



Newsletter

Head Teacher Message

What an amazing year we have had. This week culminated in our students attending a Celebration Evening where their success was publicly celebrated. Students received awards for Lead, Empower, Achieve, Drive as well as attendance and recognition from Leadership Team for their excellence.

Even though it is the end of our school year, Academy life has been incredibly busy. Y10 are currently on work experience. The positive feedback we have had about these young adults has been incredible- just when we thought we couldn't be any prouder of them.

This week we also had our annual Sports' Day at the EIS. Students threw themselves into this wholeheartedly - one of them ran 10 races! And well done to the girls who beat the female staff in the staff student race- Ms Clarke will get over it soon!

We had the honour of welcoming our new Y7s last week an absolutely delightful bunch of young people, we couldn't be more excited about working with them.

Our DofE cohort has been out on an expedition; we have had geography field work; we've been down to London for the National Gaelic Football Tournament... the list is endless.

Throughout all of this staff and students have shown one thing, overwhelming commitment to the academy vision and what it stands for; taking opportunities and making things happen; they have shown resilience and resourcefulness; we have all developed and challenged ourselves and worked together.

Thank you for your continued support. On behalf of all the staff at The Birley Academy I hope you have a wonderful, restful summer. We look forward to welcoming your children back to us in September.

What's Happening....

Kingswood Educational Residential Friday 3 - Sunday 5 May 2019

As in past years, the Kingswood Education Activity Residential ran on the above dates, this year, accommodating 55 of our Y7 students who chose to participate. The residential consists of a three days/two nights residential educational adventure weekend providing an activity programme to challenge and inspire.

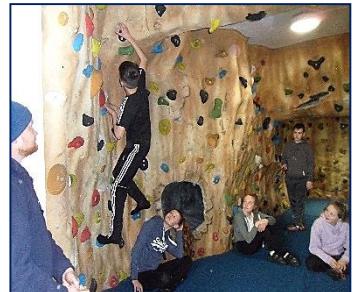
The experience aims are for every student to gain an insight into their own abilities and a real pride and self-confidence in their achievements, both individually and as part of a team.

Students had the chance to participate in archery, zip wire, 3 G swing, outdoor laser, bouldering, problem solving and nightline. A great time had by all!

Many thanks to all the staff who accompanied the students on this excursion: Miss Calvert, Mr Watkins, Miss Deacon, Mr Hofheinz, Dr Webb and Mrs Bellamy



Students participating in various events....





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Newsletter

**"Our Voice Matters Debate"
Sheffield City Council Town Hall
Council Chambers**

The Our Voice Matters event was organised by Sheffield City Council, on Friday 29 March 2019, to give children the opportunity to practice their debating skills while learning about politics in a real-life environment.

Students from The Birley Academy, accompanied by Mr Mantle, joined hundreds of other school children at the Sheffield Town Hall Council Chamber to debate the issues that matter to them.

In all, 16 schools took part in the full day of debate with secondary schools held in the afternoon. Councillor Magid Magid acted as chair for the debates during the second half of the day. In groups, the young political leaders of tomorrow took part in discussions on issues including social media, homework and whether they should have to earn their pocket money.

Birley held the floor with a discussion on votes at 16 and the debate around the importance of youngsters having a voice from a young age. Mr Mantle confirmed that "*all students were able to research and put together a valid argument, which they put to a large audience in a very professional manner*". Using the newly installed voting system in the Council Chamber the vote "for" or "against" was opened to the floor and a final vote taken.

Our students were very enthusiastic from the word go and Councillors were very impressed by their mature attitude toward proceedings.

Debates are being introduced here at Birley during tutor time giving our students a good foundation in the art of discussion should they wish to take this further and maybe move forward into the Youth Parliament!

Well done to all our students involved.....



Rosa, Cole, Ellie, Ethan, Macy, Atticus and Charlie



Y11 Easter School

During the recent 2 weeks break, The Academy ran an Easter School for Year 11 students in preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams.

21 members of staff gave up their holiday time to work with students and sessions were put on by departments across the curriculum on both weeks. As part of the programme, 40 students were invited to attend a PiXL student conference in Harrogate.

