

Brine Leas School

Headteacher's Newsletter

(November 2019)



It's been an incredibly busy Autumn Term so far and there is lots to give you updates on. The student's achievements have been amazing and the variety of reasons that I've awarded Headteacher's merits for has been breathtaking and makes me incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful, active school community.

Building work

We are currently without builders which is a welcome change from the past twelve months. We now have a fully finished Diamond Block, two new laboratories and a suite of new toilets in the Technology block corridor. We also have new lights and ceilings in a number of spaces, including the Main Hall, Canteen and Art corridor, which look good and are more energy efficient than we have been in the past. These are mostly in spaces that we have managed to have the roof replaced. It won't have gone unnoticed that we not currently using our plastic-wrapped 'white' mobile as it is in need of repair. The necessary repairs are currently that significant that we cannot use the space, and this has meant that we have had to reorganise the planned teaching from there into other rooms. You may remember from previous Newsletters that we have tried unsuccessfully to bid for monies to replace that and our other mobile classrooms. The current round of bids is open, and we will once more try to have them replaced. Nationally, capital investment in schools is at a low level, although we have been successful in several recent bids. We will also bid for further roof repairs as our remaining fifty plus year-old flat roofs are problematic and often provide us with unexpected gifts on a wet morning. I will let you know how we get on.

National Farmers Union (NFU)

Two recently trained farming representatives and the Vice President of the NFU will be visiting school on 29th November 2019 to talk to our Year 8 students. The representatives are part of the Speakers for Schools initiative and we look forward to them visiting school. NFU Speakers for Schools is a free of charge service provided to Secondary schools in England and Wales. Food and farming are regularly featured in the media. Many times, pupils read an article or watch a story online – featuring different viewpoints about key topics such as changing diets, climate change or animal welfare. The speakers will deliver a presentation to the Year 8 students followed by a Q&A session promoting discussion amongst pupils.

Christmas Concert and Carol Service

We will once again be attempting to fill St. Mary's Church on Tuesday 17th December 2019, for our annual Christmas Concert and Carol Service. We normally have over 50 students taking part in the service. It's always a real highlight to the festive calendar for me so if you want to come and join us for an hour or so of festivities and merriment then we'd be delighted to see you there. The service starts at 7.00pm.

Year 7 Residential – Lakeside

This year, our Year 7s went to a new venue at YMCA Lakeside on the shores of Lake Windermere. It's quite literally a new venue as it only opened this year. Our Y7s were lucky to have new facilities, excellent instructors and centre staff and lots of BLS staff to make it an excellent week. From canoeing and kayaking to high ropes, walking and bushcraft, the children took part in some amazing activities. For the Y7 parents, the Lakeside blog had some amazing pictures and stories of the 230+ children that we took on the residential. I'm sure that there was a lot of sleep catch-up over the half term break.

Year 11 Work Experience

As part of schools Careers Programme, more than 230 Year 11 students completed another excellent Work Experience week during Curriculum Enrichment Week last month. A huge range of employers opened their doors to support students with exploring their career ideas and gaining essential employability skills. We are very lucky to be able to offer such a wide range of opportunities to students and thank them all for their support. If you or your employer might be able to consider offering this opportunity to Year 11 or BL6 students in the future please do get in touch careers@brineleas.co.uk

Information evenings

Thank you to parents/carers for attending the Information evenings in September and October. As a school, we are always looking to further improve our communication with families and your feedback suggests that these evenings were worthwhile. We will be making some tweaks based on the comments from your surveys ready for 2020/21. Copies of all presentations can still be found on the front page of the website. A huge thank you must also go out to the Student Leadership Team who attended these evenings and did themselves proud.

