



Head's Newsletter

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

I am writing this hot from the Inter House Music Competition. I think that technically we should call it Inter-House Music Celebration because that's just what it felt like. I love the soloists and their sheer bottle to perform in front of so many people. However, what always sums up the spirit of inter-house are the ensembles and the choirs. To see so many young people enjoying music and performing for their house is a thrill that I will forever hold dear.

Half Term

I can't remember when we had October half term in November. Anyway, I do hope that all students have a good break. It seems to be getting harder to have the same holiday dates across the area although we will continue to liaise with other schools to get the best fit.

Contacting the School / Pastoral Team

Progress Tutors or Progress Managers are usually the first point of contact for parents with any issues. Please do note that they also have full teaching timetables as well as their pastoral role so unfortunately will not always be available to take or return calls/emails immediately. As a school we endeavour to contact you back within 24 hours and your patience is appreciated. Also part of the Pastoral Team is Mr Linde, Behaviour Lead, who can be contacted on the main school number.



Mrs Brown
Year 7



Mrs Beecher
Year 8



Ms Batten
Year 9



Miss Corcoran
Year 10



Mr Mottram
Year 11



Mr Linde
Behaviour Lead

Progress

We look very carefully at the progress of our students throughout their time at BLS and besides looking at ways to support students who are not making as much progress as they could, data is also used to celebrate students who are making excellent progress. Congratulations to Lilia Tester (Year 7), Laura Gibson (Year 8), Alexander Tomkinson (Year 9), Lucy Titley (Year 10) and Olivia Molloy (Year 11) who are working extremely well across all subjects and as a result are making the most progress in their Year Group. Well done!

Gold Standard

- Congratulations to Laura Kirby (Year 9) who recently achieved her first regional swimming time in the 50m Freestyle.
- Another swimmer to congratulate is Polly Holden (Year 13) who recently captained the Staffs Swimming Team at the National Inter-Counties Meet. Polly came 3rd in the 100m Freestyle and 4th in the 100m Butterfly. Well done!
- Congratulations to Abbie Iddenden (Year 12) who is now playing football for Stoke City's first team. She recently played her first match against Nottingham Forrest at the Bet 365 Stadium.
- The trouble with ex-BLS student, AJ Pritchard, being on 'Strictly' is that I am not really watching what his partner is up to. He is doing really well and regardless of whether him and his partner win this year, he really does seem part of the team. We wish him the best of luck for the remainder of the series.
- Congratulations to ex-student, Jack Brookes, who has successfully completed the first part of his army training. You will be able to watch him alongside another ex BLS student, Lizzie-May Bray, on Channel 5's 'Real Recruits' Programme about army training.
- Well done to Molly Humphries who, after gaining the position as one of the top ranking and most successful Youth MP's following her election in the Youth Parliament Make your Mark campaign, will be going to Parliament on 11th November to take part in a debate. You can follow this at www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark.
- Congratulations to India Room (Year 8) who has become a brown belt in Karate and has been invited to train with the UK team.



Equestrian Success

The BLS Equestrian Team had brilliant results at the NSEA KBIS National Schools Championships 2016.

- The Dressage Team came 11th – well done to Pheobe Deller (Year 8), Amelia Dellar (Year 8), Grace Wallace (Year 12) and Ciara McLellan (Year 13).
- The Showjumping Team came in 3rd place in the 1.10m category – congratulations to Lucy Ford (Year 12), Ciara McLellan (Year 13), Grace Wallace (Year 12). This same team also came 7th in the 1.00m category.
- Congratulations to the other BLS riders who did really well to quality for this national competition:- Annie Lowe (Year 7), Tabitha Leonard (Year 7), Alice Ford (Year 8), Jessica Lucas-Higginbotham (Year 8), Lucy McGarry (Year 11) and Megan Bell (Year 13).

Cross Country

We currently have a number of students who have done exceptionally well in cross country events. When they had a meet at BLS recently, I watched them run and was really proud of their success.

