



Headteacher Update – 16th November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Family and Friends of Baines School,

I cannot believe how quickly the weeks are going by and that we are in the middle of November already. Hopefully my next update will be as we are close to heading out of the national lockdown and starting to look forward to Christmas.

Last week I attended the online meeting of Lancashire Secondary Headteachers and it was very interesting to get a perspective from across all of Lancashire. I do not want to tempt fate by writing this but am pleased to report that school in the Fylde and Wyre area is one of the areas with the least negative impact from Covid-19. I know there is a lot on anxiety and worry in the world and I am hoping that the things we are doing are helping all our community to have some sense of normality and nice opportunities as well as education.

As you are aware, we are all wearing masks in school. If a child cannot find their mask or doesn't have one, they go to the school office to collect a single use disposable one. 20p will be deducted from their ParentPay account for each mask (but these deductions are being processed in blocks as we cannot do it immediately). I have heard a few students saying that they get masks from school because they are cheaper. We are trying to keep the costs down but after so many weeks of wearing masks, I am expecting students to have their own supply and the school ones to be used rarely. Please talk to your child about this, as we do not want to make a profit on masks but do need to cover costs.

Thank you to all the year 8 parents/carers who joined us for the online consultation evening. There were a few technical issues but in general most of the appointments seemed to run smoothly. Dr Metcalfe will be contacting those who were unable to attend to see if there were any barriers with the online evening and will send out an evaluation form so that we can take feedback to see what your views are of the system.

This week we had a number of activities for anti-bullying and kindness day. Thank you to Kindness UK for donating the lovely bench, this has been placed in the year 7 social area.

Finally, a couple of safety notices, the driver of the 594 bus is very concerned for the safety of some of our students. When they see the bus coming, a few appear fearful of missing the bus, as a result they are running across the road, in front of cars and not always crossing safely. The driver has told the children that he will wait for them, so please cross carefully.

I have had a further request from residents near our school to ask parents / carers to be considerate in their parking and driving in and around school. Some are blocking drives at the end of the school day, others are parking on the yellow lines which should be traffic free and a few are driving fast and even swerving to park into a gap on the roads outside school and in the streets in the neighbouring area. Please consider our neighbours and be polite and considerate at the start and end of the school day.

Stars of the Week (Week 1)



Stars of the Week (Week 2)

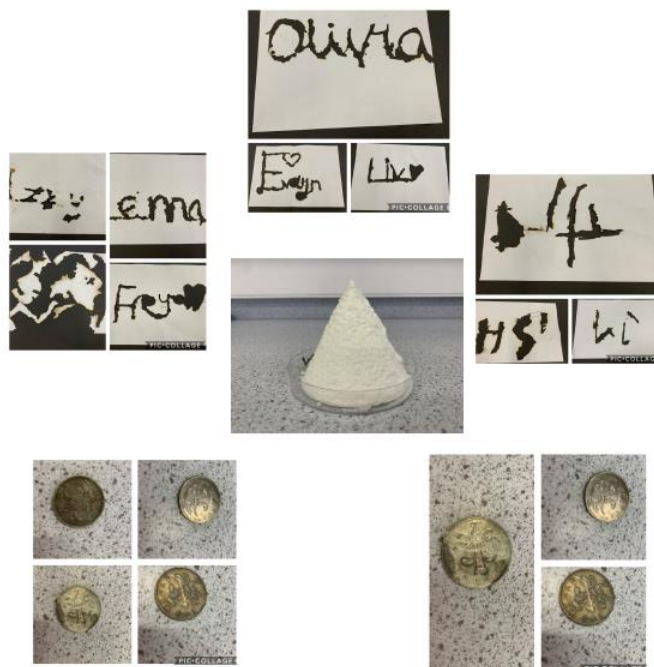


Stem Club Autumn Term

Science-Stem Club

Stem Club members have been doing some incredible activities this half term. We have turned copper coins into silver and made salty Christmas trees out of saturated salts. This week we tried the ancient art of Fire Writing drawing our designs with sodium nitrate. We set fire to our masterpieces baring our designs into our page. Come and join in we would love to welcome you to STEM Club.

Here are some our Next week will be a potions masterclass.....



Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Success

Our Y11 Hospitality & Catering students are working hard at the moment as they prepare for their coursework cooking exam later this year. Students are cooking dishes and applying skills that are beyond their years, and both Mr Grundy and Mrs Rawlings are incredibly proud of their achievements. Well done!



ILC-Miss Downey



Friday lunchtime we announced the winner and two runners up of the Unsolved Mysteries UFO Year 8 event held at the end of last half term. The three best theories used the evidence presented to them about spooky UFO sightings and showcased their investigation skills to solve the case!

Runners Up:

Sophie

Erin

Winner:

Reece

Congratulations!

Remembrance Assemblies



Throughout this last week we have been remembering the former students and teachers who have fought and lost their lives during the World Wars as well as those who devote their lives to this duty.

