

Brine Leas School

Headteacher's Newsletter

(July 2019)



As I reach the end of my first academic year in charge of the school I can tell you that it is certainly the challenge that I thought it was going to be, but thankfully the school had been handed to me in a great place from the start. (Mr Cliffe has recently returned from Belgium on a school trip – more on that one later!). We start in September with the largest number of students in the main school, the sixth form and overall – in excess of 1400 in total. We will also have the now infamous D Block extension completed, where the finishing date has sometimes felt like an asymptote (for the mathematicians out there). What we mustn't forget, a bit like a house move really, is that while there is pain when completing it, there is a fantastic building at the end of it. We will have nearly the entire English Department and ICT Department in one building, together with the newly refurbished toilets in the Technology block and two new laboratories in B block. Now if only we can get that bid to replace the mobile classrooms approved.....

Our attendance increased slightly this year, despite our bout of illness in February, so thank you for your efforts in getting your children into school as much as is humanly possible.

We look forward with anticipation to the A Level and GCSE Results in August (15th and 22nd respectively) and further details have been sent to all those collecting results, including those who have taken examinations but are not in Years 11 and 13.

A gentle reminder not to drop off students on school grounds please. The only exceptions to this are those with mobility issues. We try and keep students and adults as safe as possible and avoiding traffic at the front of school is a key priority for us. Thanks in advance for your support in achieving this.

The Breakfast Club – For those of a certain vintage, this is nothing to do with Molly Ringwald and company, but for us, this is known as 'The Morning Hangout'. It's a breakfast club in DG01 with either Mrs Walker, Miss Peters, Miss Maddocks, Mrs Clough and Mr McAlynn. It runs from 8.15-8.50am every school day.

Fashion – On the 15th July Sarah Gresty, Head of fashion from Central St Martin's in London visited Brine Leas. St. Martin's is a constituent college of the University of the Arts London. Sarah delivered an exciting and thought-provoking presentation to our year 9, 10 and 12 students, alongside visitors, staff and past students. We welcomed students and staff from Tarporley School, Cheadle Academy, Painsley Catholic College and Sir Stanley Matthews Academy. Sarah presented ideas on sustainable fashion and the future role of the designer, uses of plastics and how to reduce waste in the fashion and textile industry. She inspired students with incredible insights into the fashion shows and life as a student at CSM. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Sarah Gresty wrote 'Thank you so much for your hospitality yesterday. It was lovely visiting you all and seeing your department. I was really impressed. Your passion for the subject is obviously having a massive effect. Well done on the A level work.'

Interhouse Athletics – Wednesday 17th July saw students participate in the Interhouse Athletics. An excellent morning of field events was followed by an afternoon on the track as students competed to help their house take home the winners shield!

Special mentions must go to our 'Record Breakers' on the day who wrote their names into school history with some outstanding performances:

Ogu Orungbemi - Year 7 High Jump (1.45m)
Emily Bevan - Year 8 800m (2.43min)
Regan Davies - Year 8 Javelin (18.85m)
Oliver Atkinson - Year 9 300m (38.66secs) and Javelin (41.25m)
Sasha Fernandez Babkina - Year 9 Shot Putt (8.65m)
Jess Ralphs - Year 9 Javelin (27.05m)
Sophie Butt - Year 9 High Jump (1.45m)
Grace Wilne - Year 9 1500m (5.37min)
George Spain - Year 10 Long Jump (5.80m)

After a long day of competition which saw a huge number of students earn points for their form and house, it was Warwick house who took the spoils. Congratulations to all students who participated and thank you to all the staff who helped to the successful running of an excellent interhouse event! Photos and videos of the action can be seen on the Brine Leas PE Twitter @bls_pe

House Cup – The House Cup winners for 2018/19 were Warwick House with Audley 2nd and Lovell 3rd. It was a very close race all year and it went down to the last few events, but Warwick won the Inter House Athletics which was double points and put them in the lead. It has been an exciting year for the House events and as always, the standard has been exceptional.

