



Headteacher Update – 12th April 2021

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

Welcome back, I hope all of your families enjoyed the Easter break and were able to meet extended family members in the outdoors with the slight relaxation of lockdown rules. I look forward to this summer term, hoping that everything goes to plan with regards to the reduction in the virus. I also hope that our students return to school with a renewed enthusiasm for their learning, we will continue to help them develop strategies to support their mental well-being through our personal development provision. Last term, they received a presentation about positive coping strategies and we also re-started some clubs, which were really well attended, showing how these activities really help our students develop that feel-good factor.

Thank you for your support last term in supporting the way we implemented the government guidelines with regards to the mass testing, wearing of masks in school and the continued Covid routines we have put in place to support social distancing and trying to reduce the spread within the school setting in order to keep all of our families safe. The government has not made any changes about the wearing of masks in the classroom, so we will maintain the same procedures for now until we receive new guidance after May 17th. In line with this, we still have a number of face masks left from the stock that the government issued to us in March, while we have this stock and masks are not costing the school any money, we will not charge students for replacement masks. I will let you know when the charge needs re-introducing.

The focus for the next fortnight has to be in re-establishing high standards in everything that we do; uniform, effort, participation and high-quality learning. Most students absolutely embody these Baines values every day but some students need to be re-taught so that they can be the best version of themselves, especially with regard to work ethic.

Covid Testing Update

You will see an update later in this update from Mr Shillitoe and Mr Cropper about the testing, I think it has been an amazing example of how our Baines community has worked together. I hope you are managing the home-testing procedures, we will keep issuing new home testing kits until the government guidance changes. Please remember to log your tests on the google form and to let us know any positive cases via the Covid email address.

Uniform Standards

As you are aware, during the re-opening of school during the last half term, we have supported the students in settling back into school. I recognise that the shops have been closed and some students have outgrown some of their uniform. We have spoken to the uniform shops and they have been fantastic in supporting our families with arranging for the collection of new uniform. From 12th April, I expect that all students are fully adhering to the high uniform standards and expectations at Baines School. The appearance sets a professional tone for our school and the learning ahead every day. Since January, the students have had fifteen weeks in total to have sorted their uniform, for hair that is not a natural hair colour to have been washed out or re-dyed so that it is a natural colour, for the removal of false nails and for any piercings from Christmas to now be removed (if they infringe our uniform policy).

There should be no new piercings or nails etc as non-essential shops and services have not been open since December. For some students, standards of appearance have become sloppy, including the rolling of the skirts so they are excessively short and the wearing of non-Baines sports clothes such as hoodies. Students will now be sanctioned for uniform infringements. Please look at the way your child is dressed as they leave the house and support us in ensuring a smart and professional appearance.

Ofsted

You will know that Ofsted carried out a Section 8 monitoring visit on the 18th March. As the normal inspection timetable has been paused because of the pandemic, Ofsted are carrying out monitoring visits to schools to ensure they are providing an appropriate education in the current circumstances. I will share the Ofsted letter with you once we have received it, the deadline for us receiving it can be as long as thirty working days after the inspection. Until that time, I am unable to give any kind of feedback to staff, parents or students.

Parental concerns raised on social media

I have been dismayed recently to hear that some parents and carers have raised concerns via social media, often out of school hours, without giving us as a school the opportunity to investigate the concerns and provide feedback first. I truly believe we are a partnership and that we work together to resolve situations. Sometimes it is possible that parents/carers may not have the full picture of a situation and there can be inaccuracies in what is reported on social media. These posts can cause upset to students, families and us as a school, especially if they are not accurate and are written out of school hours, which can lead to people worrying all night (or over a weekend) before school can address them. I cannot imagine any of our parents/carers who would want our school to be reflected badly or inaccurately on social media, because once something has been posted, then rarely does anyone reflect and report that a situation has been resolved or that there may have been an inaccurate representation made, the damage has been done.

I have also been made aware of some people posting details of some of our students on social media. This really worries me because it could be a breach of GDPR if they have not sought the permission to post names of those students on social media. More importantly, this poses a safeguarding risk to students and would be reportable to the Police.

Every school has situations at times where young people may need educating about how they develop relationships and interact with others in a more positive way. As a school, we investigate and address all issues, once we know about them, so we need to be given that opportunity to do so. Sometimes issues that arise are linked to use of social media outside of school. We always try to help when these situations occur but cannot be held responsible for social media interactions outside of school. We have a clear mobile phone policy and anyone who breaches that during the school day, has their phone confiscated.

