



# Head's Newsletter

## Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

### Results

The sunflowers are in..... Hopefully they will be ready to welcome a great set of results. I think I have touched on this before, but now the exam boards have been in contact with me as well so it is worth emphasizing. Given the changes to English and Maths in terms of grading, it will not be possible to compare a school's year on year result. Now I bet the Daily Mail will manage it somehow with the headline, 'Secondary School standards in dramatic slide.' A 9 is beyond A\* and a C straddles part of grade 4 and grade 5, so hopefully you can appreciate the difficulties. If the grades are translated into the equivalent of A\* to C we would be doing well to achieve a headline result of between 57% to 61% (compared to previous headlines which have been between 69% and 74%). So please bear this in mind if you feel the headlines seem disappointing.

### Rumours and Timings of the School Day

I am always amazed at how rumours start. The latest one is that changing the times of the school day is linked to our Ofsted inspection. This isn't the case; the timings of the day have been under review for some time. We only had one response regarding the changes; a parent outlined concern about finishing at the same time as primary schools and the impact on traffic congestion. On the subject of rumour, you may not have heard, and please do not pass it on; the plans to build a new school swimming pool in our grounds have had to be abandoned. The initial trench revealed a 1800 year old Roman mosaic featuring a picture of a spacecraft with what is clearly a MacDonalds in the background; apparently it is unique but I find that hard to believe. Anyway there will be no school swimming pool and we will use the mosaic area to form the base for a couple of new table tennis tables.

### Election Result and School Funding

What the impact of the recent election will be on BLS is hard to call. If anything, it makes decision making harder. A clear cut majority may have led to little change with regard to the amount of money received by the school and redundancies necessary. It does seem likely that the National Funding Formula (NFF) will not result in any cuts, but in real terms, the amount of money to spend will continue to fall. This is true of all Cheshire East Schools. As it is, the governors and I are committed to preserving as much of our existing structures and curriculum offer as possible because, on the whole, it works and meets local needs. We are full when virtually every other local secondary school is not, so the plan remains:

- Save money where there is minimum impact.
- Have a plan that assumes the worst so we can put some things back into place if the situation ends up being better.

### Gold Standard

- Congratulations to Isaac Wilding (Year 9) who has been selected to represent England U15 Touch Rugby team in the touch Championships to be held in Dublin during August this year.
- A group of Year 10 students, Olivia McGhie, Yasmin Jones, Holly Barnes and Gracie Shallcross have recently done a sponsored walk to the summit of Snowden to raise funds for the World Challenge this summer. Well done and we wish you the best of luck with the rest of your fundraising and training for this challenge.

### Cladding

After the terrible disaster in London recently, we have been making some enquiries about the cladding used on the school buildings. The initial response was a positive one but has raised a few questions so I am seeking further assurance. As you will be aware it is not just the nature of the product but how it was fitted as well. Whilst we wait on this information we have also considered any similarities/ differences in our buildings as well, compared to the London block of flats.

With the exception of PE, there are at least two stairwells for all of our buildings. There are no service pipes in any stairwells. In addition, there are fire resistant barriers in the ceiling voids in B and C Block which were retro fitted a number of years ago. A Block is solid concrete floors with no voids. Our fire alarms were renewed and fitted about two years ago and are very sensitive to both heat and particles. The sixth form has a sprinkler system which activates on heat.

## Resilience

I am running 10k on Sunday. This was a follow up to the Inter House Cross Country back in the autumn term. As you will appreciate I am built for speed (not) and am hoping for a sub 24-hour time. It is hard to do something I am not good at; however, it means I can look students in the eye and say I find things difficult, but, I will give it a go.

## Intake Day

Lots of late nights at the moment but it is nice to see so many families out and about. Lots of little poppets were in school last Wednesday for Intake Day. They seemed to have a good day which was followed up by a disco on Friday when they were able to meet some Year 7 and 8's. It was a bonus to meet so many new and existing parents at the cheese and wine event.

## Elma the Elephant

Now about this time last year I was asked if BLS could make an elephant that would be covered in knitted squares. Casually I said I would ask but was sure that we could. So we have it! A big thank you goes to Mrs Cole who knitted many of the squares. Thanks also to the Technology Department and various other staff and children who designed and assembled it.



