

# Head's Summer Newsletter

July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write this newsletter, summer is nearly upon us and we are looking forward to our Music Summer Sizzler Concert. It has been a fantastic year with our students achieving so many successes in different areas and having so many opportunities to take part in trips and events.

Those of you who came to our Sports Presentation Evening will know that we have dominated events in South Ribble all year and are proud to say that we are South Ribble Athletics Champions for the fifth year in a row!

## Some of this year's sporting achievements:

- Champions in Netball in 3 year groups
- Year 9 Netball Lancashire schools semi finalists
- All five football teams reached the Cup final (3 Years are Champions)
- Football league winners in 3 years
- Indoor Athletics Champions
- Year 8 boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the whole of Lancashire at the Lancashire Athletics.
- U13s Rugby league team unbeaten
- U13s Basketball league winners (unbeaten)
- U15s boys South Ribble Indoor cricket winners
- U15s boys indoor cricket 5<sup>th</sup> place at Lancashire County stage
- Rounders tournament winners in three year groups
- South Ribble U16s Athletics Champions
- South Ribble U14s Athletics Champions

We're always pleased to see our female students playing football. The following date may be of interest to you as a day out in the holiday. On **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July** Blackburn Rovers Ladies are playing Liverpool Ladies at Bamber Bridge Football Club at 2.00pm.

## Stay Safe this Summer

During the summer holidays many children and young people will often spend increased amounts of time online. Please find attached a help sheet to help you manage various online challenges you may encounter with your child's increased screen time and other useful online information and tips. Further information about safer online behaviours over summer can be found on the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board Website.

<http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/online-safeguarding/news-events.aspx>

We have spoken to our students about safety around water which is especially important to emphasize with the hot weather that we have been having. We want all of our students to return happy and healthy at the end of the summer break!

## Information about the end of term and the start of term in September

Students will be dismissed at 1.00pm this Friday after their pm registration. Lunches will be available for collection from the canteen at break for those who are entitled to a Free School Meal.

Autumn term begins on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. It is Year 7 only in the morning and the rest of school will join us for the afternoon and should be in school by about 1.20pm ready to start in tutor group at 1.30.

Please ensure that your son/daughter has the correct uniform and appearance when we return in September. There should not be any unnatural hair colouring – this includes dip-dyed hair. Any piercings should have been done at the start of the holiday as students are not allowed to wear jewellery. Any acrylic nails that may have been put on over the summer need to be removed. Each year children will debate with their parents what constitutes appropriate footwear. If in doubt, please visit Paces and Laces in Leyland who have attended our new intake evenings with Delta Wool and Nu uniforms and will be able to tell you exactly what shoes are appropriate.

## Mental Health Matters

Earlier in the Summer Term we ran a *Mental Health Matters* evening for parents. This event was extremely well-received by parents and we will re-run this event in the autumn term for those who were not able to attend at this one. Parents reported that they found the evening to be extremely practical and some of the feedback is below.



Thank you for holding these events; I cannot express how valuable it is.

Workshops that gave good advice enabling us as parents to support our children.

An excellent evening! Thank you very much.

A great session – when will you do it again?

Invaluable information given – thank you.

Lots to think about and take away.

100% of parents recommended this evening to other parents. 69% strongly recommended it.

We will let you know what the date is going to be for the next *Mental Health Matters* Event next term.

## SIAMS Inspection - Autumn

During the Autumn term it is highly likely that the school will have a SIAMS Inspection. SIAMS is the *Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools* and the inspector will evaluate the Christian vision and values of Balshaw's and how they impact in each area of our school life from our acts of worship to the leadership and management of the school. We are rightly proud of how our Christian values permeate all that we do at Balshaw's, not just in formal ways such as our acts of worship, prayer at each meeting, the Lord's Prayer which students carry with them at all times, our Thoughts and Prayers for the Day, but in every element of our pastoral care. We encourage all of our students to be advocates for those less fortunate, through fundraising, charity work and volunteering. Our curriculum places emphasis on Christian values and our PSHE programme is informed by Christian values of love, compassion and forgiveness.

## **Staff moving on**

As always, we are sorry to say goodbye to members of staff who are moving on from the Balshaw's Family, but we are delighted that Balshaw's provides a foundation for them to progress to promoted positions. Mrs Rawson will still deliver peripatetic music lessons to students at Balshaw's, but will take up a new position as Head of Music at Walton Le Dale High School. Mr and Mrs Fletcher are beginning an exciting new journey working in the International School sector as they start at the Canadian International School of Singapore. This is an amazing opportunity for them and we wish them the very best. Mrs Jones has led Staff Professional Development this year at Balshaw's as well as teaching French and Spanish and co-ordinating the Initial Teacher Trainees that we have had at school. Mrs Jones is joining the Senior Leadership Team at the Endeavour Learning Multi-Academy Trust where she will lead on the Professional Development across the schools in the Trust. Mrs Jones will be a great asset to them and we are proud of her progression but will miss her.

Mrs Kell is one of our Science Technicians and is finishing this summer to work in her husband's business and a role as a part time Science technician will be advertised on our website and LCC jobs page over the summer.

## **Staff joining us**

We look forward to working with some excellent new staff at Balshaw's in September:

- Mrs D Dolman (Head of English)
- Miss F McCutcheon (Teacher of English)
- Miss H Corner (Teacher of Maths)
- Mr J Bailey (Teacher of Science)
- Mrs C Filler (Teacher of RE and Humanities)
- Mrs H Mainey (Teacher of PE, maternity cover from October)
- Miss Y Wareing (Teaching Assistant, SEN)
- Miss E Duffy (Teaching Assistant, English)

We also welcomed back Mrs Carr to the English department following her maternity leave. We also wish Miss Begaud all the very best for her wedding day this summer.

## **Governor Update**

Many of you will know Mike Otter from his work as a councillor as well as the 27 years of service that he has given to Balshaw's as a governor and as Chair of Governors. Mike is one of the few people left at Balshaw's who can say that they have worked with the last three headteachers. His legacy on the school is very strong, especially in the way that he has always championed the Christian values and ethos which underpin the school in his role as a Foundation governor. We will miss Mike as a governor very much, but he will still chair the Balshaw's Education Foundation and keep contact with the school of which he has been a part for so long.

Our former Chair of Governors, Tim Callaghan, you may know, is currently fighting oesophageal cancer. He has successfully undertaken chemotherapy and is currently in hospital recovering from surgery. Tim is doing very well and has a very positive mindset. I hope that you will pray that he continues to make good progress in his recovery.

## **Prayer Booklet**

With this newsletter I have also attached a prayer booklet for you called *Prayer Guide for Anxiety*. Although I hope that summer brings a chance for a wind down and a chance to spend time together, it can also be an anxious time for some people and as we learned in our *Mental Health Matters* evening we all suffer from anxiety at times. I hope that you will find this booklet useful.

## **Have a great summer!**

We hope that our Year 11 will be able to celebrate excellent results when they collect their results on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. I hope that the weather will stay fine although it will mean a hosepipe ban across the North West, but, for now have a great summer – stay safe, have fun together and may God bless your families.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Haycocks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Steven Haycocks

**HEADTEACHER**

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