If you have any concerns, then please contact your child's Progress Tutor, then Progress Leader. If the situation has not been resolved, there is a Senior Leadership link to each year group and finally myself. If I have been unable to address your concerns, there is a complaints policy on our website and this outlines how you can take your complaint to the Governing Body. We take parental concerns seriously, it is our commitment to working in partnership with our families. Please try to support that positive relationship by giving us the opportunity to address your concerns in the first instance, we cannot do this if we are unaware of them.

Launch of the PROUD initiative

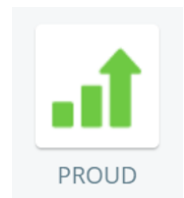
This week, I will be launching phases 1 and 2 of our Proud to Belong to Baines initiative. As you know, since I became Headteacher, nearly four years ago, a lot has changed in order to raise standards. When I arrived, I implemented a school vision, with greater emphasis on learning and teaching and the child as a whole. I am pleased that we are moving to the next phase of our journey, you know that I consult regularly through surveys so that we seek the views of students, staff and parents about change. I now want to further this by working together to develop our ethos and vision for the next five years. I am proud to be Headteacher at Baines and I want every student, staff member, parent/carer and member of our community to also be 'Proud to Belong to Baines'. Over the next year we will work together to articulate a joint vision. As part of the re-focus on high quality, I am now launching the first two 'Proud Initiatives':

1. **PROUD—presentation of high-quality work**
2. **PROUD BOARDS— celebrating high-quality work**



Stage 1— stickers will be placed in every book in the first 2 weeks after Easter and following that, the work in books should follow the simple presentation guidelines and every piece of work should be the best a student can complete.

Stage 2— there is a large new notice board for every year group (we will start years 7-10 this term). Every half term teacher's will nominate a high-quality piece of work from each of their groups. It is important the high-quality work from children from all abilities will be celebrated. We will recognise individual success. Progress Leaders will create a wonderful display of the high-quality work we are proud of for each year group per half term. Students who have their work displayed will attend a celebration event and they will be awarded certificates and prizes.



We also have a new positive Class Charts reward point called PROUD so look out for points being awarded to your children.

Stars of the Week (Week 1)



Stars of the Week (Week 2)



Year 7 Half Term star is Olivia – Top point scorer for the Maths challenge and excellent commitment with remote Learning

Year 8 Half Term star is Hatti - Excellent work and great effort day in, day out, throughout normal school and lockdown.

Year 9 Half Term Star is Logan - He continued to work hard during lockdown, accumulated 676 positive points and has settled back into school very well indeed. Well done Logan on a great term and year thus far!

Year 10 Star half term is Harry - He applies himself in all that he does in lessons, remote learning and on form time.

Year 11 Star half term is Tyler-Ashley- Has approached life in Year 11 with maturity and approaches all his studies with excellence!

Successes

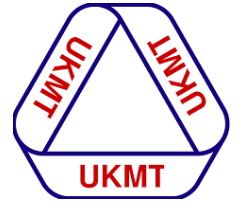
Mathematics-Mr J Harrison

Dr Frost Maths is a website which pupils have all been added to which was predominantly used during lockdown as a tool for pupils to check their learning and understanding of the topics being covered and so teachers could see which areas they would need to recap when back in schools, when answering questions depending on the difficulty of the questions the pupils gained points for questions answered. The pupils could also work independently on the site answering questions on key skills across the mathematics curriculum. These pupils who are working independently are gaining skills that will help them in the future of their mathematics career. I have been very impressed with the uptake of the students working throughout the lockdown period and hope that this tool will continue to be used to support the learning of our young people. If you have any questions on usernames or passwords for the site please email, jhn@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Dr Frost Maths Whole school leader board		
#1	Olivia -Year 7	666
#2	Aliyah -Year 9	441
#3	Jack -Year 7	342
#4	Luca -Year 7	268
#5	George – Year 8	244
#6	Lexi – Year 11	236
#7	Ollie – Year 8	234
#8	Jannat – Year 8	224
#9	Ruby – Year 9	221
#10	Maia -Year 9	212

Year 10 Mathematics- Mrs G Wiggins

Congratulations to the 46 year 10 students who took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge!



You all did fantastically and we are really proud of your results.

