THE BIRKENHEAD PARK SCHOOL

July 2017

NEWSLETTER

Pupils 'Discover Birkenhead'

Children from Primary Schools across the Wirral were taken back in time at The Birkenhead Park School.
The school once again organised and hosted 'Discover Birkenhead'

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The latest news and activities from The Birkenhead Park School.

Also featuring...

Former Head Girl finds herself in the running for another Head Student role.

Students go deep underwater in a new virtual reality

Plus - Well done to our 'Stars of the Term'

Headteacher's welcome

As we approach the end of the school year, we inevitably look back on our time since September and take in all that has been achieved. Once again, this year has been incredibly busy and successful here at The Birkenhead Park School.

Staff and students have been working hard all year as we move "full steam ahead" with our plans to take the school forward on the next stage of our journey. Our belief is that secondary education is truly a five-year journey and we are determined that students enjoy high-quality learning across every subject, every day. The work that we have done this year to develop our curriculum has been forward-thinking and will ensure that our students develop the required skills, knowledge and understanding year on year to equip them for the demands of the new qualifications in Year 11. There is no doubt that the new GCSE exams are more difficult than previously and there is much more content to master. I am delighted that students here are supported through these challenges by a team of dedicated and highly skilled staff, who have designed learning programmes to ensure that every single student achieves the maximum progress possible.

You will see from the pages of our newsletter that we are determined that life here is also about accessing a wealth of opportunities and developing wider skills as much as it is about achieving the very highest academic standards. Whether students' interests lie in sport, the arts or local history, you will see just a few examples of the wonderful range of activities and events that have taken place this year.

Finally, I am delighted to share that we will be welcoming record numbers into our new Year 7 and will be working hard once again to ensure that their transition to secondary school is as successful as in previous years through our Year 7 base and team of dedicated staff. We are excited about further expanding our innovative BePART programme, designed to develop students' ability to develop a positive outlook on life, to remain resilient when things get tough and to be thoughtful and reflective in the way they interact with others.

With my thanks for your ongoing support and my very best wishes to you for a wonderful and relaxing summer holiday.

Helen Johnson,
Headteacher

Sept 5

We look forward to seeing our students again for the start of the Autumn Term 2017 on Tuesday 5th September 2017

Sept 20

Our next Open Event for students wanting to join The Birkenhead Park School is taking place on Wednesday 20th September 2017

Our Stars of the Term

At The Birkenhead Park School, we recognise our students' efforts on a weekly basis. We would like to congratulate all of our students who received the Headteacher's 'Star of the Week' Award this term for their hard work and achievements.

STARS of the term

STARS of the term

"I am sure that you know how very proud I am of our students; I enjoy celebrating their achievements every week when I meet our "Stars of the Week".

Helen Johnson, Headteacher

Our Top Story

The Birkenhead Park School has once again organised and hosted 'Discover Birkenhead' where Year 5 pupils became investigators and learnt about the history of the school as well as Birkenhead and its community.

Actors assisted staff dressed in authentic costumes to give the children realistic snippets of history from historical figures such as John Laird and Andrew Irvine, to a ghost from the war.

The children were given four investigations focusing on finding out about Birkenhead Park, the impact of World Wars I and II, famous people of the local area and the history of The Birkenhead Park School itself. In groups they created timelines to preserve the history for future generations.

Year 5 pupil Andrew from Devonshire Park Primary said: "I learnt loads about the area I have grown up in which I never knew. It makes you realise how inspiring the history of Birkenhead is."

The event is organised by the Year 7 team as part of the school's Primary Liaison work. Head of Year 7 Mrs Kirwan said: "We put a lot of time into ensuring this event is both fun and educational for the children.

> **"The actors were really funny and I have learnt alot. I really enjoyed seeing everyone dressed up."**
>
> Macy, Woodlands Primary School

Twelve schools took part in 'Discover Birkenhead' at The Birkenhead Park School over a four day period.

Mrs Cannell, who is a former student of the school and now teaches at Devonshire Park School said: "It was lovely to be back in the school. Happy memories came flooding back and it has been fantastic seeing the children smiling and enjoying themselves so much."

The 'Discover Birkenhead' event was hosted in the Year 7 base which is a 'school within a school' that gives the younger students the best possible start to their secondary education by easing the transition from primary to secondary school.

Student leaders run their first 'Change 4 Life' festival

Three Wirral primary schools took part in a School Games 'Change 4 Life' festival at The Birkenhead Park School last month. Pupils from St Albans Primary School, Sandbrook Primary School and Greenleas Primary School got involved with a range of different activities, from frisbee throwing to target practice.

The games were designed to give pupils an understanding of the benefits that participation and engagement with sporting activity has and how they work in bringing people together.

Student leaders from The Birkenhead Park School supported the pupils with their learning and helped them with each activity.

Harry said:

"I really loved to see the pupils interacting with each activity and having fun at the ssame time"

Students from The Birkenhead Park School took part in a UKMT Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers designed to stimulate students' current interest in Maths

The school entered students from both Year 7 and Year 8 who showed an interest and engagement within the subject to further excel themselves. The Maths Challenge papers were taken in school and returned to the UKMT for marking. After the results of these multiple choice questions, the most successful students will be invited to enter follow up rounds, which will require full written answers.