Parents' Evenings

Whilst many of the Parents' Evenings are a little way off, I would like to inform you of a change to the normal procedure of booking appointments, which is based on your feedback from last year. Some parents found it difficult to book appointments for all of the core subjects (Mathematics, Languages, English and Science). As a result, we will be changing how these appointments are booked. Your child will receive a letter approximately 4 weeks before the Parents' Evening with full details. Year 11s are receiving their letters in an assembly today (14.11.19) and a copy will also be emailed home. Please contact Mrs Darling or Mr Ward if you have any queries. Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 16th January 2020. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Progress Tutor Positive Behaviour Reports

To ensure the early intervention and support, progress tutors might choose for a student to go on report. This is a positive behaviour report which will give a student three targets to help them with their in-class behaviour and engagement. This will enable closer monitoring of a student's in class behaviour and progress daily to help the right interventions to be put in place. Progress Tutors will look at behaviour data and make a judgement if they believe this approach would be supportive and beneficial for the child. The report is paper based, and the child carries it with them. Parents can therefore see what has been recorded daily. If a student is placed on report, then parents and the progress manager for that year group will be notified. I would like to thank all parents in advance for their support with this and remind everyone that early intervention is key to ensuring successful outcomes for all children.

School Uniform

Our local MP, Laura Smith has started a campaign to facilitate families being able to exchange uniforms to save overall costs for parents. I've attached the information on this to the end of this newsletter.

School Lottery

The school lottery has been running for over a year and through your generosity we have raised over £4,500. More exciting is that there have been 76 winners, each winning between £40 and £50, most recent winners were MM: £49, SC: £47, AC: £49, MG:£48

How does the draw work?

There are 2 chances for you to win every week.

When you start supporting, you get your own unique 6-digit ticket number. Each school will have its own weekly draw which only their supporters are entered into. This means you are guaranteed that someone from within your school community will win every week. The more numbers that are issued within your school community, the bigger the prize becomes. The size of the prize will be published on this website on your school's page in the lead up to each weekly draw.

On top of this, a separate weekly draw will take. If your numbers match the six numbers drawn in sequence, then you've won £25,000!

[How to join!](#)

It's really easy, follow this link and start supporting and hopefully winning

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk>

Thanks to all our supporters and good luck.

Martin Gibson

Chair Brine Leas Trust

<https://brineleastrust.co.uk/>

BL6

Year 13 students are working incredibly hard at the moment to not only keep pace with their work for their A level subjects, but to also finalise plan for their post BL6 applications to employers, apprenticeship providers and universities. Thus far, the largest ever cohort of UCAS Early Entry applications has been submitted. Well done to all those students involved. For all other students, it is important that good progress has been made for all other intended destinations. This normally includes the completion of a personal statement. As we move towards the deadline for the remaining UCAS applications, students are therefore encouraged to strike an appropriate balance between applying early and submitting an application of real quality. Staff are, of course, on hand to offer as much support as possible.

Open Days

We had an Open Day for BL6 and an Open Day for the main school last month. Both were incredibly well attended. While the deadline for applications for Year 7 in September 2020 has passed, the applications for BL6 are being processed now and applications are still being accepted. If students wish for their applications to be used in the design of the option blocks, then 29th November is the deadline. We do, of course, accept applications after this date. Year 11 have been invited over to BL6 on Tuesday 19th November during their PHSE slot. This is a further opportunity for students to talk to subject staff about their plans post-16 and the subjects they are considering studying. Mrs Morrison will also be available during this time to talk to students interested in a more vocational pathway. I envisage a flurry of applications following this event. The application timeline for BL6 is printed below.

BL6 Application Timeline / Key Dates

BL6 Applications Open	3rd October 2019
BL6 IAG Sessions Commence (Information, Advice & Guidance)	5th November 2019
Deadline for applications to be used to form Option Blocks	29th November 2019
BL6 Option Blocks formed and Timetable constructed; applicants receive confirmation of their courses	Spring Term
BL6 Subject Induction Days	29th and 30th June 2020
GCSE Results Day and BL6 Enrolment	20th August 2020

Remembrance Day

The students behaved impeccably through our remembrance assemblies on Monday. The choir and band and gave us beautiful performances to compliment the assembly. James Cole and Craig Shaw also fulfilled the difficult task of playing the Last Post in two of our assemblies and I thank them and all of the performers for their efforts. Year 11 and 13 students also accompanied myself and Mr McClellan in the remembrance parade and service in Nantwich on Sunday and they represented the school impeccably – laying wreaths at the War Memorial on the town square as part of the service. All our students deserve praise for the respectful nature of their conduct throughout, enough to make me proud as Headteacher and certainly for you all as parents. On a side note, as far as I know I'm about to run out of brass players that could potentially play the Last

Post in school on Remembrance Day. If your son/daughter may be able to help out with this, two years hence, please let me know via the school office.