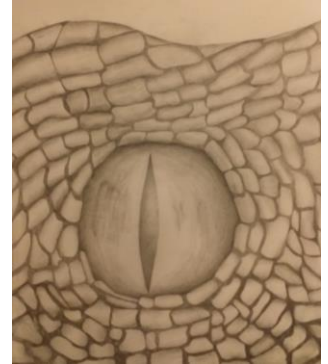
Bronze Awards were achieved by Ben, Lewis and George.

Silver Awards were achieved by Jack, James, Ben, Elliot and Torah.

Congratulations to Torah who achieved Best in School with an impressive score of 85.

Arts – Mrs L Angell and Mrs E Giles

It is a beautiful pencil drawing inspired by the work of Tim Jeffs. Lily in Year 9, has developed her skills during lockdown and has delicately applied tone to this drawing to create a realistic and three-dimensional eye.



Abi in Year 11, continues to work like a trojan and has completed all this work in less than ten days, she is an amazing artist and has a superb work ethic. She has some amazing ideas and always presents her work beautifully.



Art and Design – Mrs C Burns

Textured Drawing

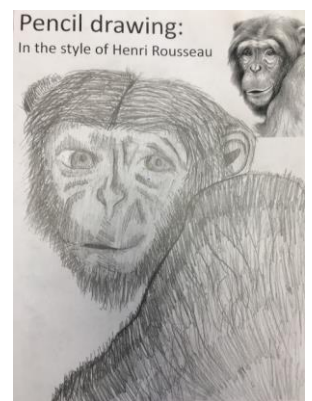
Nathan Year 7, produced this delightful drawing in one lesson.

Nathan has drawn this piece by sketching out the basic shapes of the monkey in order to ensure correct proportion. He then added texture by using his pencil to recreate the hair on the monkey. He varied the pressure of his pencil to create a range of tones. A very successful drawing. Well Done Nathan!

Literacy Update – Mrs K Streetly & Miss B Downey

Reading success! We have celebrated two more millionaire readers this week - Laila (7B) and Freya (7B) - this is an amazing accomplishment to have achieved by this stage in the year, well done girls!

Please remember that reading is still a priority for our students and we would love them to complete as much of their Baines Book Bingo as they can. They still have full access to Baines ILC online and we



would love them to use this resource over Easter. We have a wealth of interesting and engaging books at their fingertips.

Bedrock Learning – Vocabulary Boost

Well done to all our students participating regularly in Bedrock to improve their vocabulary. Our top results for the past two weeks are:

Top attainment: Leo (8E), Mattie (8E), William (8S)

Time spent leader board: Mattie (8E), Madga (8N), Oscar (8N)

Words of the Week

The words of the week this week is:

Elucidate – To make something clear

Bellicose – Demonstrating aggressiveness and willingness to fight (not an attribute we want in Baines but it's a useful word!)

Geography Update – Mrs S Mycock

Earth Day is Wednesday 22nd April 2021

Earth Day takes place every year on April 22nd. Since 1970, people all around the world have shown their support for the environment by becoming involved in Earth Day. People in over 193 countries will take part in activities to help raise awareness of climate change and to protect the environment. We are going to be part of Earth Day too!



For us as Geographers, every day is Earth Day. If you feel the same, here are 51 actions and tips to make a difference, every day of the year.

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>

We have planned some exciting activities for you to experience in your Geography lessons between 19th April to 23rd April.

Attendance – Mr McGrath

Now more than ever, the importance of attending school regularly is an absolute priority and from the 8th March it became a statutory requirement to attend every day for all pupils. Despite the circumstances, the school has continued to promote positive levels of attendance and punctuality. 100% weekly attendance is rewarded on Class Charts and this will continue after Easter. 100% attendance since the start up to Easter has also been emphasised through Progress Tutors and Progress Leaders and will continue to be a priority. Attendance levels are high amongst some year groups and this is really pleasing to see. We will continue monitor and challenge, where it is appropriate to do so, as it fundamental that all pupils are in lessons and learning. After Easter, we will begin our Attendance Trackers to promote positive attendance to school. **We should be aiming for 98% attendance as far as possible with a minimum of 95%.**

Year Group	Attendance %
Year 8	96.3
Year 7	95.6
Year 9	94.1
Year 10	93.2
Year 11	93.0

Year 11 Update – Mr Mycock

At the time of writing this Headteacher Update, we are in the middle of finalising our plans for the way in which Year 11 will be graded this year and we will make the best use of the guidance that is offered from the exam boards and the government. The evidence that we use is likely to include some element of formal assessment that will take place in classrooms across two periods of time in the summer term, starting the last two weeks of April. We will also use data from Prelim Exams, our Academic Monitoring processes and more informal classroom assessments over the coming weeks and months. We will ensure that our processes are fair, that grades are moderated within subject areas and that assessments are marked by a range of staff where possible.