As part of the Challenge, students needed to be able to recognise cross-curricular links with Mathematics skills.

"I really enjoyed taking part in the Challenge. Maths is my favourite subject at school as I really enjoy problem solving."

Aaron, Year 7

Miss Clarke, Subject Lead for Mathematics, said: " The UKMT Maths Challenge is a great way for students to push themselves further. It helps them to really engage with the subject and recognise their own potential."

Touring the world with Google!

Students go deep underwater and out of this world in a new virtual reality lesson.

Geography students have been lucky enough to try their hand at 3D goggles with Google Expeditions.

Linking in with their curriculum and understanding of natural hazards and coastal erosion, the Google 3D goggles allowed the students to visit locations around the world including; outer space, Victoria Falls, the Amazonian rainforest and they even went underwater with a great white shark.

The sessions were delivered to enable students and staff to use new technology to visit the world in 3D.

With Google Expeditions, students led by their teacher as a guide can take field trips from the safety of their classroom, through collections of 360 degree and 3D images. The virtual reality exploration is run through an app which can be downloaded to bring lessons to life.

Year 8 student, Liam said "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to visit places around the world I would never get a chance to see."

Teacher of Humanities, Miss Ryan said "It was amazing to watch the locations and topics from our lessons come to life, the students avsolutely loved it. It was a perfect revision tool for the Year 11 students who were able to visit locations suffering from natural

Google Expeditions

Quadkids and Tri Golf

Year 7 Students from The Birkenhead Park School took part in Quadkids and a Tri Golf tournament at Wavertree Sports Centre.

Both teams won 2nd place Silver beating stiff competition from schools across the whole of Merseyside.

Subject Lead for PE at The Birkenhead Park School, Miss Ponton said "The Birkenhead Park School students had a great time representing Wirral at Level 3 Quadkids and Trigolf.

Awards and Achievements

A former Head Girl at The Birkenhead Park School has continued to impress as a model student in her A Level studies, as she finds herself in the running for another Head Student role, this time at Birkenhead Sixth Form College

Crina, who was part of the school's Class of 2016, was recently awarded the honour of becoming a Student Ambassador for the College. Her ambassadorial work involves supporting others, as well as attending events to give guidance and advice to prospective and existing students. Now in the shortlisting for one of two Head Student positions, Crina is looking to add another impressive achievement to her already burgeoning CV.

Crina said: "The Birkenhead Park School taught me a real passion for the subjects I enjoyed, and Miss Galer always supported me, especially during my exams. She would give me help and advice and always taught me to keep pushing myself."

A Wicked Young Writer

A Year 8 student from The Birkenhead Park School has been shortlisted for the 11 – 14 category in the 'Wicked Young Writers National Competition'

Abigail created a lovely story called 'An Invisible Friendship' which is based around abstract concepts of ideas and imagination being a child's best friend until the inevitable 'growing up' takes over. This intrinsic, creative piece of work has now propelled her forward into the top 20 in her category, beating over 4,000 other entrants.

Head of English, Ms Franklin said "Abigail is exceptionally gifted at writing; her ideas are interesting and often show a completely different angle on a given task. Her written work is a pleasure to mark! We are extremely proud of her achievement in such a wide ranging and prestigious competition".

Abigail said "I have always enjoyed writing, from a very early age. The idea for the story just came to me! I feel very proud that I have been selected from such a wide range of young people.

The competition, in partnership with The Literacy Trust, aims to award excellence in writing in categories spanning 5-25. The Head Judge is Cressida Cowell, best know for How to Train Your Dragon and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall is a patron for this competition.

Term dates 2017/18

Autumn Term 2017

Open: Tuesday 5th September 2017
Close: Friday 20th October 2017

Half Term: Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October 2017

Open: Tuesday 31st October 2017
Close: Friday 22nd December 2017

Christmas Holidays: Monday 25th December – Friday 5th January 2018

Spring Term 2018

Open: Monday 8th January
Close: Friday 16th February

Half Term: Monday 19th Feb - Friday 23rd Feb 2018

Open: Monday 26th February 2018
Close: Thursday 29th March 2018

Spring Break: Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April 2018

(including Easter Bank Holidays)

Summer Term 2018

Open: Monday 16th April 2018
Close: Friday 25th May 2018

May Day: Monday 7th May 2018

Half Term: Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018

Open: Monday 4th June 2018
Close: Friday 20th July 2018

Our Recent Inspection

We would like to share with you some key messages following our recent OFSTED inspection.

The team of inspectors recognised the many strengths of our school:

- The school provides good pastoral care for all pupils.
- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good.
- Leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum which suits pupils' needs and interests.
- Pupils' conduct around school is calm and orderly.
- Pupils wear their smart uniform with pride and are proud of their school.
- The introduction of a Year 7 base has been very successful in giving pupils a sense of security and building their confidence as they move into secondary school.
- Pupils praise the quality of the feedback they receive from teachers about their written work and say that it helps them to know what to do better.
- The school is effectively preparing pupils for the next stage of their education or training by developing character and resilience.

We agreed with the inspectors on the areas that will take the school forward and, indeed, this work is already underway. We are moving ahead with determination to ensure that our school provides the very best education possible for all students.

Wirral Academy Trust

Working in partnership with the Wirral Academy Trust

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