Year 12 - congratulations and well done to Year 12 students on completing their first year of A level study. The forthcoming autumn term is an incredibly busy one as not only are students getting to grips with further A level study, they are also completing and sending off UCAS applications, apprenticeship and employment applications. Students have now registered for UCAS and they are therefore able to fill out the form online. A personal statement is at the heart of these applications and students are encouraged to carry on drafting theirs in time for the following internal deadlines:

1st October 2019 - Early Entry (medicine/vet. science/dentistry/Oxbridge) students
29th November 2019 - All other applications

In addition, students who are undertaking the Extended Project Qualification are required to hand in a full draft on 13th September 2019. We look forward to seeing you back in September.

Summer Spectacular – Our annual Summer Spectacular took place on Tuesday 16th July. It combined live music, dance and drama performances alongside exhibitions of Technology, Art and Apollo work. We were also joined by our Language Ambassadors contributing instrumental performances and poetry readings. The sun shone and the evening was fabulous. We are so proud of the incredible work showcased across these departments throughout the night. We are lucky to have so many creative and talented students within Brine Leas. I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the event and the families, staff and members of the public who turned out to support us. It was a magical evening and we have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback and the fantastic turn out.

Careers – We held an Alumni event on Friday 5th July where some students who left Brine Leas in 2009 came back to speak to some Year 7 and 8 students. This was a speed networking event held in BL6 where students had an opportunity to ask questions about what these ex-students are doing now - a helicopter pilot, an on-shore wind farm development manager and a children's book illustrator were among our visitors. A huge thank you to everyone who took part. Miss Morrison, Miss Peters and Mrs Marler took a coach of Year 10 students on a visit to Reaseheath College to a Year 10 Taster Day earlier on this month. Students had the chance to try a range of vocational courses out to support them with their Post 16 choices next

year. These included Agriculture, Adventure Sports, Veterinary Nursing, Animal Care, Baking and Patisserie and Motor Vehicle courses. A great day helped by great weather too.

Attendance - Well done to the 74 students who have 100% attendance for this school year. We would also like to recognise that some of our students may not have reached 100% attendance, but they have done their best to attend school even when experiencing long term illnesses, broken bones and many other things.



Cheshire Show – Lucy Hodgkinson and Watson Edd (Teddy) won their class and then overall reserve champion in what was a massive class of juniors from all over the country.



Hannah and Clothie Night Hascosay (Hassy) came fifth (Joint fourth on marks) in another huge class, of juniors and seniors, again, from all over the country. This class was a second round Olympia qualifier.

We're really proud of their achievements. Well done.



Cricket - Congratulation to Ben Jarvis who has been selected to play for Cheshire (Under 13s) this season. He has been selected for the fourth year running. During the winter he also played county hockey and his team was unbeaten over 2 tournament days against 11 other county teams.



Fire – Mr Linde is leaving us this term to pursue his career in Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. We wish him well on his new adventure.

This is a picture of the service presenting a certificate to the school in recognition of us supporting Mr Linde to be an on-call fire fighter over the past few years.

Music – The music department have had a busy term, with much to celebrate and even more to look forward to. Firstly, several of our students have had exam success. Huge congratulations to Gracie Reece Gresty, Elizabeth Luke, Emma Currie and Hannah May on gaining distinctions in their Musical Theatre singing exams with the London College of Music. Grace Wilne, Odunayu Orungbemi and Izzy Simpson all passed their flute exams with the ABRSM, two with merits! Their flute teacher said they all showed great resilience and determination putting in the work asked of them. Congratulations to Matthew McGregor, Connor Clarke and Antonia Young who passed their classical guitar exams, also two with merits, what a talented bunch!

We were very excited to watch some of our very talented students showcasing their talents in Proud Productions' performance of 'Seussical the Musical' in June. Several of our students took on main roles and three of our sixth form students played in the band for the show. They performed wonderfully and were incredibly professional, making us very proud teachers.

