

BePART/GCSE Presentation Day/Remembrance

BPS



MERRY

CHRISTMAS &

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM EVERYONE AT

THE BIRKENHEAD PARK SCHOOL



Headteacher's Message



As we approach the end of an extremely busy term, it is fitting that we reflect on our progress and achievements so far this year and appreciate how much there has been to recognise and celebrate.

We are very ambitious for our school and our students and were delighted that the combined achievements of the class of 2016 resulted in the school recording its best ever GCSE outcomes. We are very proud of our students' achievements and it was wonderful to celebrate with them back in August. We all know that achieving success in any sphere of life is the result of a great deal of hard work and determination and these qualities were evident in abundance last year. Mark Palios, Executive Chairman of Tranmere Rovers FC,

emphasised just that when he was the guest speaker at our recent GCSE awards' evening. He quite rightly said that success is "90% perspiration and 10% inspiration" a message that resonates fully with our own thinking here at The Birkenhead Park School.

Our current students are applying themselves fully to school life and there have already been many opportunities to recognise their success. My weekly meeting with our Stars of the Week is a highlight that I always look forward to. These students are a credit to themselves and are wonderful ambassadors for our school. Our new Year 11 prefects and student leadership team are carrying out their duties with great professionalism and pride. They represented the school wonderfully on the occasion of our annual Remembrance Assembly and took great pleasure in chatting to some of the 'old boys and girls' of the two predecessor schools. The event was incredibly moving, as always, and a poignant way for us to show our respect.

As a school we are always striving to move forward and improve. We consult our staff and our students regularly to seek their views and I am always keen to hear about any suggestions that they have. No school can ever say that it has nothing left to work on and good schools are those that are outward facing and consultative. When I attend external events or conferences, it is not only refreshing to bring back new ideas but also pleasing to recognise that much of the good practice being shared is already in place in our school.

We are confident that 2017 will be another good year for The Birkenhead Park School and we will be doing everything that we can to bring about continued success.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Helen Johnson, Headteacher

Senior Prefects chosen to represent school

Eight of our Year 11 students have been chosen to fulfil prestigious roles that make them the senior ambassadors of The Birkenhead Park School.

The students will represent the school in a number of ways during events and assemblies and will continue to work hard as outstanding ambassadors.

Headteacher, Helen Johnson said: "It is always a delightful moment to meet our new Senior Prefect team and present them with their prefect badges."



Students benefit from **BePART Programme** launched at The Birkenhead Park School

Students at The Birkenhead Park School are going to benefit from a unique life-skills programme focussing on their wellbeing in school.

The ground-breaking BePART (Be Positive, Ambitious, Resilient, Thoughtful) programme has been designed by Birkenhead Sixth Form College and is being delivered to Year 7 & Year 8 students at The Birkenhead Park School, before being rolled out across the remaining year groups.

The six-week scheme includes sessions on challenging negative thoughts, the importance of sleep and diet and using gratitude to build resilience.

Headteacher Helen Johnson said: "I am extremely proud that through our sponsor, Wirral Academy Trust, and our strong links with Birkenhead Sixth Form College, we are going to be able to offer our students this unique

programme. I am confident that the programme will lead to improving the lives of our students both in their academic work and outside of school."

Liverpool John Moores University is also involved in the scheme, assisting in research and evaluation of the impact of 'BePART'.

Professor and psychologist, Dave Putwain, from the John Moores Faculty of Education said: "I am delighted to be involved with the BePART programme. Birkenhead Sixth Form College has devised an innovative and forward thinking approach, designed to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of students. My role will be to help the College use data to analyse the impact of the programme and how it can be improved in the future."



THE BIRKENHEAD PARK SCHOOL
We give more than an academic education

Be **P** **A** **R** **T** of it.

Preparing you for exams and beyond:
A unique programme preparing you for you daily life both inside and outside of school.

Promoting:

Positivity

Ambition

Resilience

Thoughtfulness



Macmillan coffee morning

Three students from The Birkenhead Park School helped raise over £700 for charity as they helped organise a Macmillan coffee morning at Birkenhead Karate Club.

