illustrative NFF in Year 1</u>	<u>Percentage Change Year 1 (given transition protection)</u>
Brine Leas	£5,143,000	£4,992,000	-2.9	£5,068,000	-1.5

Fire Alarms

Since our system was upgraded we do now have a very sensitive fire alarm system. This has led to unplanned fire alarms but in turn has meant that we have not had to do any practice ones, so it has kept everyone on their toes.

Inter House Dancing

AJ has got further than any other professional newcomer on Strictly so well done to him and we shall be watching next year. Our own Inter-House competition is on the last day of term and we are all looking forward to it.

Nuts

The simple message is, please do not bring nuts or products that contain nuts, into school. We have a number of students and staff with severe nut allergies.

Building Project

Our bid has gone off which would see D block extended and two additional laboratories created out of 4 existing English rooms, so fingers crossed for a successful outcome. A huge thank you to Mrs Bradshaw and Mr Whitehead for all the work that they put into it. We will know the outcome in March.

Sponsorship

We are very grateful to Redrow Homes and Cheerbrooks who are sponsoring some rugby kit for us; it will look very smart.

Sport in General

It has been fantastic to see so many achievements in sport over the last year. In school there are lots of opportunities for sport and many students take full advantage of this. Girls' football is on the rise at the moment and I was fortunate enough to watch a few games recently. However there is a full range of sport on offer, from table tennis to cheerleading, so have a look at the PE noticeboard or take a look at our Twitter feed to get involved.

Christmas Events

The music department are probably the busiest people at this time of year. Thank you for supporting events and taxiing children to various venues. I saw the Carol Service at St Mary's Church and it is really hard to describe if you weren't there. Suffice to say it is always a lovely evening and really gets you in the mood for Christmas. My thanks to all of the staff and children involved. By the time you receive this we should have had our Christmas jumper day as well as Christmas lunch. My wonderfully kind, witty, beautiful, sister should be resting with her toes in a foot spa and the canteen staff will be enjoying a well earned rest.

Gold Standard

- Again, well done to AJ Pritchard, ex BLS student, who has done extremely well reaching the semi-finals of Strictly Come Dancing. We wish him every success in his promising career.
- Congratulations to Emma Cragg (Year 11) and Catherine Willis (Year 8) who performed at the Nantwich Words and Music Festival in October.
- Well done to Emily Wycherley (Year 11), Ella Malcolm (Year 13), Patrick Malcolm (Year 10), Amy Redfearn (Year 8), Niamh Cockcroft (Year 11) and Kieron O'Reilly (Year 12) who all performed in 'Showtime' at Crewe Lyceum in October.
- Congratulations to the following students who all performed in 'Inspire' at South Cheshire College on 22nd October ~ Jasmin Robertson (Year 8), Hannah Smith (Year 11), Eloise Furlonger (Year 9), Imogen Aspinall (Year 9) and Macy Dunne (Year 9).
- The following students all performed in 'Carmen' with the Russian State Opera at Crewe Lyceum in September ~ Emma Currie (Year 8), Jasmin Robertson (Year 8), Evie O'Connor (Year 7), Heidi Molloy (Year 8), Abbie Bradbury Smith (Year 7) and Emily Wedgwood (Year 7). Congratulations to everyone.
- Also, well done to Mr Barker and Mrs O'Donnell who, along with numerous BLS and ex-BLS students, perform in a number of productions at the Crewe Lyceum Theatre. You can see them next in 'Spamalot' which runs from 10th – 13th May 2016.



As ever, we rely on getting information for this section from families; do get in touch if you have anything to celebrate.

PSCA

Attached is the PSCA newsletter. As a school we really appreciate the fundraising efforts of the PSCA and welcome the extra curricular opportunities they offer to the students. Please do continue to support them however you are able.

Music

A chance conversation in Church after our Christmas Concert prompts this short piece. Anybody can get involved in any of the music groups in school; you don't need to be having lessons in school to participate. Therefore, all students who are musical and want to be involved can look at what is on offer or chat to a member of the Music department.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 21 st December 2016	-	School Closes for Christmas
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	-	School Re-opens
Friday 6 th January 2017	-	Year 11 Mock Results
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	-	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24 th January 2017	-	Spanish Exchange Depart
Thursday 26 th January 2017	-	Year 9 Exams Commence
Thursday 2 nd February 2017	-	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Saturday 4 th /Sunday 5 th February	-	School Show Rehearsals
Tuesday 7 th – Friday 10 th February	-	School Show 'The Wedding Singer'
Thursday 16 th February 2017	-	BL6 Iceland Trip Departs
Thursday 16 th February 2017	-	Year 9 Auschwitz Trip Departs
Thursday 16 th February 2017	-	Year 10/11 Tattenhall Art Trip Departs
Friday 17 th February 2017	-	Ski Trip Departs
Friday 17 th February 2017	-	School Closes for Half Term
Saturday 18 th February 2017	-	Year 10/11 Tattenhall Art Trip Returns
Monday 20 th February 2017	-	BL6 Iceland Trip Returns
Monday 20 th February 2017	-	Year 9 Auschwitz Trip Returns
Friday 24 th February 2017	-	Ski Trip Returns
Monday 27 th February 2017	-	Inset Day
Tuesday 28 th February 2017	-	School Re-opens

Finally

December 21st, our final day of term, is actually my favourite day of the year as the nights start to get shorter again. Have a lovely Christmas and I will be in touch next year.

Andrew Cliffe
December 2016



BS PSCA

Parent School Community Association



NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Parent School Community Meet

Our PSCA meet in November was exceptionally productive. Mr Cliffe and PC Stonier joined us to fill up on hot chocolate with marshmallows, party rings and shortbread, oh and to offer some inspiration! We came up with some really exciting new ideas for 2017 which we are really looking forward to planning! So, watch this space...



It's Christmas!

We wish all our friends and family a very merry Christmas.

We have sent out homemade Christmas cards to any one who has supported the PSCA this year.

We enjoyed the atmosphere at the Nantwich light switch on back in November.



For our keen online shoppers out there... we can raise donations for FREE with easyfundraising. It is so simple, just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



BL6 Opening Evening

We helped to welcome prospective students into our sixth form in November. It was lovely to see so many new faces whilst serving refreshments!



Don't forget to tweet us!



" I have signed up to easyfundraising. I am aiming to reach the top of the leader board! " Mrs Pirie

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From Sarah & Laura

