



# Head's Newsletter

## Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter.

### Royal Visit

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, KG, visited Brine Leas School on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The Duke decided to visit the school due to the extraordinary number of students who have completed the award. The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire East greeted the Duke of York on arrival. The High Sheriff of Cheshire, Mrs Alexis Redmond, the Mayor of Cheshire East, Cllr Arthur Moran and the Acting Chief Executive, Ms Kath O'Dwyer formed the official reception party. The Duke was introduced to the Head of Business Information Technology and Economics, Mrs Jess Bavin along with the Head of ICT, Mrs Andrea Sanders. Governors and Trustees attended the event along with the families of those children receiving the award as well as the Mayor of Nantwich, Cllr Penny Butterill and her consort Mr Doug Butterill, plus members of Nantwich Council. The Duke went on to present Bronze Awards certificates to 49 students and one member of staff. The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA, aims to equip young people with digital and enterprise skills. Wherever they are – on the bus, in the library, at school or in their bedroom, people can access resources to inspire them for their future careers and help unlock their potential. Inspired by The Duke of Edinburgh Award (which has supported 8 million young people since its inception), iDEA helps young people learn how to make, create, build and shine in the digital world.

### How iDEA works

Learners take part in a series of challenges in order to win awards. For every new skill and learning experience mastered, iDEA learners are awarded a digital badge. Each badge carries a number of points. When participants earn enough points, they are awarded the Bronze, Silver or Gold Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. There are badges which can help you to be safe online, and pick up tips and techniques on topics such as web design, cyber security, cloud computing, animation and how to use colours in digital creations. Digital skills are all about developing the ability to tell a computer what to do, to make, to build, to get creative and to gain confidence. Enterprise skills set you up for success in the world of work. iDEA helps equip people to be digital workers, makers, entrepreneurs, gamers and citizens of the future.

### Exams

We are in the swing of the exam season now. At this time of year I always do a little rain dance as it does help with revision. Sadly, I seem to need to have a few extra lessons as my Cha Cha Cha has only made the sun shine.

### Operational Matters

It is interesting planning anything out of the ordinary. The temptation is always just to say 'no' to anything as it is easier. However, this would make school a very dull, two dimensional place and the children would miss out. All the same time it does create change which can be awkward to manage. So, just to reassure you, I have popped down the thought processes for the Royal visit. In this case I presented a rough paper to my leadership team in late April. There were security considerations on this visit so planning with colleagues could at first only be vague.

The number one priority was to ensure that the exams would happen smoothly and without interruption. The timings of the day were done to accommodate this with the Year 11 geographers always at the forefront of everyone's mind. Secondly, what would the children and the school gain from the visit - recognition of a job well done and hopefully inspiration for those students yet to complete the award. Thirdly to try to include as many people as possible- even though this caused some security issues it always seemed appropriate to have families in on the day if they wanted to come.

## **School Lottery**

**Family Heritage Pass!** That's right! As well as knowing you're supporting YOUR school AND a weekly chance to win up to £25,000 sign up today and you could also win a Family Annual Membership with either the National Trust or English Heritage! All tickets entered into the 2nd June 2018 draw OR tickets still pending their first payment purchased before 8pm on the 2nd June 2018 (subject to full payment being received) will be entered into the prize draw. Thanks to everyone who has signed up to the lottery so far. There is a weekly school winner, with the prize getting close to £40 now as more folks join as well as the national prize (s). One of the prizes for June is membership of the National Trust (see above) as well as the usual £25,000. You can sign up very easily for the weekly draw by following the link <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/brine-leas-school>.

## **School Choir**

The choir has been selected as one of Cheshire Schools Awards finalists in the class/team category. We wish them luck.

## **PE and Hot Weather**

I have had a chat with the PE staff and they have confirmed that a lot of children do not bring in a hat or sun cream.

## **Building Work**

This process seems achingly slow and it must be very frustrating reading about jam tomorrow! The consultation has been done, the money is waiting to be signed over and planning permission is in place. I just need the go ahead from the Headteachers' Board at the Regional Schools Commission. The next meeting is in mid-June so I will keep you posted.

## **Gold Standard**

Many children do amazing things outside of school and I'm sure I only get to find out the tip of the iceberg. Golden Corner in the Head's Newsletter is the chance to celebrate success in absolutely anything.

- Harry Vincent recently took part in the British Open Air Rifle competition coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in his heat and was put through to the finals, where he came 4<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!
- Congratulations to Haydn Sewell who has recent World Sailing Championships. In addition, he will be entering the European Championships soon and we wish him the very best of luck.
- Congratulations also go to Freya Sewell who took part in the British Optimist selection and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> girl overall. She qualified to represent Team GBR at Optimist European Championships, in the Netherlands and we wish her all the very best.

## **Finally.....**

I hope that you all have a lovely half term and we come back on a Week 2.