As well as outside of school, our students have been very busy within the department. The boy's vocal group were finalists in the Trinity school awards for 'Team of the year'. They attended an awards ceremony and gave a wonderful performance, which we were very proud of. The choir have also been busy performing at events such as 'Schools Gotta Sing' at Crewe Lyceum and 'Schoolsfest' on Nantwich Town Square, with Jasmin Robertson coming joint first in the Battle of the Bands competition.

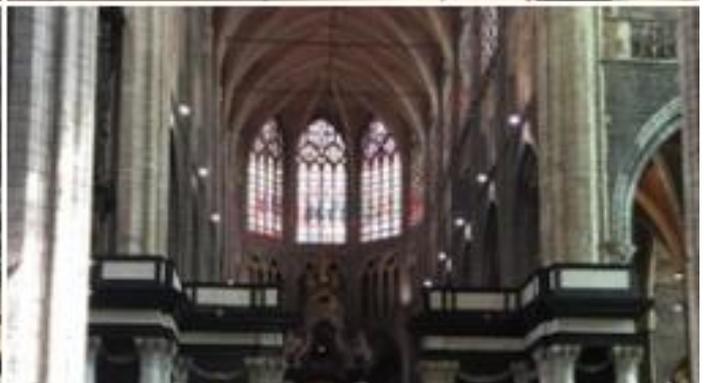
Some of our students have formed a band called 'Waterfront' and performed a set at Wrenbury's fundraising festival 'Fun in a Field for a Fiver' They stole the show and managed to raise £2445 which was split between 3 charities, a fantastic achievement. They performed again alongside all our other incredibly talented groups and soloists at the Summer Spectacular on July 16th, which was a great success, showcasing how incredibly hard all our students and staff work. We are also very proud of our students who performed at 'Nantwich Pride' entertaining the crowds and being great ambassadors for the school.

We are extremely excited to announce that we have now launched our school production for February 2020 which will be 'Legally Blonde' at the Crewe Lyceum Theatre. This has caused much excitement in both staff and students and we currently have over 120 students signed up to take part on stage alone! After some astonishingly good auditions, we have cast the production and are really looking forward to getting started with rehearsals in September.

As the term draws to a close, have just returned from our tour to Belgium, where the choir and the band performed at Ostend, Ghent Cathedral, The Cloth Hall at Ypres and at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, which was a huge honour. A huge thank you must go to the Nantwich Hearing Centre for sponsoring our tour t-shirts.

Please follow @bls_music for videos, photos and more.....





And finally – If you have a story to share or something that we can celebrate, then please send them to info@brineleas.co.uk and we'll do our best to oblige. We also regularly publish news stories and celebrations via Twitter. Our main account is @brineleas and there are accounts for most departments in school. Have a great summer break.

Dates for the Diary

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| Mon 2 nd September 2019 | - | Inset Day |
| Tues 3 rd September 2019 | - | Inset Day |
| Wed 4 th September 2019 | - | School Opens |
| Thurs 5 th September 2019 | - | Y7 Welcome Evening 6pm – 7pm |
| Mon 16 th September 2019 | - | Y8 Information Evening 6pm – 7pm |
| Tues 17 th September 2019 | - | Y7 Pastoral Parents' Evening |

Thurs 19 th September 2019	-	Y12 Parent Introduction Evening 4pm - 6pm
Fri 20 th September 2019	-	Race Night 7pm – 11pm
Fri 20 th September 2019	-	Y13 Exam Resits
Mon 23 rd September 2019	-	Y7 Residential & Instrumental Eve 6.30pm
	-	7.30pm
Weds 25 th September 2019	-	Academy Awards
Thurs 26 th September 2019	-	Y9 Information Evening 6pm – 7pm
Tues 1 st October 2019	-	Y10 Information Evening 6pm – 7pm
Weds 2 nd October 2019	-	BL6 Open Evening 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Thurs 3 rd October 2019	-	D of E Parent Drop-in 5pm – 6pm
Weds 9 th October 2019	-	Open Day / Evening
Friday 11 th October 2019	-	Inset Day
Thurs 17 th October 2019	-	Y11 Information Evening 6pm – 7pm
Friday 25 th October 2019	-	School Closes