



Headteacher Update – 10th January 2022

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

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022, I hope you all managed some quality family time over the break. This is the first update of 2022, I am not sure what the next few weeks will bring but I want to thank you for all your support for school and your children. I have no doubt there will be many more updates and changes to government policies that I will need to keep you informed about (some are bound to be at short notice). A personal thank you for your understanding with regards to the ever-changing situation with staff (and student) absence, and as you know I have been recovering myself from Covid, I still am finding I have very little energy and need to re-charge at night before the next school day. This is resulting in a slower than usual response time (and me not getting quite as much work done as usual).

My section in this HTU is dominated by Covid, I hope that the next issue will be more focussed on learning and education development.

Thank you to all our testing volunteers and to parents and carers for bringing children in to school for the mass testing last week. We had a number of positive cases and this reinforces the importance of regular lateral flow testing at home, so please do continue to test at home twice weekly and report the result to the NHS and the online Baines School Report Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/hnMkL9rC3k>

The students have responded so well to the re-introduction of wearing masks in classrooms as well as communal indoor areas. I really am proud of their positive and supportive response. We have re-introduced wiping down tables and hand sanitising on entry and exit to rooms. We do have an increased number of positive cases at the moment, similar to the last 'outbreak' we had in October. I will be monitoring the numbers and may need to seek guidance from the PHE if numbers continue to rise. We are struggling (like most schools are) with securing supply staff to cover for absent staff and I am seriously concerned that we may see a situation in the very near future when we cannot fully staff the school. I am preparing our contingency plan should this situation occur and will send it out soon so that you are all aware of what we would do should we need to trigger a tiered system in school. This would very much be a last resort and I will do everything possible to keep school fully open. **As part of the contingency plan, please ensure that you and your child regularly check Class Charts in the evening for messages and that they have their log-in details for Class Charts, Google Classrooms for each lesson, Hegarty Maths, GCSE Pod and the online library.**

Temperatures in classrooms

As you are aware, we are required to keep windows and doors open to aid ventilation. At this time of year, this results in classrooms and school in general being much colder. Students are allowed to wear an outdoor coat over the top of their uniform in lessons to keep warm if they wish. Many students are wearing school jumpers now, which is pleasing to see, please be reminded that a school jumper is in addition to the blazer and provides an extra layer for warmth (it is not instead of the blazer). I recommend that students who wear skirts to school, now also wear thick black or brown tights at this

time of year to aid keeping them warm too. Keeping warm is important but it is not a relaxing of uniform rules, I still expect our students to wear the uniform correctly and have a smart presentation.

Other Covid updates:

You will be aware that the self-isolation rules have changed so students (and those fully vaccinated) can now carry out a lateral flow on day 6 and the morning of day 7 in order to return to school.

From 11th January, the rules regarding needing to get a PCR will change temporarily.

The NHS are now making contact with schools to plan when they can come to deliver the second vaccine to those eligible 12-15 year olds. As I know more, I will let you know. In the meantime, if you wish your child to have their second vaccine sooner, details are in the update below.

Mr Cropper has given full details of the latest information and links to useful information below:

Update from Mr Cropper

A huge thank you to all our families who participated in the return to school testing this past week. Whilst we had fewer students attend testing, we did unfortunately identify significantly more students who were positive than we have before. We would like to encourage as many families as possible to participate in twice weekly testing using the kits provided by school. Thorough this, mask wearing and increased ventilation, we hope to maintain face to face learning for as long as possible through these difficult few weeks. We have a good supply of test kits in school for our students, and until the next batch are handed out, students can request more kits as needed from Mr Cropper. Many families now need to test daily, so it is expected that they may request more Lateral Flow test boxes.

We thank you for your ongoing support in our drive to maintain face to face learning at Baines. Below is an update of current testing guidance, but please do not hesitate to contact: covid@baines.lancs.sch.uk if you have any further questions.

The new testing kits broadly follow the same process as before, but with a couple of differences:

- The testing swab is a nasal swab only: both nostrils instead of tonsils and nostril.
- Test fluid is already in the test vials and sealed a separate unit, saving a little extra time and fuss!
- The swab should be soaked in the testing fluid for 30-60 seconds before transferring to the testing cartridge.
- Results can be read after 15mins, but no later than 30mins.

If anyone has any questions about the new kits, please do not hesitate to contact school.

-Students who have had their COVID vaccine can still continue to test twice a week - the vaccine will not affect the test results in any way.

-Any students who missed out on having the vaccine in school, or are looking to book their second vaccination, can contact their local GP or use the NHS booking website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Home test results must be recorded via the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website and our results form:

[Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) results - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Baines School Report Form - <https://forms.office.com/r/hnMkL9rC3k>

If positive, please stay home, report your result via the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website and the school report form.

Please can parents/carers also contact school via covid@baines.lancs.sch.uk, informing us of the positive result.