Student Achievements

As ever with student achievements, my biggest source of information is from you, the community. Our students do wonderful things inside and outside of school and I really appreciate it when you tell me about them. If you can provide me with information and preferably a picture too, I will do my best to celebrate the achievement in the next Newsletter. If you send the information to newsletter@brineleas.co.uk I will assume that you've given me permission to use it. If it's something that we've included from school, you may be contacted to confirm that you give permission for me to include the information and a picture in the Newsletter as not every parent allows us to do so. For this edition, I've had a lot of information. Some of the more recent submissions have been postponed until the next newsletter.



Craig Shaw

On Sunday 7th October, Audley Brass Band took part in the annual Bolsover Festival of Brass. In a very close third section contest, Audley was awarded second place, only one point behind the winners. Later in the day, the band competed in the second section against some very strong bands from around the country. The band achieved an outstanding fourth place in this section and Craig Shaw was awarded the prize for best soloist, for his performance of Neil Sedaka's 'Solitaire.'

Sammy Chesworth

Sammy is currently a member of the Wrexham AFC Centre of Excellence U12 squad. He trains twice a week at the FA Wales National Development Centre at Colliers Park in Wrexham and plays games every Sunday against many of the top academy sides in the Midlands and North West including Manchester City, Manchester United and Liverpool. He is also a member of the South Cheshire District Schools football team who successfully won the Moors Cup this year against all the other Cheshire District Schoolboy teams. Well done Sammy!

Jessica Wright

After last year's successful selection into England touch rugby high performance training squads and further selection into the final squads Jessica was pleased to be re selected once again this year. After winning at national level by representing North West England and becoming National U18s champions. She will have now embarked on an eight month training schedule with England touch rugby ahead of next year's junior European Competition. Good luck Jessica.

Lilie Jones

Lilie recently competed in the All Britain All Breeds Calf Show. The All Breeds All Britain Calf Show is organised by Holstein Young Breeders and held annually in October. The calf show features classes for Holstein and six other dairy breeds British Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Dairy Shorthorn. The event involves: The National Showmanship Competition, The National Holstein Calf Show, Classes for six other dairy breeds, Best Presented Stand Competition, Tidy Lines Competitions, The Littlestar Award, The Dick Stapleton Award, Presentation of The Louise Hartley Award, The Young Breeders Celebration.



Kyra Randle

Kyra will be performing with Yvonne's School of Dance at Lyceum Theatre Crewe from 14th-16th November, where they are performing Showtime. This has wonderful production numbers, beautiful costumes and inspiring choreography. Tickets available from the Lyceum Theatre.

Ruby Parsons, Grace Rees-Gresty and Bethan Williams

There is a small group of girls who sat their GCSE Dance this year (whilst in year 9). They have undergone a two-year extra-curricular course through The Academy of Performing Arts in Betley.



Alana Gauntlett

Alana has been very busy over the summer with Touch Rugby. She has played as a North West U18s player and was then selected for the England Touch Rugby high performance training squad and the North West Women's squad. Being selected for England is a gruelling process with training sessions taking place all over the country. Alana continued to keep her North West Women training up at Stockport on a Wednesday evening. The England competition took place over three days in August, in a very wet Paris. Competing against 7 other countries Alana and

the other U18 girls took on the challenge and came home with a Gold Medal. Alana was given the Coaches Player of the Tournament trophy. Three days later and she was back in competition mode for the Nationals, where she competed with the North West Women's team. She has been rewarded by being selected for the England Women's Training Squad and the England U18s Training Squad for next summer's competitions. She continues to play Rugby Union and will also trial for the Cheshire Squad in January.

David Frisher

A year ago, David was awarded his Chief Scout's Gold Award. To earn it you must complete a number of challenges – including learning about the world, teamwork, and adventure. Now, a year on, after a total of ten years in the Scouting movement, he has just received his Chief Scout's Platinum Award, part of which involved completing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. He's a keen member of the 38th Nantwich Explorers and hopes to become a Young Leader soon.

Will Cole

Will broke the Brine Leas Year 7 1500 m record at sports day in July 2019 completing it in 5 mins 32 secs. He also represents both Crewe and Nantwich and Cheshire Athletics outside of school.

