



The Birley Academy  
A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Newsletter



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

## Head Teacher Message

Such a busy term it's been and after 15 weeks all our students and staff are ready for a well-earned rest.

From concerts and celebration evenings to DofE expeditions and residentials to Bruges, our students have fully immersed themselves in all that the academy have to offer.

It has been wonderful to meet so many of you at parents' evenings and curriculum evening and to hear your feedback of the work we are doing.

The student council and student ambassador programmes are now fully underway allowing our students to show how they Lead and Drive in the academy. In addition to projects such as the Brilliant Club, Discover us and Interview Days we have sought to empower our students to develop into well rounded citizens, capable of taking their place in the community.

Our drive to support charities has continued with well over £10,000 being raised in the past year, with more to come this week. In addition our students have been making up Christmas hampers to distribute in the community.

Of course none of this would be possible without the amazing support that parents and carers give to the Academy every single day. I sincerely thank you for it. On behalf of all the staff at The Birley Academy, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Gina Newton Headteacher

## What's Happening....

### Remembrance Day - Sunday 11 November 2018

Remembrance Sunday, which fell on 11 November 2018. This day is held for the nation to remember and honour those who suffered or died in war to secure and protect our freedom.

On the lead up to Remembrance Day our students have been involved in lessons and discussions cross departments and selling poppies to raise funds.

To mark the occasion this year various students have designed their own poppies and written their thoughts and thanks within them. These poppies of thanks form part of some wonderful displays of art work, which can be seen around school.

**"Lest we Forget" .....**

Remembrance Day 2018 - School Displays 



## Children in Need – Fund Raising

Thank you to all staff and students who supported non-school dress day on Friday 16 November 2018. A MASSIVE £1850.52 was raised and will be divided between our student chosen charities.



# Y11 Post 16 Evening....



## Y11 Post 16 Evening Wednesday 24 October 2018

The Y11 Post 16 Event gave the chance for our Y11 Students/Parents/Carers to attend a presentation and gain Information, Advice and Guidance about choices available after leaving Birley. We welcomed representatives from Colleges, 6<sup>th</sup> Form Schools, Apprenticeship and Training Providers in: Construction/Engineering/Sport/Hairdressing/Beauty, RAF, Army, UCAS and Sheffield Futures.

This event was very well attended and we received very positive feedback on what was a busy evening. Sincere thanks to all those providers who attended and to our students/Parents/Carers for making this event so successful.

## Know your Stuff....

This year, we are challenging our Y7 students to expand their knowledge with a programme of inspirational lectures: the *Know Your Stuff* Lectures!

Each Lecture has a central theme, but within the hour-long session a broad range of knowledge is shared, with follow-up quizzes and projects demonstrating the students' enthusiasm and application of what they have learned.

Here's a sample of what Y7 have seen, and what's to come:

- Nations of the World Cup ✓
- The Beatles ✓
- The Planets ✓
- Charles Darwin ✓
- Politics
- Superheroes
- Ornithology and Conservation
- Sporting Rules and Laws
- British Film
- The Human Brain



## A challenge for parents:

Some of the lectures are delivered by members of staff, but many are from volunteers in the community. Do you have a specialism you'd be prepared to share with our students? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Mr M Edwards at school.



# Y11 Leavers Celebration Evening Tuesday 27 November 2018....

Y11 Celebration of Success Evening invites back our past Y11 students to celebrate their success and reflect on their time spent here at Birley.

The occasion is designed to congratulate and to celebrate student Examination Successes along with Progress, Achievement, and other Awards which are presented during the evening.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Students and Parents/Carers for attending and to all the staff involved for their organisation and support before and during the event.

**Finally thank you and good luck for the future to the Class of 2018**



## Bad Weather....

As you know from experience in previous years, in the event of snow we always endeavour to open the school, often opening when other schools might not. Our general stance is that if public transport is working then we will open. We do this because we realise the difficulties that it causes you if we do not open and we know from your feedback that you appreciate our efforts. In the event of a bad weather warning, we will place a message on our website, as early as possible, confirming that we are open. Of course, as a parent it is your responsibility to make the best decision for the day concerning your child as we realise that sometimes there are concerns around their safety on the journey to and from school.

Many of our staff live some distance from work and so can be slightly delayed getting in, this means that we may have to change lessons around for part of the day, however we always do everything we can to ensure that the day is as 'normal' as possible and purposeful learning is taking place. Once your child comes to school we expect him/her to stay with us until we finish, as releasing students throughout the day is extremely disruptive. We will only release students from school in exceptional circumstances. If you need to get in touch with your child please ensure that you phone through to the school switchboard due to our Mobile Phone Policy.

If the weather conditions worsen throughout the day, we will always do everything we can to stay open until the end of the day. If that changes we will put information on our website and contact you. Please treat with caution any unofficial communication regarding school closure or adjustments to the day. If you have any concerns, please ring us.