Staff, parent and student feedback was very positive about the opportunity given to our students. Our thanks go to Mr Allan; Mr Coleman; Mr Taylor; Mr Gillett; Mr Mantle; Mrs Taylor; Mr Bradley; Mr Jones; Miss Heath; Mrs Hayward; Mrs Casey; Miss Evans; Mrs Jackson; Mrs Clark; Miss Calvert; Mr Townsend; Mr Cronin; Mrs Gardiner; Miss Thomas; Miss Mason; Miss Miniot and Mr Mann.

Science Dept...

The Science Department, during Y10 Science lessons, organized for Jo McNamara, who is a Senior Lecturer from Sheffield Hallam University and also a member of the team at Western Park Therapeutic Radiography Department, to come into school on Friday 10 May 2019.

We have welcomed Jo McNamara into Birley on several occasions and this visit gave the students the opportunity to participate in a talk delivered by Jo, the contents of which, covered Radiography and Oncology. A very informative and awareness raising session for our students to be involved in.

We extend our thanks to Jo and look forward to her visiting again in the future.



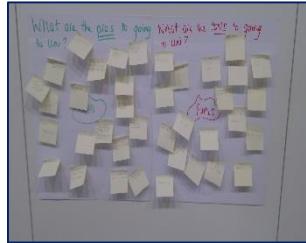
Jack, Jo McNamara, Declan and Abigail



**Impact Event – University of Sheffield
Wednesday 8 May 2019**

After an initial visit by our Y7/Y8 students to The University of Sheffield during the summer of 2018, now in Y8/Y9, those same students have attended a further IMPACT event along with their parents and Mr Mantle. The aim of the event was to develop knowledge of Higher Education and give an insight into student accommodation and courses available to study at The University.

Students and parents attended seminars on finance, residential life, a tour of the facility and the chance to enjoy lunch in the University refectory. A great opportunity for those students and parents who attended to gain very valuable information.



Student Voice Working Together....

On Thursday 2 May 2019, 4 of our Birley Ambassadors from Years 7-9 went to Da Vinci Academy in Derby accompanied by Ms Hughes and Mrs Mitchell.

The purpose of the visit was to get to know students from the other secondary academies within the LEAD Trust and develop ways in which they could start to work together. This is the second student voice activity that has taken place this year across the MAT with the previous visit taking place at The Birley Academy.

During their afternoon at The Da Vinci Academy the students came up with a range of ideas where they could work together. For example A LEAD Academies Sports Day or A LEAD Academies Bake off. The students had a useful and enjoyable afternoon and are looking forward to their next session during the final half term.

We are very proud of all the students who took part as they represented themselves and The Birley Academy to a high level! Well done to Charlie, Amber , Harrison and Emily!

Celebration Evenings

Wednesday 8 May 2019 / Thursday 9 May 2019



Celebration Evening - Wednesday 8 May 2019

"Congratulations"
to Students from Year 7, 8 and 9



Over the last two evenings (Wednesday 8 May and Thursday 9 May 2019) we celebrated the successes of 297 students. Parents and family members from all year groups joined us at school in order to congratulate their children in their on-going successes.

The categories celebrated were as follows:

- 100% Attendance
- Improved Attendance
- Outstanding Leadership
- The Empowerment Award
- Outstanding Achievement
- Outstanding Effort
- The Year Leader Award

We are proud of every single student who has received an award and hope to celebrate even more students and their achievements in the final celebration evening on Tuesday 2 July 2019.



Celebration Evening
Thursday 9 May 2019
"Congratulations" to
Students from Years 10 and 11



My journey from trialling to selection for Derbyshire County Cricket Team by Atticus Y8

Every Saturday in November, I had a North Derbyshire District trial. The coaches would then decide whether to send me for County Trials, keep me for District, or send me back to my Club. I was selected for County trials.

On 16 December 2018 I had a three-hour trial with Derbyshire County Cricket Club for their U13's team. I had a one-hour fielding session, the remaining two hours were batting and bowling (nets session). On Tuesday, 18 December 2018 I received the exciting news via email, that I had successfully completed stage one of the trials and was invited to a further 9 weeks' trials at the Derbyshire County ground.

My cricketing skills were put to the test, we spent hours honing our bowling, batting and fielding skills, with the assistance of the coaches and various professional senior players. Another important factor was fitness and diet. We had three fitness tests in which endurance and strength was tested. I also completed 8 weeks of District Trials, which gave me the opportunity to work with three amazing coaches who helped me improve my game.

