

November 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you managed to have a good break over the half term holiday, school is now back in full swing and busy as ever. I thought I would update you on recent and upcoming events.

Year 11 usage of GCSE Pod has seen the school being regularly placed in the top ten of schools in the North West download charts and we are encouraging Year 11 to use the app alongside their other revision strategies as they prepare for their mock examinations in December.

On our return we have been celebrating success. Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award night was a fantastic evening with over 230 Students being able to collect their bronze and silver award certificate. Tonight our GCSE Presentation evening is taking place in Barrow Hall Theatre and we look forward to welcoming back the class of 2019 to celebrate their collective and individual successes. On a sporting front it is fantastic news that some of our students have qualified for the National Swimming championships and will be heading down to the Olympic Aquatic Centre at the end of the month.

A continuing cause for concern is students who cycle to and from school and ensuring they remain safe. Governors have previously raised concern about the lack of cycle helmets being worn. On the last day of half term after school I was called to an incident where a child had bumped into a car. I would ask parents to remind their children about the importance of using lights and wearing a bike helmet. In the short term, as a school we are planning to raise the profile and importance of cycling awareness and being safe for students. In the longer term we are planning to move the locations of the bike shelters which will help us improve how students leave school at the end of the day.

In other news we held our sixth form open evening which was a thriving hubbub of activity as Year 11 had the opportunity to explore the vast array of subjects and opportunities available to them in Barrow Hall College. I am also very proud of our students' commitment to supporting charitable causes across the school and we are looking forward to raising money for Children in Need this Friday 15th November with our non-uniform day and student led stalls at break and lunch. Students are asked to bring a suggested contribution of £1 in support of the charity and join in with the stalls and cake sales to raise extra funds.



I would also like to confirm the governors parent forum will take place on the 27 November at 5:30pm to look at a review of uniform. Governors have also picked up concerns around lockers and we are currently investigating solutions to resolve the issues raised.

Finally, could I once again thank students, staff and parents for their excellent and proactive response to our recent power failure. It clearly demonstrated the strength of the Great Sankey community.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Shannon', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Shannon

Headteacher