



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Welcome to the penultimate Head's newsletter of my tenure. Lots of things are happening or have happened, so do have a good read.

Pride of Britain

Congratulations to Joe Rowlands for his incredibly well deserved Pride of Britain Award. Joe Rowlands and his father Paul feared for their lives after capsizing whilst kayaking in the sea at North Wales. After reaching land himself, Joe risked his life to go back into the sea to rescue his dad. I know Joe's family are extremely proud of him, but the school is also very proud of Joe. Read more at: <https://inews.co.uk/news/pride-of-britain-awards-winners-list-2018/>

Updates to Records

We are trawling through student contact information to ensure that we have correct details for every child in school and finding one or two anomalies. As you are aware this could be of vital importance in the event of an emergency. If you change your home address or telephone number or email address then please tell us. In particular we do need contact details of anybody with parental responsibility even if they do not live in the same house as you and your child. If there are specific sensitive reasons why this information is not already on the system, then you can speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team. We may be contacting a few of you over the next few weeks to bring our records up to date or to check on details. You can check your own details through My Child at School.

Remembrance Activities

Four years ago we put up some boards at the front of school to remember the Great War. To commemorate the end of the war the History department has added to this area with the addition of sandbags and poppies. In addition, we have some wonderful displays in school. Students from Brine Leas laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Nantwich on Sunday 11th November 2018 and on Monday 12th November, both BL6 and the main school held assemblies to show our respect to those who gave their lives, or were injured, in war.

Inter-House Music

I was really nosey and visited rehearsals prior to the inter house music. It always amazes me how it all comes together on the day. The day was fantastic and it so hard to try to choose the best performances when the standard was so high. Students from all Year groups were involved and the House Choirs were vast. I always come away from Inter House music absolutely drained. Thanks to everyone involved and well done to Warwick for a hard fought win.

Scholastic Book Fair

Until Wednesday 21st November 2018, the Scholastic Book Fair will be in the Library. There are over 200 titles for your child to choose from and with prices starting from only £2.99 there should be a book for everyone. Payment can be made by cash or by using the secure Scholastic payment line (students can obtain full payment information from the library). Don't forget that every book you purchase helps to get free books for the school library.

Gold Standard

- Congratulations to Dominic Church (Year 9) who has been selected to train with the Cheshire County Hockey Academy Centre for another year.
- Well done to Laura Kirby (Year 11) who is the first girl from Nantwich Seals Swimming Club to be invited to join the Cheshire swimming team at the National Inter-County competition. Collectively they achieved first place in Division 2. Congratulations Laura and all the Cheshire team.
- Congratulations also goes to Isaac Leydon (Year 8) who has been selected to compete with the Junior Boys Cheshire team in the Inter Counties Cross County competition on 8th December 2018. We wish Isaac and the team the very best of luck.

Year 11 Rugby Team

Congratulations to the Year 11 Rugby team; I know they lost in their latest Cup Match, but they put up a great performance against a very strong team.

Parking

I do know that many of you who drop off or collect by car do so at a sensible distance from school; thank you for doing that. At the same time please respect our neighbours who do need to get in and out of their drives safely. This is especially the case as there are a number of roadworks locally that are squeezing the amount of street parking down.

Work Experience

Year 11 have recently been on work experience and I know that they had some great opportunities. We have received some lovely comments back from the employers and it is fantastic to read them.

Building Work

The sports Hall roof will soon be complete although the fascias will have to be put on after Christmas. Work around the main hall will commence before Christmas. The extension to D block is a few days behind schedule but they assure me that they will catch up. I am hoping that work on the Tech Block toilets will commence before February half term.

Menai

The Menai Blog goes from strength to strength. By the end of play nearly 170 people had visited it and between them registered 17189 hits! The students seemed to have a great time and I hope that they got a lot out of it and made lots of new friends.

GCSE and GCE Results

The provisional tables have been produced. We are still receiving amended results and it looks like the final figures will change in January making our outcomes even better than previously published. Watch this space.