- Oli Atkinson and Freddy Woodfine took part in the Year 7 Boys Championships – Oli was South Cheshire Champion and Freddy came 4th. Esther Wilding, Grace Wilne and Emily Bevan also took part in the Year 7 Championships – Esther came in 2nd, Grace 3rd and Emily 4th!
- Jacob Aston-O'Donovan and Raif Serif took part in the Year 8-9 Championships with Jacob coming 3rd overall and Raif 4th. In the Year 8-9 Girls' Championships, Ingrid Chabonneau ran her way to 6th position and Anna Crighton 7th.
- Corey Matravers and Dan Lloyd came 2nd and 3rd respectively when they competed in the Year 10-11 Boys' Championships. Ellie Grinnell represented the Year 10-11 girls and came 3rd.

All students will represent Cheshire next month and will compete in the South Cheshire Schools competition next year. We wish them all good luck.

School Fund

Thank you for the contributions this year to School Fund. Many families have generously donated more than the suggested £15 and the amount collected is significantly higher than recent years. Although we can't do all of the Maths rooms, which may have been a bit ambitious. As of today, £3025 has been received so we can make a start. All donations have been greatly appreciated.

Respect Programme

A number of students in Year 9 are currently taking part in the Respect course at Nantwich Fire Station. The course involves the students taking part in a number of exciting activities to help develop personal and practical skills. Well done to everyone taking part in this programme.

Technology

Thanks to Mr Williams' winning entry in a recent RZR MKR™ competition lead by Gillette®, CAFE and Ultimaker, the Technology Department is now the proud owner of a state of the art Ultimaker2+ 3D printer. The competition judges praised Mr Williams' entry and highlighted how his passion for teaching came through. I am sure that this piece of equipment will be well used by our students.

Attendance, Holidays and Absences

Attendance has never been more important than it is now, with future educational institutions and work places requesting attendance data. Holidays in term time will generally not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances. Absence that has not been agreed by the school in advance will be marked as unauthorised. Any requested absence in term time will be considered by your child's Progress Manager. Term dates are available on the website (www.brineleas.co.uk/information/holiday-dates). Attendance is currently 96.2% and our target is 96.5% and we welcome your support in our efforts to achieve this. If your child is unwell during the school day their Progress Manager can sign a sick note, however, we will do our best to keep students in lessons before sending them home.

Uniform

The school's Uniform and Appearance Policy is easily accessible via the school website using the following link: www.brineleas.co.uk/Docs/Pols/UniformPolicy.pdf. Whilst uniform is generally good, there are some common issues involving shoes, skirts and haircuts. Please can I remind you of the following:-

- Girls need to ensure they are wearing a school skirt, either the BLS one or a similar style, and not a tight fitting skirt.
- Extreme hair styles are not allowed, and should be no shorter than a number 2 with no shapes or lines, no unnatural colours and no unnatural combinations of colours.
- Students should wear a plain black school shoe with a flat heel. Trainers, trainer style shoes, pumps, canvas shoes and sandals are not allowed

Free Heart Screening

We are pleased that CRY UK (Cardiac Risk in the Young) are at Brine Leas on 12th and 13th November offering free heart tests for anyone aged between 14 and 35 years old. The sessions are now fully booked but if you didn't manage to reserve an appointment you can go on a waiting list. Please go to www.testmyheart.org.uk for more information.

Andrew Cliffe
October 2016

Dates for the Diary

Friday 28 th October	-	School Closes for Half Term
Tuesday 1 st November	-	GCSE English Resit
Wednesday 2 nd November	-	GCSE Maths Resit (Paper 1)
Friday 4 th November	-	GCSE Maths Resit (Paper 2)
Monday 7 th November	-	School Re-opens
Wednesday 9 th November	-	BL6 Open Evening
Tuesday 15 th November	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 21 st November	-	Year 13 Mock Interviews Commence (for one week)
Wednesday 23 rd November	-	Help your Child with English and Maths Evening
Monday 28 th November	-	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Monday 28 th November	-	Year 11 Mock Examinations Commence (for two weeks)
Monday 12 th December	-	Year 13 Mock Examinations Commence (for one week)
Thursday 15 th December	-	BLS Christmas Concert at St Mary's
Tuesday 20 th December	-	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 20 th December	-	A'Level Certificate Evening
Wednesday 21 st December	-	School Closes for Christmas