

STRENGTHENING
PRIMARY LINKS

ACHIEVEMENT
FOR ALL AWARD

INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION STATUS

BPS



Headteacher's Message



As we approach the end of this school year it is timely that we reflect upon our journey and our achievements.

This year has been a momentous one that has seen us become "The Birkenhead Park School" through our exciting new partnership with The Birkenhead Sixth Form College. This partnership brings with it exciting and new opportunities for our students as we better prepare them for further and higher education, and professional employment.

I am also delighted to report that the number of children and families applying to join our school has markedly increased with our allocation for September being 30% higher than in 2014. I believe this represents a turning point in the fortunes of our school and shows that our successes are being noticed and we are winning the trust and confidence of our community.

In late June this year we received a full inspection by Ofsted and I am delighted to report that they too recognised our significant achievements, and here are some memorable quotes from the report:

- **"Students behave well and their attitudes to learning are good"**
- **"Students learn in a calm and harmonious environment"**
- **"Learning is rarely disrupted by poor behaviour"**
- **"Students are polite and courteous to their staff and to each other"**
- **"The head-teacher's aspirational vision, determination, passion and commitment, along with the effective support from governance, senior and middle leaders, has ensured the school has improved considerably and rapidly since the last inspection"**
- **"Teachers establish strong working relationships with their students"**

As well as recognising our strengths Ofsted rightly identified areas that require improvement and the inspection report provides us with a clear direction for what we must do next to make The Birkenhead Park School not only 'Good' but an 'Outstanding' school for our community. We will endeavour to reach this goal as quickly as possible.

Over the past 3 years we have transformed the educational fortunes of our students and have secured year on year improvements in our results. This summer we expect to further build upon this success and anticipate our best ever set of results. I would like to offer my personal thanks to the staff for the tireless energy and dedication they have shown throughout the year and also our students and parents for their continued support.

I would like to wish you a safe, warm and relaxing summer holiday.

Geraint Parry, Headteacher

Is there room for God in the Universe?



On Monday 29th June, the whole of Year 7 were involved in a debating event about the creation of the world and the universe. Students were presented with both the religious and scientific points of view and debated their own opinions and presented their findings to the audience.

Thank you to Mrs Protheroe for organising the event as part of the school's social, moral, spiritual and cultural programme.

Wirral First: Top Quality Award for The Birkenhead Park School by leading education charity Achievement for All



The Birkenhead Park School has been recognised for the work it has been doing to improve the wellbeing, resilience and self-esteem of students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and is the first Wirral school to receive the award.

The school has been working with the Achievement for All programme for a number of years and has been recognised with the awarding of their Quality Mark. The programme works closely with parents, teachers and the individual child to secure the best outcome and attainment for their students through personalised and specific targets.

Geraint Parry, Headteacher, says: **"It is always a proud moment when we receive official recognition of the work we do every day to ensure our students receive the very best opportunities to succeed. We work hard to make sure The Birkenhead Park School delivers the quality standards all our students are entitled to. We are proud, and unashamed that we are a traditional and historic school delivering first class education and pastoral care along with amazing enrichment opportunities."**

Garath Jackson, Regional Lead from Achievement for All, says: **"Achievement for All believes that every child can progress, and through our programme with hope to enable every child to be the best that they can be regardless of background, challenge, or need. We are delighted to be working with The Birkenhead Park School and to share in their success with this much deserved award."**

Y11 Celebrates

The annual Year 11 Prom took place at Leasowe Castle on Friday 19th June, staff and students celebrated in style.

The school would like to thank staff and students for their hard work over the past 5 years and we wish all our Year 11's every success in their future.



Students visit China



Students at The Birkenhead Park School are to take part in two educational trips to their partner school, The Experimental Middle School in the Chinese City of Taicang with a reciprocal visit from Asia to come before the summer holidays.

Demand for the cultural and education exchange was such that The Birkenhead Park School will make two trips in the next twelve months, with some 42 students crossing the globe.

The Birkenhead Park School is the first Wirral school to have an official partnership with a school in China, and it is in the town twinned with Wirral. The two schools came together in 2014.

Geraint Parry, the Headteacher at The Birkenhead Park School commented: **“Our students are very proud of the international links we celebrate as a school. They have played host to students from two Chinese schools as well as visiting pupils from Denmark and Germany in recent months. This is the first time we have been able to offer, and subsidise a trip to Taicang.”**

The Birkenhead Park School have offered Mandarin lessons for over a year, and students have welcomed the exchange of ideas. A student said; **“When the Chinese students visited last year we had time to mix with them and get to know them. We have exchanged letters and become friends and I am looking forward to meeting face to face again. Life is very different in China, but we can learn from each other, and 15 year olds aren't that different the world over!”**

The Birkenhead Park School has established itself as a leading force in international education, hosting visits from staff from around the world who want to learn more about the way education is delivered in the U.K. and in particular in Birkenhead.

Wirral Coastal Walk - Sunday 28th June 2015

In a school initiative, Supporting the Community, staff from The Birkenhead Park School took part in the Wirral Coastal Walk, raising over £200 for the Claire House Children's Hospice.

The school would like to thank the staff for giving up their time to support Claire House and for those who sponsored the event.



Wirral school honoured by British Council



The Birkenhead Park School has been awarded a prestigious honour by the British Council in recognition of the school's growing international reputation. To mark the high level of international engagement they have been granted International Foundation Status.

Under the leadership of Headteacher Geraint Parry, The Birkenhead Park School has been increasingly viewed as a benchmark school for overseas educators to learn from and share best practice with.