St James Palace

Mrs Sanders, along with Mrs Robson and two students, were recently invited to St James Palace for canapes and to receive yet another well done on the overall number of students who achieved the iDEA award. Congratulations to everyone who was involved.

New Head of School

I will continue after Christmas in my role as CEO. In addition I have been asked to do an extra day a week to ensure that there is a smooth transition; in practice this is already happening. The future looks very exciting with a fresh injection of energy, youth and enthusiasm to further improve the school. I have been a bit cheeky with my retiring date to make it look like I have been here 25 years....it's close enough to count.

Mocks

I hope that Year 11 are revising. There is no quick way to learn information. Sit down and do it. All anybody can do is their best. If students genuinely revise and do well that's something to celebrate.

If learning still happens but is not rewarded with success in the mocks that is equally useful as it means that question technique may have to be revisited or perhaps it's a timing issue or maybe a topic has not been understood.

School Fund

A note has gone out about school fund. I do hope that you contribute to the school fund, if you are in a financial position to do so. This year, the money raised through the School Fund will be going towards refurbishing science laboratories. All donations, of any amount, will be greatly appreciated.

Parent Governor Elections

Information about the vacancies on the Local Governing Board has gone out. I hope that some of you will be willing to take on the role of parent governor. If you have any queries in relation to the role as governor or the election process, please contact clerkofgovernors@brineleas.co.uk

The End is Nigh Events Coming Up

- **Interhouse Dance** - The Inter House Dance is coming up on the last day of term so rehearsals are under way. I am doing a tap dance again this year but, sadly in practice, keep falling in the sink.
- **Christmas Concert (Tuesday 18th December 2018)** - We are always up against the little ones with their tea towels and stuffed donkeys but the annual carol service at St Mary's Church in Nantwich is always a lovely evening. It lasts about an hour and there are light refreshments afterwards. This event has always kick started my Christmas and if you can make it you are assured of a really wonderful evening of music including lots of carols.
- **Christmas Lunch and Non-uniform Day** - We will combine our Christmas lunch, on the last Wednesday of term (19th December), with Christmas Jumper day (non-uniform day). Don't feel like you have to rush out and buy a sweater especially but do please support the non-uniform day regardless. As usual my gorgeous sister, Andrea, is training to help to serve the Christmas lunch. She has already made her legendary, figgy pudding and is about to commence her marathon annual sprout peeling session.
- **A level Certificate Evening** - I think this is my last public event as Headteacher. If you have older children who left BL6 last year then do try to come along. It's always a lovely night and usually the students stroll into town afterwards. There is also a bar!

Finally

I hope that the next half term goes as well as the first.

Andrew Cliffe
November 2018

Dates for the Diary

Monday 19 th November 2018	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 29 th November 2018	-	Year 11 Mock Exams commence
Thursday 29 th November 2018	-	French Exchange arrive
Friday 30 th November 2018	-	Deadline for BL6 applications to be in time for option block building (this not a final application deadline)
Thursday 6 th December 2018	-	French Exchange leave
Thursday 13 th December 2018	-	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	-	BLS Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church
Wednesday 19 th December 2018	-	A Level Certificate Evening
Friday 21 st December 2018	-	School Closes for Christmas
Monday 7 th January 2019	-	School Re-opens to Students

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

GIFT EXPERIENCE GIVEAWAY!

**Buy Your Lottery Ticket this term,
for a chance to **WIN** a £50 Virgin
Gift Experience.**

**WIN 1 of 5
£50 Virgin Gift
Experiences.**

- Start the New School Year by joining our lottery & be part of our community!
- Tickets cost just £1 per ticket, per week and 40% of all ticket sales are donated to our school.
- Guaranteed Cash Prizes every week.
- Chance to WIN a £25,000 Jackpot every week.
- Draws are every Saturday at 8pm and results are posted online.
- The easiest and quickest way to join our lottery is online where you can set up your payment either by Direct Debit or Debit Card.

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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Sign up before 26th October 2018

Terms and conditions apply – see website.

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