## Schoolsfest 2017

This year it is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 10am. If you are under 19 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 then feel free to enter the Battle of the Bands which will start at approximately 1pm and should be finished by 3.30pm to 4pm at the latest. There are cash prizes and if you want to be considered for the prizes then you will need at least three songs. If you have more songs we can figure out on the day the length of a set as it will depend on the number of entries. Backing tracks can be used. Please contact [head@brineleas.co.uk](mailto:head@brineleas.co.uk) to enter, or just turn up by 12.30 pm on the day. Guitar amps will be on stage along with a drum kit.

## Summer Extravaganza

Thank you to everyone who came to this event earlier this week. Please do check Twitter on the school website for clips and photos of this year's event. A wealth of talent was on exhibition; wonderful work from Art and Technology was showcased as well as some excellent performances from Music.

## South Cheshire Athletics

The school has just won the South Cheshire Schools Athletics cup. Congratulations to all who took part. If you go to the Brine Leas website ([www.brineleas.co.uk](http://www.brineleas.co.uk)) you can pick up the Twitter feed.

## Support Staff Vacancies

We have a number of support staff vacancies at the moment and a copy of the adverts are at the end of the newsletter. Application details can be accessed from [www.brineleas.co.uk](http://www.brineleas.co.uk) or you may wish to contact the school by e-mail: [job.applications@brineleas.co.uk](mailto:job.applications@brineleas.co.uk).

## Dates for the Diary

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	-	Year 11 Prom.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Year 10 Exams
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	-	End of External Examinations
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	-	Year 13 Leavers' Party
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Year 12 Exams
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Inter-House Drama Competition
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Post BL6 Information Evening (tbc)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Inter-House Athletics Competition
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Inter-House Athletics Competition (reserve day)
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	PSCA Alton Towers Trip
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	D of E Bronze Assessment
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Inter-House University Challenge
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	-	School Closes to Students for Summer
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	INSET Day (School Closed to Students)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	-	BL6 open for Admissions Enquiries
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	-	A'Level Results Day
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	-	BL6 open for Admissions Enquiries
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	-	GCSE Results Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	-	INSET Days (School Closed to Students)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	-	BL6 Enrolment
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	-	School Re-opens to Students in Years 7-12
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	-	School Re-opens to Year 13 Students

**Caretaker Apprenticeship**  
**(32.5 hrs per week) 42 weeks per year**  
**Grade: National Apprenticeship Rate**

We require a highly motivated and competent individual to provide an effective and efficient caretaking service, maintaining the school site and ensuring the premises and its contents are kept in a safe working condition.

The successful candidate will undertake training to develop their understanding of the mechanism of the school buildings including electrical, plumbing, plant, safety systems and equipment.

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**Trainee ICT Apprenticeship**  
**(32.5 hrs per week) 39 weeks per year**  
**Grade: Apprenticeship Statutory Rate**

Due to the continued development of Brine Leas School we have an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated and well organised person to provide an ICT support service for teachers in the school and maintain the school network.

An ambitious, well organised and motivated person with good attention to detail and excellent GCSE ICT qualifications are required for this post. It is also desirable but not essential to have A level ICT qualifications or equivalent for this role.

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**Science Technician Apprenticeship**  
**(32.5 hrs per week) 39 weeks per year**  
**Grade: Apprenticeship Statutory Rate**

Due to the continued development of Brine Leas School we have an exciting opportunity for a Science Technician Apprenticeship available to applicants who share our vision that all students should have the opportunity to Believe, Learn and Succeed to their full potential.

An ambitious, well organised and motivated person with good attention to detail is required to provide a practical, daily technician service to members of the teaching staff and their students in the Science Department.

Excellent GCSE Science qualifications are required for this post. It is also desirable but not essential to have A level Science qualifications or equivalent for this role.

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**WEEKEND & EVENING CARETAKER**

**Salary: Grade 3 Scp 9**

**HOURS**

**40 weeks per year**

**Saturday 8.30 a.m. until 2.00 p.m.**

**(Monday to Friday evenings as required between the hours of 4.00p.m. and 10.00p.m.)**

We seek a highly motivated and competent individual to provide an effective and efficient caretaking service, maintaining the security of the premises and its contents; including being a registered key holder.

This role will primarily cover weekend work; however, there may be opportunities to work additional hours as required, Monday to Friday between the hours of 4.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

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Brine Leas School is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children. The successful candidate for all the above positions will be required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 12 noon, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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