



The Birley Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Gina Newton

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Dear parents/carers,

It was a very busy first term at The Birley Academy. We welcomed our new students in Year 7, as well as in other year groups and new staff too. We celebrated Black History Month and Remembrance Day. We raised awareness for Anti-Bullying Week and trained our Anti Bullying Ambassadors as part of The Diana Award.

Visits included a theatre trip to see The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, a trip to the Good Food Show at the NEC and to Gulliver's Kingdom for a STEAM event (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths), as well as our fantastic MFL/ History trip to Bruges, to visit sites from World War One and the Christmas markets.

There were numerous sporting events including the Mountain Bike Club and visits by our Y9 Sports Leaders to the E.I.S. We had an Opportunities Day when students had the chance to go on a winter walk, experience an escape room, form a rock band or paint like Bob Ross!

We appointed Subject Ambassadors who make us very proud by supporting at Open Evenings and Parents' Evenings. Likewise, we elected representatives to the Student Council. We raised money for a snowflake at the Sheffield Childrens' hospital and for Children in Need.

Year 11 students had a very busy first term applying for Post 16 opportunities, taking part in employer interviews, taking their mock exams, as well as attending period 6 to help prepare for their GCSEs and BTECs.

We enjoyed welcoming parents in for face to face Parents' Evenings again, as well as more informal coffee and cake sessions with the school Leadership team.

In all of this students received a record number of reward points and certificates. Our top 100 students enjoyed a cinema afternoon in the hall.

We would like to thank you (as parent/carers) for your support in enabling our students to be part of these opportunities. Likewise, for supporting student attendance in full uniform (and being well equipped). Finally, to **please donate any old uniform that is in good condition (for other students to use)**. You can do so by bringing it into the school reception.

As always, please be reminded of the uniform expectations. The only jewellery permitted is a watch and one pair of stud earrings. Any more than that and students will be asked to hand them in to be collected at the end of the day. Nose piercing jewellery is not permitted, nor is brightly coloured hair. Blazers should be worn at all times around the Academy. A plain navy jumper without a logo can be worn under the blazer or a school jumper. Shoes (not trainers)

should be plain and black with no branding. Students should have a bag to carry equipment and the new knowledge organisers.

Extra-curricular clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After School 2.35pm – 3.45pm	Trampolining (All years)	Sparx Maths (All years)	Dance (All years)	Basketball (All years)	Classic Rock Club (All years) lunchtime
	Table Tennis (All years)	Games Club (KS3 lunchtime)	Badminton (All years)	Football (All years - girls)	
	Fitness (All years)		Mountain Bike (Y7)	Eco Committee (KS3 lunchtime)	
	Football (Y7 boys)		Art Club (KS3)	Music Club Y8&9 Week A Y7 Week B	
	Drama club (KS3)				
	Debate Club (Y9)				
	Library every day after school 2.35pm – 4pm				

Period 6 / revision – Year 11 only:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
Afterschool 2.50pm-3.50pm	English Exam style questions 240/250		History Medicine Revision 146/147/125	Food Prep and Nutrition NEA 131			Food Prep and Nutrition Exam Content 203	
			BTEC PE Coursework support 111	Drama Unit 1 and Unit 2 129				
	Art Coursework 219/220		Tourism Coursework catch-up 130	Art Coursework 219/220			Engineering Coursework support 205	
	Geography Exam revision 158		Music 122	Maths Higher 142	Maths Support 143	Maths Foundation 139		
			Science Higher 225	Science Foundation 224	Graphics and I-Media Coursework Support 205			
			Food P + N NEA Support 132	English Key Quotes and text 250				
	Health & Social CAU support 111		Post 16 application support 132	RM Coursework support 204	French Exam Support 303			Y11 Support 131 Mr Gillett will be in 131 from 3pm-4pm to offer help and advice for Y11 students. 131 can also be used to complete work.
	Post 16 application support 132	Post 16 application support 132						
Library Independent work								

Reminder - upcoming Parents' Evenings:

It continues to be a busy half term. We are holding several parent/carer evenings:

- **Year 11 only:** Wednesday 25th January: Year 11 Apprenticeship Evening; Wednesday 8th February, parents drop-in session to discuss any concerns with the school Leadership Team
- **Year 10 only:** Thursday 26th January, parents drop-in session to discuss any concerns with the school Leadership Team
- **Year 9 only:** Thursday 26th January, there is a Year 9 Progress Parents' Evening. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss your child's learning and progress in preparation for KS4 option choices; Wednesday 8th February, optional session to discuss KS4 options choices with a member of the school Leadership Team

Reminder - other key dates:

- Friday 27th January – **school closed** – for INSET day
- Monday 30th January: **Y11 BTEC Health & Social Care exam**
- Monday 30th January, Year 9 Options process goes live. Students in Year 9 will be able to provisionally choose their KS4 subjects.
- Monday 30th January to Friday 3rd February: **Y11 BTEC Engineering exam**
- Friday 3rd February – Year 9 Options deadline
- Week beginning 6th February: Reward assemblies in-school

And finally:

As always, we want to thank you as parents/carers. Your continued support makes our job easier.

Have a great week,

L. Gillham

Leonie Gillham
Assistant Head Teacher