So, on 25 March I finally got the news I had been waiting for, I had been selected for the U13's Derbyshire County Cricket Team.

I have my first match on Wednesday 8 May and am very much looking forward to playing.

We would all like to convey our congratulations to Atticus and wish him the best of luck with his future cricketing career. WELL DONE!

 Atticus Y8



Northern Gaelic Games



The Y8 Gaelic football team recently competed in the Northern Gaelic championships in Manchester. The team have applied themselves really well and adapted well to this sport. Mr Cronin commented, "this is something we have introduced into the curriculum at Key stage 3. The students really like to play Gaelic and wanted to test themselves against other schools".

During the tournament Birley progressed out of their group into second place, winning three games and loosing one. They played a really good semi-final and won the game with a great score from Kian. Zak, in goal, made some amazing saves and his performance was noted by all coaches on the day.

In the final Birley lost to an excellent side, however it was a great achievement to finish in runners up spot in their first every Northern Gaelic finals.

Well done to the team....

SPOTLIGHT.... on our students playing various sports at a High Level...

Daniel, one of our Y10 students here at Birley got into ten pin bowling when he was 6, his dad is a bowler and the sport is something Daniel always wanted to do.

Daniel started bowling in the junior league at Firth Park and has progressed to the Chesterfield junior league held on a Saturday morning where his improvement has increasingly been noticed on the bowling circuit resulting in Daniel being invited into more leagues and tournaments.

Daniel now bowls in an adults Tuesday night league and bowls for Chesterfield in the Midlands scratch league, his greatest achievement to date has been qualifying for the under 16s Yorkshire Team, which he has been involved in for the last few years.

This year Daniel has had his first perfect game of 300, which many adults are still trying to achieve. He has had an amazing season and over the past year he has an average scratch score of 200 pins per game. Fabulous!

Well done and good luck with any future tournaments/competition in your sport...

 Daniel Y10





Fond Farewells....

Good Luck and Best Wishes to:-

Martin Edwards who is leaving to take up a promotion at another school.

Paul Treadwell who is moving away from education to take up a new role.

Neil Drew and Jess Haynes who leave us to move in to different educational roles.

Lewis Whitaker who is leaving to take up a promotion at another school.

And finally, we would like to wish Helen Walker, a Science Teacher at Birley for **29** years, a very happy and well deserved retirement.

Welcome to The Birley Academy.....

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new staff starting in September 2019;

In English we will be joined by Rachael Hughes and Anna Lomas.

Andrew Murphy joins us as Teacher of Science.

Lee Coddington joins us as Teacher of PE.

Peter Hawkins and Helen Wardle will be joining us as Design and Technology Teachers.

Edmund Kirk joins us as Teacher of Maths.

Mathew Hunt joins us as Teacher of Geography.



Attendance at The Birley Academy...

We receive a lot of questions regarding attendance from parents. Please see below for some frequently asked questions and the responses. If you have any further query, please do not hesitate to contact either of our Education Welfare Officers Karen Newton or Penny Hunt on 0114 239 2531 ext 2025/2062.

Attendance FAQ:

Do I need to let school know each day my child is ill? - Yes unless agreed with us. We all need to know that a child is at home or school.

If my child is ill will their absence be authorised? - Yes if their attendance is 95% or higher on the date of illness. Their illness may also be authorised if the child went home from school ill.

What happens if my child's attendance is under 95% and they are ill? - The illness will be unauthorised unless a copy of medical evidence such as a GP/optician/emergency department appointment slip, prescription or medicine label is shown

If I take my child out of school to go on holiday do I need to complete a leave of absence form (LOA)? - Yes so that we can ensure your child's attendance record is correct

If I complete a LOA form will I be informed if the holiday has been authorised? - You will only be informed if it has been authorised. No reply = no authorisation

Might I receive a fine for unauthorised holidays? - Yes if your child is absent for five days or more

If I have more than one child from your school going on holiday in term time will I receive a fine for each child? - No, just for one child (Sheffield Council current Policy)

If my child is part of an external sporting group and is to have time off school how do I ask for that? - You would write to the Headteacher requesting this time and enclose a copy of details of the sporting event from the relevant organisation. You would be informed if this time off is authorised.