In addition to today's two-minute silence, Mr Paterson and Mrs Chapman have led remembrance Assemblies during which Year 10 students lay a wreath on our Memorial board. Mr Fisher, our army mentor attended the assemblies, wearing his medals, he displayed flags and donated hundreds of poppy pin badges to our students. This wreath had been laid at the cenotaph in Poulton by Lewis and Jazmin, our Senior Head Boy and Girl.



The artwork you can see was created in school (and painted by Mrs Angell), together with tissue poppies, before being taken to a nearby nursing home whose residents' average age is 95, to help them mark the remembrance as they cannot participate in the way in which they usually can.



BecomingX

This week the charity was officially launched nationally, I am pleased to share with you our second student so far this year who has achieved her BecomingX challenge. Ellie in year 7 has been training hard on her horse and she sent a wonderful video in showing how after much training and hard work, she managed to complete a one-metre jump. Ellie is proudly wearing her BecomingX pin badge.

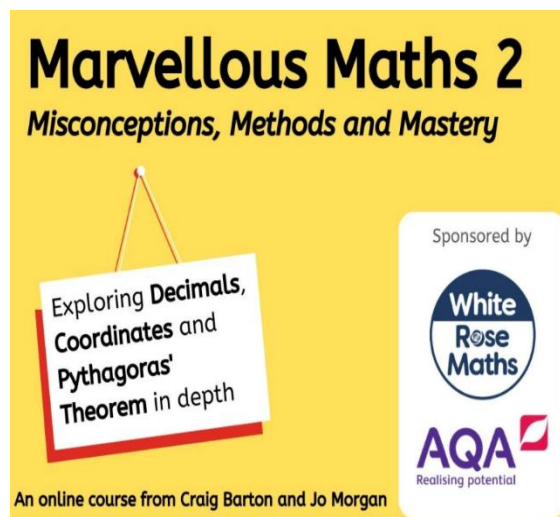
Mathematics

A Free webinar for parents is available on a first come first served basis, on how to build mathematical resilience and reduce maths anxiety in children aged 10-13 is on Tuesday 24th November at 8pm.

Reserve a place on this page <https://bit.ly/31wGpye>.

Plus, they are throwing in free Eedi Family for a year to 10 randomly selected parents that attend too!

A brand-new online course is available: Marvellous Maths 2: Misconceptions, Methods and Mastery, take a deep dive into three areas of mathematics: decimals, coordinates and Pythagoras' Theorem.



If you are interested in maths or feel you have an affinity for solving problems then please visit: <https://parallel.org.uk/>

The School code is "6j6hcj". What to do next:

- Students create an account, entering your Teacher Code when prompted.
- Students will also select their Year (7, 8, 9 or 10) when creating an account

Mr Harrison will then be able to see all of your students' results below. Prizes will be awarded to those who complete the challenges.



To mark Maths Week England there is a challenge happening in the Maths Department.

A Maths Escape Room has been uploaded to all Maths Google Classrooms of year 7 to year 10 students.

This is a fun code breaking activity that can be attempted at home. Find **Mrs Wiggans** in the Maths Department to claim your code breaking prize!

Year 7 Music Keyboard Club

We're excited to announce a new music club for Y7 students! This club will take place on a Tuesday after school (2.50pm - 3.50pm) in M11, starting on Tuesday 17th November with Mr Shillitoe. This club is for any student simply wanting to spend time playing keyboards and/or learning how to play keyboards with their friends. Space is limited, and so ideally Mr. Shillitoe could do with knowing who would like to attend. If parents/carers or even students themselves can email Mr. Shillitoe prior to next Tuesday, he can then make sure there are enough keyboards for students.

Literacy Update

In their library lessons our year 7's have now all chosen their 'Book Buzz' books after watching a powerpoint about the books and their authors. We hope that the students have been able to choose a text that engages and interests them as we want all our year 7 students to be active readers and we'd like them to develop a real passion for reading.

Within the rest of the school it is important that all year groups have high quality reading materials with them. A diet of fiction and non-fiction is important and we have a wonderfully well stocked library to support in this. Please have discussions with your child about what they are reading and help us to foster independence in reading.

Careers@Baines

Our careers advisor Mrs Harrison is still working with the Year 11 students, advising them on their CVs, looking at their college applications with them and gives them impartial careers advice to help the students with their aspirations. All CVs need to be completed by 20th November. Please speak to your son/daughter if in Year 11 and ensure theirs is completed.

Our Year 11 students have been watching videos in form time from our local higher education and further education providers. The Responsible Business Network has also offered support for the student masterclasses, and the law one is taking place next week. Thank you to all parents / carers who have offered to support this.

The Year 10 students will start their CVs this week with Mrs Harrsion during their personal development lessons, as they learn about the World of Work. It is important the students remember to include any part time jobs they have or clubs and groups they are involved in. Please have a conversation with your son/daughter if in Year 10 to encourage them.