With a fantastic turnout of over 120 people the cake and coffee morning included raffles, games and prizes donated by local businesses and the community. Charlie from Year 9 said: "We had a great day and raised so much money, the cakes were amazing!"



GCSE Presentation Evening - a night of celebration

It was a fond farewell at the GCSE Presentation Evening as last summer's record-breaking students returned to the Birkenhead Park School for a night of celebration.

Having gone on to pastures new after their time at the School, a huge number of familiar faces returned to the Assembly Hall for awards, speeches and a look back at some special memories.

The Tranmere Rovers Executive Chairman, took the time to visit and was our special guest for the night, addressing the audience in a poignant speech about cherishing the past but concentrating on the future. With so many now former students having gone on to further study, apprenticeships and employment, Mr Palios's talk was an inspirational reminder that our Class of 2016 have just started out on their own exciting journeys through life, and that mirroring the hard work that they put into their studies at GCSE was a model on which to base their ethics for the rest of their careers.

Mr Palios did also remind the year group that secured the school's best ever GCSE results in the summer to have fun too, and appreciate every moment: it's important to work hard but also enjoy everything that life throws at them.

Subject awards were presented to students who performed exceptionally while at the school, whether that was through academic ability or their determination and desire to achieve, with teachers from each faculty giving a short but touching reflection on why each student was receiving their accolade.

The subject awards were followed by five special awards, celebrating students who had gone above and beyond the call of duty during their time at school.

The grand finale was an amusing but emotional look back at pictures and memories from the students' younger years - some fairly embarrassing but all good humoured.

We wish each and every one of our Class of 2016 every success in their future endeavours, and we are proud of everything that they have achieved, which we are sure is just the start of their very happy and successful futures.



Students take part in national 'Restart a Heart Day'

North West Ambulance Service, St John Ambulance and British Red Cross visited The Birkenhead Park School on Tuesday 18th October to teach 80 students vital life-saving skills as part of the country's biggest every CPR training event, 'Restart a Heart Day'.

Three one-hour sessions were delivered throughout the day to students from Year 7, 8 and 9 who were taught how to deal with an unconscious patient and practised on Resusci Anne.

Headteacher Helen Johnson said: "We were really keen to be involved in such a fantastic and important campaign aimed at increasing the survival rates from out of hospital cardiac arrests. I have seen first-hand how teaching our students first aid skills can save lives after one of our students assisted a member of the public who had collapsed in the street just days after receiving training from St John Ambulance earlier this year. It was great to see so many of our students eager to get involved in this event and although we hope they will never have to put these skills into action, it is reassuring that they will know what to do if the worst happens."

If you suffer a cardiac arrest out of hospital in the UK, you have less than a one in ten chance of surviving. The 'Restart a Heart Day' campaign aims to change that by training as many people as possible to be potential life savers.



Remembering former students who gave their lives in war

Governors, students and staff at the School gathered to reflect upon the horrors of conflict and think about the global suffering caused by war as the country paid its respects on Remembrance Day.



After the assembly, invited guests joined Headteacher Helen Johnson and Senior Prefects in a private ceremony at the honours board in the school reception area. The boards acknowledge and remember former Park High School and Rock Ferry High School students who gave their lives in World War II.

Mrs Johnson said: "This event is always very special and it is so important to us all that we remember those former students who gave their lives in war. I know the event means a lot, particularly to our 'old boys and girls', and is a perfect time for them to get together and talk about their friends and memories of their time at the predecessor schools."

Chair of Rock Ferry Old Boys Association, George Benson, said: "This service means so much to us all as it remembers the actual students from here that gave their lives in war. It is absolutely fantastic the way the service is run as it is not the teachers that deliver it, it is the students, and there is no better way to learn than getting directly involved. I think the way the school goes about it is really something special and is certainly appreciated by everyone that attends."



Year 7 students have a fantastic experience at Colomendy

After three fun-filled days, our Year 7 students returned to School full of stories to tell after an amazing residential at Colomendy in North Wales.

Ninety students went on the trip and took part in a range of activities, aimed at building resilience, develop organisational skills and team-building.

Head of Year 7, Mrs Kirwan, said: "It was worth all the planning and preparation to see all our Year 7s grow in confidence by attempting and conquering new challenges. They achieved so much and should be so proud of themselves."