If my child has a medical appointment will it be authorised? - A medical appointment is authorised if school have been given a copy of the appointment slip or letter regardless of the child's attendance percentage.

If I write to school to say that my child has a medical appointment will it be authorised? - School will authorise medical appointments from a parental letter if the child's attendance is 95% or above on the date of the appointment.

If my child's attendance is under 95% and I write to school explaining that they have a medical appointment will the absence be authorised? - No we have to see a letter or appointment slip from the place where your child has the appointment

If my child has an appointment in the morning and arrives before lunchtime will they be marked present? - If they arrive during the morning they will receive a 'Late' for their morning registration mark and a 'Medical' mark for any lessons they missed (assuming we have evidence or their attendance is 95% or above).

If their appointment is in the afternoon they will receive a present mark for PM registration if they leave school after PM registers are taken. The lessons missed from that point will be marked as 'Medical' if appropriate evidence supplied

These questions may not cover all eventualities. The answers are correct for the 2018-2019 academic year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our uniform can be purchased from Pinders Schoolwear, their website is www.pindersschoolwear.co.uk and they can be located in Crystal Peaks Marketplace. You can shop in store, order online and either collect your order from the store or have it delivered free of charge to The Birley Academy.

Our ties, purchased via Pinders Schoolwear are regular ties that your child will tie themselves, we do not supply clip-on ties.

Community Notice – Please be aware...

Warning note to parents and children

A nationally known building and refurbishment contractor has been in touch with a number of local schools to let us know that they will be undertaking roofing and associated works to a number of properties in our area over the Summer holidays.

We have been asked to confirm that homes where scaffolding will be erected will be classed as building sites and should not be used by anyone other than officers and operatives authorised to undertake works or carry out inspections.

A representative from J Tomlinson Ltd advised, "We adopt strict Health & Safety policies and our message to everyone is quite simple - playing at heights can be extremely risky and potentially very dangerous. Please don't spoil your summer break for a few minutes of 'fun', it's really not worth the risk."

As a school we welcome and support this form of notification. We want all our children, their family, friends and visitors to their homes to be happy and safe at all times. Please take the content of this message on board.

Attendance Figure

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

Attendance Figures:

Whole School	93.6%
Y7	94.1%
Y8	92.8%
Y9	93.4 %
Y10	93.5%

Important Notices

Parent/Carer Contact Details - Please ensure that school has all up to date contact details including email addresses to ensure you receive correspondence from school.

School Day 2019/20

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

Dates for your Diary

Holidays

September

- 4 College open to Students**
10 Y11 Parent Information Evening 17:30 – 19:00
11 Y7 Parent Information Evening 17:30 – 19:00
17 Y10 Parent Information Evening 17:30 – 19:00
18 Y8/Y9 Parents Information Evening 17.30 – 19.00

October

- 8 Y9 Injections** 09:00 – 12:30
8 Y5/6 Open Evening 17:30 – 19:30
16 Whole School Photos
23 Post 16 Evening 18:30 – 20:00
28 Half Term (28 October – 1 November Inclusive)

Term Dates and Holidays - Academic Year 2019/2020

All Dates are Inclusive

School re-opens to students on: **Wednesday 4 September 2019**

Training Days - Monday 2 September 2019 and Tuesday 3 September 2019

Autumn Term 1 - Wednesday 4 September 2019 to Friday 25 October 2019

Autumn Half Term - Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2019 (Incl)

Autumn Term 2 - Monday 4 November 2019 to Friday 20 December 2019

Training Day - Monday 2 December 2019 (Joint Trust Day)

Christmas Holiday - Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020 (Incl)

Spring Term 1 - Monday 6 January 2020 to Friday 14 February 2020

Spring Half Term - Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020 (Incl)

Spring Term 2 - Monday 24 February 2020 to Friday 27 March 2020

Easter Holiday - Monday 30 March 2020 to Monday 13 April 2020 (Incl)

(Good Friday - 10 April 2020 Easter Monday 13 April 2020)

Summer Term 1 - Tuesday 14 April 2020 to Friday 22 May 2020

May Day Holiday - Friday 8 May 2020

Summer Half Term - Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020 (Incl)

Summer Term 2 - Monday 1 June 2020 to Friday 17 July 2020

Training Days for staff – Students not in school;

Monday 20 July 2020 and Tuesday 21 July 2020

For more information and dates, visit our website www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk



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