If you would also like to be involved in our careers programme at Baines, please contact Mrs Doherty at cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk.

Theme of the Week

We have two themes which are running at the moment; the first one is the Christmas Box Project and the second one is our anti-bullying fortnight



Thank you to all the students and families who have supported this again this year.



Anti-bullying week is proving to be extremely exciting again. We have had a lot of Year 7 students wearing odd socks to raise awareness as has Mr Spence, Mrs Doherty and other teachers who have really got involved!



Aunty Bully is making appearances around school with top tips for students. She is a bit like 'Where's Wally?' – who knows where she will be?!!

Where's Auntie Bully?

Find me hiding around school with my top tips for how to deal with bullying.

Share your top tips with Auntie Bully – You will find her sitting on the new Friendship Bench.

Every day (starting on Tuesday 10th November and ending on the 19th November) a photo of me will pop up with a special letter on my knitted green jumper!

The letter on my jumper will change each day and I will find a new hiding place in your bubble area!

Win a prize if you can work out the 8 letter anagram. Entries to Pastoral on Thursday 19th November before 3pm!

We also have other competitions such as:

1. Whole school Logo Competition

Students are to design a logo for the school to use for anti-bullying – deadline 20th November

2. Year group anti-bullying posters

Students are to design an anti-bullying poster – deadline 20th November

3. Whole school form Door Competition

Doors are to be decorated in some kind of anti-bullying theme for 20th November.

4. Whole school external competition about journalist report

Sponsored by SkyAcademy – a 120 second news report.

5. Unveiling of our new kindness bench donated by Kindness UK

6. Pink tickets

Students will be awarded to pink tickets for acts of kindness e.g. opening a door, doing something nice, using good manners. These will go into a prize draw for some chocolate!

7. Trainer day - 20th November raising money for Kindness UK charity who donated the bench

Parents and carers can also get involved using the toolkit. Please follow the link:



<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/Anti-Bullying%20Week%202020%20-%20pack%20for%20parents.pdf>

Safeguarding and wellbeing

The students in Year 7 had separate boys and girl's puberty talks. The students were really mature and asked some excellent questions. All students went home with a little gift from school.

Just a reminder that if you or your son / daughter has any safeguarding concerns, please contact a member of the safeguarding team:

Mrs Doherty-Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead
Miss Harkins-Pastoral Manager and Safeguarding Person
Mrs Earley- Mental Health Officer and Safeguarding Person
Mr Shilitoe-Head of Creative Arts and Safeguarding Person

Private Fostering

Some parents may not be aware, if your child is currently staying with someone who is not an immediate family member, for example due to issues relating to Covid, for more than 28 days then it must be reported to the Local Education Authority.

Please ensure that school has your up to date contact details. This is so important for us to be able to contact you.

Student Council

The student councils in each year group are working hard with a number of on-going projects. They have all been involved in selling poppies and encouraging students to get involved in the Christmas Box Project, Year 7 have completed a student voice, Year 8 will be starting one shortly, Year 9 are currently planning some questions for Mr Noon, the Catering Manager. Year 10 are overseeing the organising of the Christmas Box Project and Year 11 are working with Mr Grundy to advertise the Reverse Advent which will start soon.

The student councils are amazing to work with and our badges have arrived, so they will be distributed soon.

Working at Home

This is a reminder for any student who is required to self-isolate at home. then please ensure that your child is working on school work. As you can imagine, it is not possible for us to set individual personalised work for every student who is off school, as well as planning and teaching lessons in school. Teachers are uploading work to Class Charts and Google Classroom, often for a whole half term. This enables students who are self-isolating at different times to log in and work out where they are up to in their learning and then continue so that they can keep up with the curriculum. The work will not be exactly the same as those in school but the learning is designed to continue the content learning and skill development as well as re-visiting prior learning. For some subjects there will be work set using online platforms such as Mathswatch, Seneca Learning, GCSE Pod and BBC Bitesize as these hold fantastic resources for certain topics. Please ensure that your if your child has to stay at home, that they are continuing their learning. If they have any issues with passwords or IT technical problems, then please email for help at ITHelpdesk@baines.lancs.sch.uk.



Thank you to everyone who has been clicking on our School Angel link on our website before purchasing online. It is an easy way to raise money for the school without it costing you anything. As it nears Christmas, it would be wonderful if you could remember to click our link before buying your gifts online. Any online purchases you make through the link on the Baines website will earn the

school a small percentage of the money you spend. This does not cost you any additional money but the companies make a charitable contribution to our school.

<https://www.schoolangel.org.uk/baines-school.html>

Forthcoming Events:

30th November- Launch reverse advent

2nd December- Year 11 Consultation Evening 4-7pm (Virtual)

Week beginning 7th December – we are currently planning how we can serve Christmas Dinner, details will be in the next HTU.

Nil Sine Labore

Alison Chapman, Headteacher