Activities included a 3G swing, caving, archery, a nature trail and raft building. The students were extremely happy to have accomplished things that they never thought they would.

Lily said: "It was absolutely amazing. The 3G swing was scary and so was the caving but I was so proud of myself for doing them."

Ola added: "It was amazing! I was crying on the top of the Leap of Faith but with everyone shouting up at me "you can do it" I jumped off and reached the swing. I was so proud. I would love to go again in Year 8."

Stan said: "I loved building the raft. It took my breath away when I jumped off the raft into the freezing cold water."

Ellie concluded: "I am really scared of heights but I did the 3G swing. It was all amazing and I would love to go again."

The trip took place from Wednesday 12th October to Friday 14th October and is an annual event for our Year 7 students. It is another way for teachers and staff to ease the transition process from primary school to secondary and is an invaluable way for our new students to get to know their peers and teachers even better.

Summer School a great success

Year 7 students took part in adventurous activities such as circus skills, zumba and climbing.

The week long programme also featured birds of prey and reptile lessons, along with some class taster sessions in numeracy, literacy, PE, art, food technology and dance.

A trip to Gulliver's World rounded off the fantastic week and certainly had them all eager to start at their new school in September.

Deputy Headteacher, Peter Mee, said: "Our Summer School provides an excellent opportunity for our new students to get to know members of staff and familiarise themselves with the School."





Primary pupils solve murder mystery at Wirral School

Over 150 pupils became forensic scientists for the morning to solve a murder mystery at The Birkenhead Park School.

The CSI event involved the Year 6 children collating scientific evidence such as fingerprints, footprints, blood and fibres, and testing them to find out which suspect committed the crime.

One child from Bidston Avenue Primary School said: "The staff made us very welcome and it was great to use the science equipment that we don't have access to."

Six schools enjoyed the event, with pupils from Christ Church Primary, Cathcart Primary, Portland Primary, The Priory Primary and Bidston Avenue Primary all taking part, along with Hillside Primary.

Head of Year 7, Mrs Kirwan, said: "The events have been a great success and are just another fun way for us to engage with younger pupils and ease the transition from primary school to secondary school."

At the end of the tasks, all the children came together to solve the crime in a short assembly and met Headteacher, Helen Johnson. Mrs Johnson said: "It is always wonderful to welcome so many primary school children into our school and it gives them a really good opportunity to meet staff and students and get used to the change in environment."

Visitors from local primary schools

Visitors from Portland Primary School and Woodchurch Road Primary School had a taste in culture and history as they came to visit The Birkenhead Park School.

Spanish teacher, Ms Pineau, helped pupils from Portland Primary School in a food-themed session, focusing on their Spanish speaking skills. The learning games encompassed a variety of words, including colours and verbs along with the numerous foods. All their hard work was then rewarded with a feast of traditional Spanish tapas for lunch, with chorizo, olives, tortilla and Spanish meatballs all on the menu.

Pupils from Woodchurch Road Primary School took a step back in time during cookery sessions at The Birkenhead Park School. To support all the hard work they have been doing in school as part of their World War I project, they were set the task of cooking trench stew and shortbread. The children all had lots of fun and produced some impressive meals to take back with them. One of the Year 6 children said: "My shortbread smells delicious and I can't wait to eat it."



Term Dates 2016/17

Term Closes: Thursday 22nd December (12.30pm)

Closed: Friday 23rd December (Staff training)

Christmas Holidays:

Monday 26th December - Friday 6th January

Spring Term 2017

Term Opens: Monday 9th January

Term Closes: Friday 17th February

Half Term:

Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February

Term Opens: Monday 27th February

Term Closes: Friday 31st March

Spring Break:

Monday 3rd April - Monday 17th April

Summer Term 2017

Term Opens: Tuesday 18th April

Term Closes: Friday 26th May

Closed:

Monday 1st May (Bank Holiday)

Half Term:

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Term Opens: Monday 5th June

Term Closes: Friday 21st July

Closed: Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th July
(Staff training)

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extreme weather conditions.

Parents please be mindful of our neighbours when parking
at school. **Please do not block access to driveways**.



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