Ryan Hevamanage-Sturdy

Ryan is a keen trampolinist and is currently on British Gymnastics award 10 for trampolining, participating frequently in trampolining competitions. Ryan also participates in TeamGym. He was part of the Mixed Level 6 Youth team at the Northern League competition this year where the team won gold and also scored the highest points on trampette. Ryan is also a keen tennis player and partakes in sessions at Nantwich Tennis Club.



Archie Spencer

Archie is a fully qualified FA referee and referees on Saturdays and Sundays. He has been doing this since he was fourteen.



Rebecca Symns-Rowley

Rebecca has recently graduated as a Cheshire volunteer police cadet. Volunteering for the cadets has given her an insight into the work that the police do and how vital they are to the community. She's gained valuable skills and has also helped her gain more confidence. This is Rebecca receiving her certificate with the Assistant Chief Constable.

Drew Bradley

Just to let you know that Drew Bradley 10EDG came 6th in the England Athletic Championships on 1st September in the 80m hurdles with two personal best times. He ran 11.51 seconds in the final. He was also 7th in the English Schools Athletic Championships earlier this year in July representing Cheshire and Brine Leas.

Corey Beech

Corey has travelled the country to participate in e-sports and gaming festivals. Over the last two years, he has attended and qualified for the 'eggwar' (minecraft-cubecraft) open tournaments at insomnia gaming exhibitions at the National Exhibition Centre, successfully reaching the finals every time. At Insomnia 64 he finally won the entire tournament.



Oliver Torjussen

Oliver has been selected to play football for Cheshire under 16s following three trial events with approx 90 boys recommended by schools across Cheshire taking part. His first game in the final team of 16 selected boys will be on 24th October against Merseyside at Winsford FC.

Priya Robinson

Priya has successfully passed her Grade 2 in piano this year and is now working towards her grade 3. This summer, Priya also passed her Gold Latin and Freestyle dance with honours.

Holly Gregory

Holly has been raising money for charity. Of her own accord, she has twice raised money for St Luke's Hospice by swimming. She has also baked cakes in order to raise money for children in need. Holly does Jujitsu, has previously been a Nantwich Seals Swimming club champion and does ballet, modern and street Dancing three times a week. She enjoys running and is a frequent park runner with our family on a Saturday morning.

Alex Forlani

Alex spent his work experience under the direct supervision of the Director of Finance in the East Cheshire CCG where he made an excellent impression, culminating in an impressive 360 degree feedback from the team. On his last day, he had an informal job offer – available for him after graduating which is an impressive achievement.

Imogen Stalgis

Imogen recently Completed in the North Midlands Championships (swimming) 2019 on 5th 6th, 19th & 20th October 2019. She won Gold medals for 50, 100, 200 backstroke Made 13 year County times and is now only 1 second off the 13 year old Regional times for 50 & 100 Backstroke. Imogen also won Silver medals for 100 Butterfly & 200 Freestyle & Bronze medals for 100 freestyle & 400 IM. Her new swim coach is Luke Guy, the brother of James Guy - Team Gb Olympic swimmer and fastest in the world this year for 200 freestyle. Imogen Swims for Crewe Flyers Swimming Club.

Siena Oxby

Siena is a competitive swimmer in the Regional squad at Stockport Metro - training 6 times a week with two 5am starts. She is also on Stockport Metros National Synchronised swimming squad, training 3 times per week. Her synchro squad are currently the under 12 National Champions and are ranked 2nd in the UK. In September she swam at the Stockport Metro Championships. She won an abundance of silver and bronze medals (4 silver, 6 bronze) and has won the award for 3rd highest 11-year-old girl. Also, in September, Siena took part in Sprint with the Stars. A race which gives swimmers the opportunity (if they finish in the top 7 of their age group) to swim with a

swimming star. Siena made the final of the 50mtr breaststroke to swim Commonwealth Champion Sarah Vasey. She won not only her age group but the star herself (they were given a 10 sec head start). More recently, Siena swam at the North Midlands Championships. She has retained her title for the 2nd year running as the undefeated 50, 100 and 200 metre breaststroke champion. She also became the 100, 200, 400 and 800 metre freestyle champion and the 200metre Individual Medley champion. A total of 8 golds and 1 silver medal, also winning the award for 2nd highest 11-year-old girl. A brilliant start to the swimming season getting ready for County Championships.