Our core message to Year 11 remains consistent; work hard in all that you do and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Closing the learning gaps

We have been working hard in the last two working weeks after to make sure that students have felt comfortable in returning to school and to ensure that everyone has been engaging positively with face-to-face learning back in classrooms. We have also been reviewing where students are up to in their learning by looking at what students achieved during remote learning, where strengths lie and where gaps in learning have appeared.

It is very clear that any learning gaps are personal to individuals and that is why the best way to support young people in making progress is high quality first teaching by their teacher. It is also important that our young people share that responsibility, are proactive in their approach to school and that they make the most of every learning opportunity, including homework. We have already made further significant investment into department areas to support high quality teaching and learning.

To support the work going on in classrooms, we have also identified areas where we will seek to broaden provision across the school, including some extra IT infrastructure that students will begin to see in classrooms. These laptops and a further expansion of our Promethean Activ Panel interactive classroom displays will have a greater impact across a wider range of students. Many of you will have heard SAM Learning, Dr Frost and Times Table Rockstars mentioned by your child which are all online learning tools to help teachers to identify gaps in learning and support young people in recalling knowledge and skills. These supplement the already popular GCSEPod. We now have an online library and are using another online tool (Bedrock) to improve vocabulary and reading.

Our Year 11 students have a wide range of intervention sessions open to them each evening to support in a range of ways and across the vast majority of subjects and we are in the process of identifying Year 10 students who would benefit from online tuition as part of the National Tutoring Programme. We have made the decision that our own staff are best placed to support our Year 11 students given the time frames that we are now working to after the last national lockdown.

We welcomed our Wellbeing Officer (Mrs Porter) to our staff team during the spring lockdown. The bulk of her work will be spent supporting young people to engage fully in their educational journey by supporting healthy lifestyles and promoting wellbeing.

Effective education remains a partnership between the young person, their school and their family. If we all work hard to make the most of every learning opportunity whether it be a 30-minute piece of homework or a 6 week personalised support programme, effort is key and our school motto has never been more relevant!

New Year 7 Families – Mr G Mates

We have been pleased write to all of our new Year 7 families welcoming them to Baines School and sharing some of the wonderful opportunities that they can look forward to when they join us in September. After Easter we will be getting in touch with each of the primary schools where our new students currently study to help support their transition to secondary school. We are really excited to meet each and every one of the students and their families and we hope to host an Induction Day for students on Friday 2nd July here at school.

Year
7

- to -

Year
6



Welcome to Baines School

Here you can read about some of the exciting things that you can look forward to when you join us in September.



My name is Molly and since starting at Baines in September, I have loved the different extra-curricular clubs that I take part in where I can socialise with my new friends outside of lessons. There are so many different sports clubs we can take part in and I really like the Music club on Mondays where I learn to play the keyboard. I am so much more confident now at reading music.

Hello Y6, my name is Clayton and I started here at Baines in September. I am really enjoying my time at Baines. I have made so many friends and and I feel like I have learned so much so quickly in so many different and new subjects. It's great having specialist teachers for every subject who are all really helpful and kind. I've most enjoyed learning French and I can already talk and write lots about about myself, my family and my school - all in French!





Hello Year 6 and welcome to Baines School.
My name is Jazmin and I'm this year's Senior Head girl. I truly believe that Baines School offers every student such a range of opportunities and it's a wonderfully unique experience, and what you put into it is what you'll get out of it.
I remember from first coming to Baines that the students were happy, smiling and happily working with the great teachers in and out of class. The teachers here are amazing and give us the confidence and ability to reach our potential. Every student really does count and you are given guidance throughout every school year - both academically and emotionally.
Lessons at Baines are brilliant... you'll love the different mix of teachers and their interactive, well thought-out lessons, which inspire, innovate and challenge us.

As well as the wide variety of lessons you will enjoy at Baines there are so many other opportunities both in school and out of school. In school we have hosted visiting authors, held STEM roadshows and our musical performances are fantastic.



There are also lots of opportunities to visit other places with Baines School. Last year students visited London, Warsaw and even Iceland. The Year 7 Camp was an amazing experience and a real highlight.



