

Brine Leas School

Headteacher's Newsletter

(May 2019)



Boys' Choir

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that the Brine Leas Boys' Choir have been chosen as a finalist in the school/team of the year in the Chester Chronicle Cheshire School Awards 2019. The announcements and presentations take place at a hotel in Chester next month. As finalists and performers, the boys have also been asked to perform at the awards. I'll hopefully be able to bring you news and pictures from the awards in the next newsletter.

Netball success

A special mention for Alice McGeachy in Year 10. Alice plays for Oldham, an elite and one of the most successful clubs in England. Alice and her teammates recently travelled down to North London for England Netball's Under 16's National finals, where the country's top 18 teams compete over two days. Alice, being 14 is one of the youngest players there, with many players being a full two years older and was even awarded "player of match" in one of the group games. Oldham went on to reach the finals, where they played Eagles Netball Club from Berkshire. Oldham took the title 37-24, bettering their 2nd place in the finals last year. Alice now has 3 National medals, two Golds and a Silver, her team having won the Under 14's title last year. Well done Alice.

Royal Air Force

We would like to congratulate Ben Redfearn in Year 13 for passing his CBAT (Computer Based Aptitude Test) for the Royal Air Force. The test was intense and incredibly challenging but Ben passed with flying colours and is hoping to be fast tracked through the selection process, aiming to begin officer training at the end of 2019.

St Martin's College

Tom Spooner in Year 13 has got a place at St Martin's College to study a foundation then a degree in Fashion. St Martin's is a prestigious college of creativity in London. He chose Textiles at A level having not studied it previously and has worked incredibly hard to make it a success. Well-deserved Tom. Previous graduates of the college include; Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen, Gareth Pugh and Christopher Kane.

Building Work

The two main ongoing building projects are nearing completion. We'll certainly enjoy the facilities when they're released, but without meaning offence to the builders, we'll be glad when they've gone. We should get the Tech block toilets completed just after half term and the extension to D block in late June. As a reminder, the toilets give us a slight increase in toilet numbers (we never have quite enough) but a much higher quality of facility. D block gets us more classrooms, which does give a slight increase, but we will lose some existing classrooms in B block to make way for two laboratories over the summer break. We never have quite enough laboratories either.

School Budget

I attended a meeting with Cheshire East Council a couple of weeks ago, where several secondary Headteacher's gave evidence of the financial difficulties currently being faced by schools and the impact of those difficulties. The aim of the meeting was to provide Cheshire East MPs the information that they need as they lobby the Government and particularly the Treasury to try to improve the overall situation. While some of the discussion is technical, some of it is incredibly simple. There are two main strands to it:

- there isn't enough money in the total allocation to education to provide the education that our students deserve, locally, regionally and nationally – some schools simply cannot offer the education needed for their students with the money allocated to them
- the distribution of the money leaves inequity between schools – as I've told you before, we are one of seven of the lowest per-pupil funded secondary schools in Cheshire East

If you feel that you want to canvass your local MP with your opinions on this matter, then I'm sure they'll listen to your concerns and pass them on to the decision makers. In the current political situation, I would urge you to make efforts to keep education towards the top of the agenda.

Year 11 and Year 13 Examinations

Thanks to all the work in preparing for these and also making them a success. Many students are nearly halfway through their examinations, some not quite so far. I can't be pleased over the half term weather whatever it is as I want good weather for my short break and rain for the students to force more revision. Oh well.....

Dates for the Diary

Friday 24th May 2019	-	School closes for half term
Monday 3rd June 2019	-	School re-opens
Monday 3rd June 2019	-	Y12 Careers Talks commence
Wednesday 5th June 2019	-	Y7 exams commence
Saturday 8th June 2019	-	DoE practise
Sunday 9th June 2019	-	DoE practise
Tuesday 11th June 2019	-	Y7 exams finish
Friday 14th June 2019	-	GCSE Trilogy/Physics
Monday 17th June 2019	-	IH University Challenge
Monday 17th June 2019	-	GCSE German
Tuesday 18th June 2019	-	Y11 Prom
Thursday 20th June 2019	-	Y10/12 Drama & PA Assessment showcase
Thursday 20th June 2019	-	External exams end
Friday 21st June 2019	-	Y13 Leavers' Party
Tuesday 25th June 2019	-	Intake Evening
Tuesday 25th June 2019	-	Y9 Immunisations
Thursday 27th June 2019	-	Intake Day
Friday 28th June 2019	-	PCSA Intake Disco
Monday 1st July 2019	-	Y10 exams
Monday 1st July 2019	-	BL6 Taster Day
Saturday 6th July 2019	-	PSCA Alton Towers trip
Sunday 7th July 2019	-	Uniform Day
Friday 12th July 2019	-	Y10 exams finish
Friday 12th July 2019	-	IH Languages
Monday 15th July 2019	-	UCAS reference reports deadline
Monday 15th July 2019	-	DoE Bronze
Tuesday 16th July 2019	-	DoE Bronze
Wednesday 17th July 2019	-	IH Athletics
Tuesday 16th July 2019	-	Summer Spectacular
Thursday 18th July 2019	-	Music Tour departs
Monday 22nd July 2019	-	Music Tour returns
Wednesday 24th July 2019	-	School Closes
Wednesday 4th September 2019	-	School re-opens

Queen's Bravery Award

You have previously been told about Joe Rowlands in Year 10, for his act of bravery off the coast of Anglesey.

I'm delighted to update you with the news that Joe has been recognised with a Queen's Medal for Bravery, recently awarded to him by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire.

Wear it with pride Joe. Well done.

And finally.....

Have a great half-term!