Bailey Moss

Bailey is a member of Cheshire Blades Warriors Football Team, playing in a Sunday league. He is also a member of Nantwich Seals Swimming Club and is regularly selected to swim in galas, representing the club. Most recently, Bailey competed in Arena League Gala he came; 2nd 50m Fly and 3rd in the 50m Freestyle, gaining personal best times and the team coming second overall.

Lewis Gow

Lewis travelled to Bristol to sit his grading in Tae Kwon Do. He has recently received his result last and he has passed, making him a 2nd Dan Black Belt in the sport.

Will & Ollie Randles

After a year at Stoke Knight's the boys decided they needed a new challenge and so bit the bullet and trialled for Cheshire Phoenix U16 Premier League Basketball Team and we're delighted to tell you that both boys have made the team. It's a step up again to meet the challenges of the Premier league, as they will be playing the best teams from across the country, but their new coach feels they are both up to the level required. We are thrilled to see them both continuing to push themselves and loving the game as much again as when they started.

Alice Ford

Alice did very well at the national school championships at Addington after qualifying locally when she won at Southview and Beaver Hall. She was placed 10th out of 70 in the arena event, with over 300 schools competing. She also had two good clear rounds in the show jumping, but the smaller ponies beat her on time. Alice also managed to show her Mums Shire Horses in the young handlers winning at the National Shire Horse show in March, winning the North West Foal Show and winning the most points over the year in the country.

Sam Lister

Sam has recently achieved a brown belt in Jujitsu and is working towards his black belt. The brown belt is already a high achievement and is one step below the black belt accreditation.

Dates for the diary

Tues 19 th November 2019	-	Y11 Open Day in BL6 (PSHE)
Fri 22 nd November 2019	-	IH Dance competition
Mon 25 th November 2019	-	EPQ: Y13 final deadline
Tues 26 th November 2019	-	German Exchange depart
Thurs 28 th November 2019	-	French Exchange arrive
Thurs 28 th November 2019	-	Y11 exams commence
Fri 29 th November 2019	-	NFU visit for Y8
Tues 3 rd December 2019	-	German Exchange leave
Weds 4 th December 2019	-	NSPCC Concert 7pm-8pm
Thurs 5 th December 2019	-	French Exchange leave
Fri 13 th December 2019	-	Y11 exams finish
Tues 17 th December 2019	-	Christmas Concert 7pm-8pm
Weds 18 th December 2019	-	A Level Certificate Evening 7pm-8.45pm
Fri 20 th December 2019	-	School Closes
Fri 20 th December 2019	-	Maths/PSCA Race Night

Laura Smith – Message about school uniform exchange

“Over the summer I have been shocked and incredibly concerned by the number of parents who have approached my office over the cost of school uniforms. Affording school uniforms can be very difficult for any parents on low incomes – if you are in debt it can be a nightmare. We have found that mix ups through salary and Universal Credit has exasperated the situation this summer, and sadly for some children starting a new school year or joining a new school has put huge strain on their families. A Citizens Advice survey recently found that a quarter of all parents have to borrow money to afford uniforms.”

“Some schools require three or more uniform items with a badge or logo, which attract premium prices. Nationally the number of schools using specialist suppliers has doubled, so parents cannot take advantage of cheaper supermarket deals. Many parents now rely on uniform exchanges to save money. I have now set up one of these initiatives in the constituency and the details are linked below.”

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1768068070004846&id=1108918655919794

“Parents are reporting that their children sometimes are going to school in uniforms that don't fit, and some have been sent home for wearing the wrong clothes causing humiliation no child deserves.”

“In Wales, headteachers may specify basic items, such as trousers and shirts and their colours, but not styles, so parents can shop around. DFE best practice advises schools that they should give the highest priority to cost considerations, but currently there is not a statutory duty. I would be extremely grateful if this was something that schools in this constituency could look at doing for either all the uniform or as much of it as possible. It would be great to see Crewe and Nantwich leading the way nationally and taking a constituency initiative that could be highlighted throughout the UK.”

“If you would like further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or my team.”

Best wishes,



Laura Smith MP