The updated guidance for isolating is:

-If you have tested positive on a lateral flow test and have symptoms - you must book a PCR test to confirm the result

-If you have tested positive on a lateral flow test, but have no symptoms, you must isolate straight away (this is a temporary government change from 11th January and there is no need to book a PCR test during this time).

-If you have tested positive, you can return to school on the 7th day of isolation If you test negative on an LFT on the 6th day, and again on the 7th day. These tests must be 24 hours apart.

Take care, especially during these uncertain times. Stay positive and help the students to focus on learning and their education.

Stars of the Week (Week 1)



Stars of the Week (Week 2)



Successes

Physical Education – Glow Dodgeball

As we were unable to carry out our usual partner dancing during PE lessons before Christmas, we didn't want the students to miss out on Christmas celebrations. In PE during the last week of term year 7 and year 8 students were fully involved in glow dodgeball sessions.

We had over 70 students who attended the sessions, which was a great way to end the year!!



Rohan - Karate Youth League Venice 2021



Rohan in year 11 was in Venice for WKF Karate Youth League. This was an honour and privilege to represent England in very difficult times.



Rohan who is part of the YANAGI KAI Sale Dojo Association, put in 2 strong technical performances in the Individual Male Cadet KATA category, whilst being up against some of the best competitors in the world in his age category.



Rohan performed in Round 1 Suparinpei & in Round 2 Papuren, in what was his first international competition for 2 years.



There were 2430 athletes in total from all over the world attending the largest event for a WKF Youth League, and Rohan's overall position in his category was a respectable 29th out of 100 entries.

This was an amazing achievement for Rohan and formed part of the planned pathway to getting him selected for the Europeans Championships in Prague 2022.

We have just had confirmation that Rohan has been put on the Elite England Squad Pathway, to receive special training for the European Championships that are now scheduled for June 2022 in Prague. This is a fantastic achievement and such an exciting time for Rohan.



English Subject Stars of the Month for December

English Year 7

Ewan - for consistent hard work, effort and kindness to others

Isaac - for excellent vocabulary and hard work

Leila - for positivity and excellent hard work



Year 8

Shannon- for immaculate, Proud work, attendance to Writing Club and superb response to feedback

Lucas - for a very conscientious and determined attitude

Courtney- for consistent hard work and a positive response to feedback given

Year 9

Macy- for an impressive response to the Macbeth assessment

Nat- for outstanding contributions to class discussions which show great insight

Year 10

Jack - for showing a real positive attitude in English

Jamie - for high quality, PROUD work and independent learning

Mrs. A Chapman

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Liza - for confidence in English and work ethic

Louis- for contributions to classroom discussions and his understanding of A Christmas Carol

Kelsie - for a great attitude to English and hard work in Year 10

Year 11

Kody- for a fantastic work ethic

Benjamin- for consistent hard work

Playing the Game in English

Many parents and carers may remember from their own school days the end-of-term treat of bringing in toys and games to play with friends. Well, in Mr Davies' Year 11 English group in the run-up to Christmas, the students went one better and made their own – which were completely educational, of course!



The students were all asked to team up and to make their own games which would test their knowledge of any of the three Literature texts they study: 'A Christmas Carol', 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'An Inspector Calls'. The teams threw themselves into their creations, which included versions of a professionally-made Trivial Pursuit, Taboo, a very complicated Monopoly, Top Trumps and even a Cards Against Literature!



The students then got very competitive in their next lesson as they attempted to out-do each other with their knowledge of quotes, themes and characters. It was a great way to end a really busy and productive term in English!

Mathematics- Mr Harrison Hegarty Mathematics

Hegarty Maths

First name	Year	Total questions answered correctly
Valentina	10	2623
Nafisa	8	1124
Leah	7	995
Aliyah	10	663
Raisa	8	540
Ahyan	8	460
Maizie	7	414
Cerys	10	398
Jess	11	381
Kirsty	7	248
Lydia	7	199

It is a pleasure to see how many questions have been answered over the Christmas period. Students were still pushing themselves to learn through their festive break, this is extremely impressive and shows a real drive to improve their mathematical knowledge. A total of 18000 questions have been answered correctly over the past fortnight which is awesome.

Congratulations to those students who have worked so hard and I hope they see the benefit of their efforts in their school work.

TT Rockstars:

We will be relaunching the use of TT rockstars as a homework platform and pushing all pupils in year 7-10 to improve their multiplication and division facts. From next week each student will be given their log ins and competitions will be running through the course of the year between classes to see who can answer the most questions, prizes will be given to students and classes who are putting in the time and effort to improve their numeracy skills.

I am hoping that all students get involved as having the underpinning knowledge of timestables makes the work done in exams not only easier but quicker for students so they can spend more time focusing on the more complicated work in the exam and less time working out multiplication and division facts.