After signing the first formal agreement between a Wirral school and a Chinese school in the twinned city of Taicang, The Birkenhead Park School expanded its international outreach to Denmark, Germany and Holland, with staff and students visiting Birkenhead on numerous occasions over the last year.

Geraint Parry, Headteacher, commented: **"Our students are very proud of the international links we celebrate as a school. They have played host to students from two Chinese schools as well as visiting pupils from Denmark, Holland and Germany in recent months. I firmly believe, and the students have proven, that once you open someone's horizons it is impossible to narrow them again."**

Chinese students have visited Wirral twice and two return trips involving over 40 Birkenhead Park School students will take place next year, and fifteen students were invited by the University of Liverpool's Confucius Institute to take part in their Dragon Boat Race.

Commenting on the award the British Council said; **"This is an excellent start to your international journey and clearly demonstrates your interest in and your commitment to international education. The way you have made the links between the activities of your international learning programme and the relevant global themes is also very impressive."**



National School Sport Week

The Birkenhead Park School recently took part in the National School Sport Week.

Students enjoyed a range of activities at lunchtime and after school including table tennis, tug of war, Zumba, rounders and staff v students rounders match.

Miss Ponton, PE Teacher said **"National School Sport Week is about engaging young people in activities they may not have experienced before. It was great to see so many staff and students engaged in a wide variety of activities. Thank you to all staff and students who supported the week"**.

Congratulations to Soui, winner of the National School Sport Week table tennis tournament.



Extending Enrichment

Young skaters and BMX bikers have been given a chance to hone and show their skills thanks to The Birkenhead Park School.

Enthusiastic students have been learning their 'ollies' from their 'fakies' and practicing their 'casper flips' and 'crooked grinds' using skateboards and bikes.

Safely donned in helmets and t-shirts the students of The Birkenhead Park School can also visit Rampworx as part of the schools revolutionary rewards programme.

Geraint Parry the Headteacher said; **"Our enrichment programme is as varied as you could imagine, with everything from theatre groups to language societies, but we also offer sporting activities, and to complement our Gym Club and highly successful football teams, some students wanted to have a go at wheeled activities too.**

We are lucky to have Rampworx nearby, and they have been fantastic offering our students something that they would normally have to travel to out of school hours. Seeing them honing their skills has been frightening as it has been rewarding, but it is done with a safety first approach."



North West Runners Up



Congratulations to the boys' Year 10 Volleyball Team who finished runners up in the North West Premier League 4 Sport Volleyball Competition at Leigh Athletics Stadium.

A student said: **"It was a tough competition with some really good teams but our hard work and training paid off and I felt we were unlucky not to have won".**



Wirral School Boys Football Runners Up

Congratulations to the boys' Year 10 and 8 football teams who both finished runners up in the Wirral.

The School Boys Football Finals were held at Tranmere Rovers Football Club. Both teams did exceptionally well to reach the finals and we wish them every success for next season.



Grapple National European Championships



Sophie celebrates receiving her bronze medal at the recent Grapple National European Championships held in Bolton.

"I was really nervous and excited to compete against women and represent my club 'Next Generation'.

Strengthening Links

The Birkenhead Park School is celebrating a successful year with primary schools across the Wirral. Over 1,000 pupils have visited the school to take part in a variety of activities including sport, performing arts and technology.

We would like to thank all of our primary schools for their support and to The Birkenhead Park School staff for making these visits enjoyable.

A teacher commented: ***"The pupils had a wonderful time at The Birkenhead Park School enjoying the drama and trampoline sessions. We love the idea of the Year 7 Base and the transition process that is in place."***



Term Dates 2015/16

Autumn Term 2015

INSET DAY - Tue 1st Sep

OPEN - Wed 2nd Sep

CLOSE - Fri 23rd Oct

HALF TERM - Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct

INSET DAY - Mon 2nd Nov

OPEN - Tue 3rd Nov

INSET DAY - Fri 27th Nov

CLOSE - Fri 18th Dec

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Mon 21st Dec - Fri 1st Jan

Spring Term 2016

INSET DAY - Mon 4th Jan

OPEN - Tue 5th Jan

CLOSE - Fri 12th Feb

HALF TERM - Mon 15th - Fri 19th Feb

OPEN - Mon 22nd Feb

CLOSE - Fri 1st Apr

EASTER BANK HOLIDAYS - Fri 25th & Mon 28th Mar

SPRING BREAK - Mon 4th - Fri 15th Apr

Summer Term 2016

INSET DAY - Mon 18th Apr

OPEN - Tue 19th Apr

CLOSE - Fri 27th May

MAY DAY - Mon 2nd May

HALF TERM - Mon 30th May - Fri 3rd Jun

OPEN - Mon 6th Jun

CLOSE - Thu 21st Jul

Autumn Term 2016

OPEN - Mon 5th Sep

Student of the Term



Scott - Year 7

Great commitment to his learning. A student who wishes to do well in all aspects of his school life. A pleasure to have in the year group.



Jessica - Year 8

An outstanding ambassador of the school.



Rhys - Year 9

Constant high standards in academic progress and all other areas.



Jack - Year 10

An excellent role model to other students, representing the school in football and volleyball.



Natalie - Year 11

For attendance and effort in everything she does.



THE BIRKENHEAD PARK SCHOOL

The Birkenhead Park School • Park Road South • Birkenhead • Wirral • CH43 4UY

Tel: 0151 652 1574 | Email: offices@birkenheadparkschool.com

www.birkenheadparkschool.com