The Birley Academy

Remember

# **The Birley Academy is a mobile free zone**

**Keep phones and  
electronic devices out of  
sight and switched off at  
all times while you are on  
site.**

## **Mobile phones and other electronic devices**

Please see excerpt below from a recent letter sent out to parents/carers regarding Social Media:

"Mobile phones and other electronic devices such as headphones, MP3 players and apple watches are not allowed to be used anywhere on The Academy site including in the grounds. The main reason for this is around safeguarding. The advent of social media means it is virtually impossible to monitor what students may be posting about themselves or others or what they are subjected to. High profile cases in the media recently have emphasised this. Staff at The Academy can spend a significant amount of time with students over issues that have arisen because of the use of social media. This is too disruptive to their learning and their well-being. We believe that students' social skills are in danger of suffering too. A considerable number of parents in recent months have asked that we consider this ban and I think that the time is right to make this change.

We recommend that students do not bring these items onto site at all - especially as The Academy takes no responsibility for loss or damage occurring to them. However, for those travelling significant distances, I appreciate you may want them to have the reassurance of a phone. In this case, the device must be switched off and kept out of sight at all times. If any device comes to the attention of a member of staff it will be confiscated whether or not it is in use. The device will be returned at the end of the day. For a second offence the device will only be returned to a parent or carer at an agreed time."



Follow us: @birleyacademy

Birley Academy School Uniform  
Pinders Schoolwear Ltd

Newsletter



Birley Academy uniform available from Crystal Peaks store.

Parents will also be able to order over the telephone or on our website.

Stock of uniform available in the store by the end of November 2018.

**Pinders Schoolwear Ltd**  
**The Market Place**  
**Crystal Peaks Shopping Centre**  
**Sheffield**  
**S20 7PJ**  
**TEL: 0114 2513275**  
**[www.pindersschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pindersschoolwear.co.uk)**

**Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm**  
**Sunday 10am-4pm**

**Schoolcomms**  
all together, smarter

The Birley Academy has introduced a new service 'School Gateway' the parent portal (app and website) that allows you to make online payments to school via instant bank transfer, credit or debit card. Parents/carers can view school meal balances and top them up at any time.

**What you need to do now to activate your account:**

**Download the app:** If you have a smartphone, please download School Gateway from your app store (Android and iPhone). School Gateway app is optimised for smartphone use, but can also be accessed on a tablet. The app shows the same information as the website and you can send app messages to school for FREE – this will also save the school money when we send text messages.

**OR**

**Visit the website:** [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) and click on 'New User'. You'll receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to login to School Gateway.

**Can't activate your account?**

If you're having trouble logging in, it may be because we do not have your current email address and mobile phone number on record. Please call the Academy office and we will update the details on our system.

# Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason please let us know each morning giving a reason for non-attendance Option 1 on school number.

Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance contact your Education Welfare Officers at school **Karen Newton** and **Penny Hunt** Option 1 on the schools number or send a message via School Comms.

# Important Notices

**Parent/Carer Contact Details** - Please ensure that school has all up to date contact details: mobile phone numbers, email address etc.

## SEN Drop In Clinic

Clinic for any SEN queries held by Mrs Buckley, SENCO - Mondays 3pm – 6pm

## School Day - September 2018

Tutor time	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Period 4		Period 5	Intervention, Enrichment and Detention time  2.45 – 3.45pm As applicable
8.40am– 9.00am	9.00am – 10.00am	10.00am – 11.00am		11.15am– 12.15pm	<b>Lunch 1</b> Year 7, 9 & 11 12.15 – 12.45 pm	<b>Lunch 2</b> Year 8 & 10 1.15 – 1.45 pm	1.45pm - 2.45pm	

## Dates for your Diary

## Holidays

Month	Date	Event	Time
December	10	Christmas Concert	6:00 - 7:30
	14	Y11 Mock Interviews	
	22	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	
January	07	School re-opens for students	
	14	Y10 Parents' Evening	4:30 - 7:00
	22	Know Your Stuff Y7	
		Lecture 6 Main Hall	13:45 - 14:45
February	4	Y8 and Y9 HPV Injections	
	12	Y7 Parents' Evening	4:30 - 7:00
	13	Know Your Stuff Y7	
	18	Lecture 7 Main Hall	9:00 - 10:00
	18	<b>Half Term (18 – 22 Inclusive)</b>	

### Term Dates and Holidays - Academic Year 2018/2019 – All Dates are Inclusive

School re-opens to students on: **Tuesday 4 September 2018**

<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Tuesday 4 September 2018 to Friday 26 October 2018</b>
Autumn Half Term	Monday 29 October 2018 to Friday 2 November 2018
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 5 November 2018 to Friday 21 December 2018</b>
Christmas	Monday 24 December 2018 to Friday 4 January 2019
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 7 January 2019 to Friday 15 February 2019</b>
Spring Half Term	Monday 18 February 2019 to Friday 22 February 2019
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 25 February 2019 to Friday 29 March 2019</b>
Easter Holiday	Monday 1 April 2019 to Friday 12 April 2019
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 15 April 2019 to Friday 24 May 2019</b>
Easter Bank Holiday	<b>School is closed Friday 19 April 2019 and Monday 22 April 2019</b>
May Day	Monday 6 May 2019
Summer Half Term	Monday 27 May 2019 to Friday 31 May 2019
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 3 June 2019 to Friday 19 July 2019</b>

**Training Days for staff – Students not in school;**  
Monday 3 September 2019

Other inset days will be advised later in the year via the Newsletter. All Newsletters are displayed on our website.

For more information and dates, visit our website [www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk](http://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk)



We value **your voice** and would like you to join us on our journey of improvement.