My name is Hannah. As well as enjoying all of my lessons I really enjoy sport and especially netball. Through netball practice I have improved my own game thanks to the teachers' step-by-step instructions. My tactical awareness is also much better and I am much more confident in communicating with the team in training and in matches.

My name is Tom. What I appreciate most at Baines is how quickly all the teachers get to know us and are able to support us and push us and this has really boosted my confidence. My favourite lesson so far is Design where we study different skills on a rota. I've enjoyed learning about and preparing different food and I'm really looking forward to making things in woodwork.



Hi there Y6!
My name is Rufus and I am Baines School's well-being dog. I have a lot of different duties here at school, like greeting students in the morning, being taken for walks by students and even learning to perform tricks.



My main job here is to put a smile on all the faces that I see and I like to help any students who are having a difficult day by cheering them up.

My name is William and I really like Baines so I can't wait for lockdown to end. Even though lockdown feels weird, our lessons that run every day have been great as our teachers help us by explaining the work even though we're not in the same room. If we have a question, we can still ask the teacher and know they will help us.



I know that I am doing well in my subjects even though we're in lockdown as I am learning new things every lesson and my teachers send me feedback on my work every week.



COVID-19 Mass Testing Update – Mr R Shillitoe & Mr W Cropper

Over 2500 tests later, we are incredibly proud of all students who have taken part in the recent mass testing upon our return to school.

A massive thank you and well done to all students who took part! Thanks also to the wonderful members of staff who worked in the test centre, especially Mrs Rawlings and Mr Fisher.

And finally, the biggest thanks of all must go to our wonderful team of 20+ volunteers who supported students, processed results and made the test centre run so smoothly. Made of up of parents, carers, ex-students and Baines community members, our volunteers embodied what it means to be a member of the Baines family.

Please refer to further information and instructions posted via Facebook and the COVID Hub on the main school website re: home testing.

Debt on ParentPay

Thank you to those families who have worked hard to put their ParentPay account in credit over the last two weeks of term. I know financially it is a difficult time, but as a school, we cannot use public funding to pay a school food debt. The last two weeks since returning to school, showed that more families increased their debt and the whole school debt grew by nearly £400. I have never wanted to refuse our students food but now we are at a situation where anyone with a negative balance will be refused food at break time. Letters, phone calls have been made to a number of families where the debt has built to a large amount but we must make sure that the small amounts are cleared as well. If you are struggling, please be proactive and contact us to arrange a payment plan.

Year 11 - NCS Summer Programme

We are delighted to be working with NCS again, this year to deliver an unforgettable summer experience for students in Year 11.

The NCS programme offers young people, aged 16-17, a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something meaningful with their Summer Break, as well as a chance to develop skills and take on new challenges that will set them up for adult life.

For further details, students should visit their Google Classroom and watch the Virtual Introduction to NCS. In addition, parent/carers will receive an email with additional information by the end of March 21.

Buddy Club – Mrs C Waterland-Jones

Congratulations to the Buddy club competition winners:



Year 8 **Bethany** - Winner of year 8 buddy club logo



Year 7 **Mackenzie** - Winner of the Year 7 buddy club Motto



Year 7 **Alfie** - Winner of the year 7 buddy club logo and overall winner.

Buddy club are pleased to announce we will be using Alfie's Logo as our official logo from now on.



As much as I enjoyed our Buddy club lockdown I am so glad we are back to normal and I get to catch up with everyone at lunch.

Independent Advice and Guidance

Miss Dillon has continued to support Year 11 students with career interviews; we only have a very small group of students who will be having theirs on Monday 12th April.

If you are worried about your son/daughter in terms of the post 16 application, again please contact either Mrs Johnson (KJn@baines.lancs.sch.uk) or Mrs Doherty (CDo@baines.lancs.sch.uk) at school. We are delighted to announce that all our Year 11 students have now applied for a post-16 place at college or elsewhere. We also have quite a high number of students who have applied to do the engineering course at Blackpool 6th this year. To support the Year 9 students with their option choices, they were all offered a careers interview, and Miss Dillon spoke to the 28 students who asked for one on Monday 22nd March.

It is brilliant having our Level 6 Careers Advisor who is able to offer the students this high level of support and guidance.

Year 10 Virtual Work Experience

We will be updating you soon with more information regarding the exciting opportunity for all our Year 10 students to participate in a virtual work experience.