Literacy Update - Mrs Streetly and Mrs Simmons

Root of the Week

In a slight change to word of the week we will now be doing 'root of the week'. This is where students will be introduced to common affixes from Latin and Greek that will help them to decode unfamiliar words in an easier way. It will be hoped that students can learn these common roots to help them across the entire curriculum. For example, the root this week is 'aud' which is Latin for 'to hear' - the students will then explore the different words which use the affix 'aud'. The following week is the affix 'bene' meaning 'good'. The idea of using this system is to get students to be able to decode meaning independently.

Reading Plus

Lily, Ruby and Cameron in B1 are all completing lessons really well and are making some excellent progress. In our ILC group Thomas, Miles and Aaliyah are doing brilliantly too!

Read around Science

This month we are reading around the topic of science - we have some wonderful reading available for students to borrow in the ILC that links science with both fiction and non-fiction texts. We have some great activities for our KS3 students to complete in their ILC lessons.



Year 11 Elevate Education – Becoming a Study Sensei

Tabitha joined us on Thursday 6th January to lead sessions with Year 11 to explore what common features of successful young people can be replicated over the coming weeks and months as we prepare for the mock exams and, looking further ahead, to the main exams in the summer.

We looked at the little wins that will make us stand out against others whilst keeping things in perspective in a busy and noisy national situation.

This included using the specification and/or revision guides to structure revision and identify gaps in knowledge. Tabitha discussed making notes during the week, every week, so that the task of revision becomes smaller as we approach the exams. This included tips on keeping tabs on what students had done and how to write a revision timetable.

Tabitha gave our students some top tips regarding how to use organised revision notes to improve memory, including trigger words, using colour and dual-coding. (Dual coding is a technique we use in lessons across school and involves using a strong image to trigger a memory). She also talked about the importance of revisiting, revisiting, revisiting until knowledge is embedded, but keeping revision sessions short and sharp to maximise productivity.

The main theme of her session was that students can control and should control how they prepare for an exam. Excuses later won't improve a situation that was in their control in the first place and that now is the time to get organised!

Elevate Education will be back after the mock exams to lead a further session to support Year 11 in getting ready for the summer exam season.

Careers@Baines

Meet the Professional Masterclasses

We are excited to be kicking off the new year with an interesting line up of Masterclasses this January. Please can interested Year 10 and 11 students put their name forward to Miss Kinder if they would like to attend any of the upcoming Masterclasses:

Equine Vet Masterclass - Wednesday 12th January
Engineering Masterclass - Wednesday 19th January
Tattoo Artistry Masterclass - Thursday 20th January

We are seeking volunteers who are employed in the following occupations to deliver a Masterclass: Police Officer, Dentist, Animator and Psychologist. Please contact Miss Kinder if you would like to support in any of these areas – kki@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Year 11 Mock Interview Day - Wednesday 26th January 2022

Just a reminder that we will be hosting **Employer Mock Interviews** for our **Year 11** cohort on the morning of **Wednesday 26th January 2022**. Every Year 11 student at Baines will be given the opportunity to have an individual interview with an employer, where they will present their CV for review and will also receive feedback. Mock interviews are a great way for students to practice their interview techniques and gain valuable experience and confidence within an interview setting. This experience will help prepare students for their upcoming college interviews and for any future job interviews.

CVs - Every Year 11 student is required to hand in their most up to date CV ahead of the Mock Interviews. Miss Kinder will be chasing students who have not done this over the coming weeks. Please note that students in Mrs Dawber's Personal Development class will be updating their CVs in the first PD lesson back after Christmas, which makes this group the only exception.

We are seeking volunteers to assist with interviewing our Year 11 students, so if any parents/carers would like to support this event then please get in touch with Miss Kinder for more information – kki@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Student Council

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the food hampers as part of the Christmas Reverse Advent. The student council organised making 14 hampers for families in our local community. The students also wrote over 50 Christmas Cards which were delivered to five local residential homes, to spread some festive cheer.

Themes of the Week

Our theme this week is Kindness and Paying it Forward. We will be spending time with students talking about the importance of being kind to each other and how we can be kind to each other.

Friends of Baines

If you would like to be involved with our own version of a PTFA – Friends of Baines, please contact Mrs Doherty (cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

We very much value your input in shaping our community.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

All students have been sent the link to a wellbeing survey, to help us identify any students who are struggling at the moment. Please speak to your son / daughter about this, so that it can be completed over the next few days.

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)

If you have any ideas how you feel we could improve our safeguarding of students, please feel free to email Mrs Doherty (cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

Forthcoming Events:

31st January- Year 11 Mock Exams will run in to the week after Half Term w.b Monday

21st February

2nd February- Year 10 Consultation Evening (Virtual)

Nil Sine Labore

Alison Chapman, Headteacher