

2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you for the first time since the publication of our school's extremely positive Ofsted report. We are delighted to be part of a school where every child thrives academically, emotionally, and socially. While we acknowledge that we are at the beginning of our journey, we are confident that, with your support, our collective efforts are making a significant difference in the lives of the families of Birkenhead.

### **Learning Habit – Attendance and Punctuality**

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who have supported their children in returning to school with strong habits around attendance and punctuality. As you are aware, there is a strong connection between high attendance and positive life chances. Your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day is crucial for their future success.

### **Learning Habit – Homework**

Each half term, our students are provided with a 'Must Know' homework challenge, designed to reinforce essential knowledge. This homework serves as a valuable tool to stimulate revision and in-depth research.

It is crucial that students engage with this homework and return it after the break.

### **Countdown to Year 11 Mocks – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

For our Year 11 students, there are only 10 teaching days left before the start of their practice GCSE examinations. We are immensely proud of those students who have embraced the opportunities provided by the school. Over 75 students have been regularly attending after-school masterclasses and Saturday morning revision sessions. Their dedication reflects an understanding that the students who make the most progress are the ones working the hardest, both in school, at masterclasses, and at home.

We are here to support them every step of the way, and we believe that their hard work will undoubtedly pay off during the upcoming examinations.

### **Countdown to Mocks - Year 11 Revision**

In the coming weeks, your child will be provided with comprehensive revision materials. To maximise the benefits of these resources, we strongly encourage students to actively engage with the material through the creation of revision cards and mind maps.

Research consistently highlights the effectiveness of revision cards and mind maps. This process not only supports in memory retention but also enhances the students' ability to organise and understand complex concepts. We encourage you to engage your child in discussions about their subjects, prompting them to explain their understanding.

As parents, your involvement and encouragement play a crucial role in supporting your child's academic progress. If you have any questions regarding the revision materials or would like additional guidance on supporting your child's revision process, please contact Miss Dawes and Miss Clarke via email below.

[daw@birkenheadparkschool.com](mailto:daw@birkenheadparkschool.com)

[cla@birkenheadparkschool.com](mailto:cla@birkenheadparkschool.com)

### **Family Fun Night**

Our family fun night, which takes place on Tuesdays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., has had a strong start. We have seen an increasing number of families participating in a range of activities, including HITT classes, trampolining, football, and dodgeball. I encourage you to come along and join in the fun-packed event as it serves as a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Since we returned to school in January, we are thrilled to see a significant increase in the number of students engaging in our extracurricular activities, such as rugby, chess, textiles, and drama and dance clubs. Participation in these activities has not only enhanced the physical well-being of our students but has also brought about a number of benefits, both socially and academically. These extracurricular activities provide invaluable opportunities for our students to:

- Develop teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Improve physical fitness.
- Build lasting friendships, improve communication, and strengthen their ability to interact with peers.
- Boost academic performance: Numerous studies have shown that students who engage in extracurricular activities often perform better academically.

As we move forward, we remain committed to offering a diverse range of extracurricular opportunities to cater to the various interests of our students. I encourage all parents and carers to support their children in signing up for these activities, as they play a pivotal role in fostering a well-rounded and enriching educational experience.

### **Blackpool Pleasure Beach**

I am delighted to inform you that we have planned an exciting trip day to Blackpool Pleasure Beach on Tuesday, July 16th. The primary objective of this trip is to reward students who consistently meet our high expectations and learning habits. More detailed information about the trip will be communicated by your child's year leader. Please note that only students with attendance above 93% (no more than 5 days off) will be eligible to participate.

As one of our core values is to be 'Thoughtful', we will begin recording your child's attendance percentage on Monday, February 5th. This ensures a fair and transparent approach to determining eligibility for events and activities.

### **Download Class Charts and support**

To help you stay informed about your child's progress, we encourage you to download Class Charts, our online tool for tracking homework, behaviour, and achievement. This valuable resource will help you stay engaged in your child's education and provide the support they need. Please contact Mrs. Thomas for your log-in code.

[sth@birkenheadparkschool.com](mailto:sth@birkenheadparkschool.com)

### **Upcoming Events – Save the date**

- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February                      Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March                        Year 9 Options Evening
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March                        Year 11 Parents' Information Evening

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our students and the entire school community.

Best wishes,



Peter Mee  
Head of School