If you or someone you know could support a virtual work experience please contact Mrs Doherty (cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

Blackpool & Fylde College

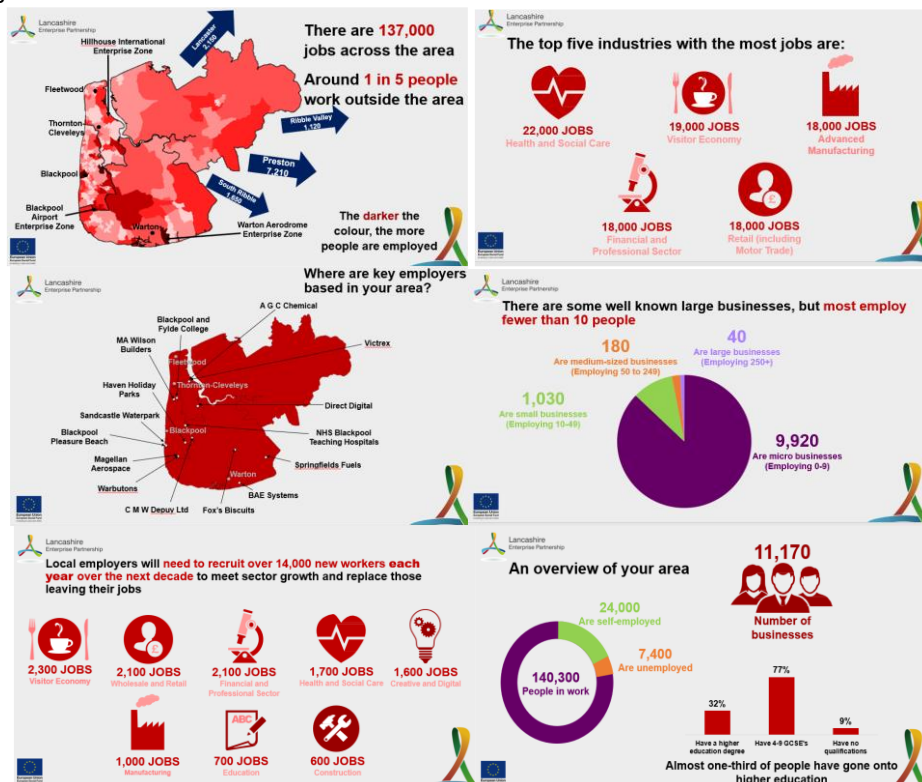
Katie Kinder from Blackpool & Fylde College will be visiting Baines School for three drop in sessions after the Easter break (restrictions allowing). This will be an opportunity for any students who have applied there to discuss their course choices. These will happen during lunch times.

Gatsby Benchmarks

In the last HTU I explained Gatsby Benchmark 1 – A Stable Careers Programme. In this one, I would like to introduce Gatsby Benchmark 2.

Gatsby benchmark 2 – Learning from Career and Labour Market Information

We are 100% compliant with Benchmark 2; we use local career and labour market information to educate the students about jobs for the future in our and other areas.



Thank you to Nicola Roberts from the Career and Enterprise Company for this information.

Food Survey

The food survey will be sent out to all students as a Survey Monkey week commencing 12th April. This food survey has been put together by the Year 9 student Council as we continue to develop the food provision in the refectory.

New notice boards have been purchased for each of the student councils. It will be exciting to start displaying the work they have been doing.

Track suit

Following on from the track suit competition that we did, here is a sneak preview of the two possible designs that we have and will be putting out to consultation with students, parents and carers, staff and governors:

Design One



Design Two



The final design will have the Baines Logo on the top and bottoms.

Thank you to our 'models' Olivia and Cordelia who submitted their design ideas which the track suits are based on, and to Rohan and William!

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

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)

Mr Shillitoe (Head of Creative Arts and Safeguarding Person)

Following completion of the online wellbeing survey, any student who we were concerned about is being worked with in school. We take wellbeing and mental health extremely seriously and thank all families for working with us, as we work together to ensure that all are students struggling are given the support they need.

Themes of the Week



Well done again to Tia, Harley, Jordan and Olivia



This year for Red Nose Day, students listened to the importance of Red Nose Day and the good that comes from contributing to such an amazing charity. As we had only just come back to school, we decided we would not participate in any events this time, although the Student Council are looking forward to organising charity events for the future.

Nil Sine Labore

Alison Chapman, Headteacher