



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 25th April 2022

Message from Miss Morris

Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again, the term has flown by and we find ourselves at the Easter holidays already.

This term it has been wonderful to see pupils participating in a range of different activities, both in and out of classrooms. Just this week, two of our pupils took to the stage to compete in the Search for a Star final, Amelia in Year 7 and Eve in Year 9 gave stunning performances to a packed audience at Sunderland College. The Student Council has been very active, raising money for Cancer Research, as well as Red Nose Day and to support those affected by the current situation in Ukraine. Pupils have also been focusing on the theme of 'growth' in British Science Week, with lunchtime pop-up experiments. Also in March, lessons celebrated the achievements of women in all fields as part of Women's History Month.

Community Defibrillators

The Academy has also installed two new defibrillators for community use, one next to the 3G pitch, the other on Biddick Lane. The Red Sky Foundation, a charity which supports cardiac patients, will be leading assemblies' next term to raise awareness of heart conditions. The defibrillator on Biddick Lane is accessible 24 hours a day and accessible with a simple code obtained from the emergency services.

Year 11

Over Easter, there is a comprehensive programme of revision sessions running for Year 11 students. These subject sessions are designed to support your child in their final preparations for the forthcoming examinations. We strongly encourage attendance at these sessions.

A number of Year 11 and Year 10 students are heading off to the Lake District for a Writers' Retreat over the first weekend of the holidays. Not only will they have the benefit of the guidance of our English teachers and two professional writers, they will also be able to enjoy some outward-bound activities. A well-deserved treat at the end of a busy term!

Living with Covid

We have now moved into 'living with Covid', however if your child is unwell and have a high temperature, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school once they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. If your child has Covid but is symptom free, they should stay at home for 3 days, which is when they are most infectious.

Arrival Time

Over recent months we have noticed some pupils arriving at school as early as 7:30am. Not only does this make for a very long school day for younger pupils, the site is not supervised so early in the morning. We would appreciate parents/carers dropping their children off at school **no earlier than 8:00am** when the Bagel Bar opens and is available for pupils. This is a safe, staffed environment where your son/daughter can enjoy breakfast. Please note that the Student Entrances will not be open before 8:00am on a morning.

Thank you for your support in this matter, and your continuing support. I hope you and your family a restful holiday, school reopens on **Monday 25th April**.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Morris
Headteacher

Reading Challenge: History

- Students should try to read a wide variety of types of books. There are some great fiction as well as non-fiction historical books that you can read.
- Read a book that is outside of your comfort zone or on a topic you would not consider reading about. Remember history is about the stories of past people and events – the word History comes from “His Story”
- The History Department have chosen a selection of books from the curriculum reading lists for our reading challenge. Please click the following link to see the list;
<https://biddickacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Reading-challenge-History.pdf>
- Students will be given a reading postcard by their History teacher and should read as many of the books in the challenge as possible.
- When students have finished a book, they should get their reading postcard signed by parents/carers and hand it back to their History teacher.
- Once students complete a short review of one of the books they will receive reward points as well as other prizes.
- If you have any questions about the challenge, please contact Mr Hughff on -
hughff.d@biddickacademy.com

Year 11 Prom

As the Year 11 Prom is fast approaching, we are extremely excited for Year 11 students to have the opportunity to celebrate their five years at Biddick Academy with their Prom. Whilst this is an exciting evening for our students, we also want to ensure that it does not add additional pressures to parents/carers during a time when the cost of living is rising. With that in mind, we would like to encourage students to make this a 'sustainable prom' and where possible, to wear an outfit that they already own, that they can borrow or that they will be able to re-wear at another time - a suit, for example, that could also be worn for an interview, shoes that can be worn again. Not only is this a more financially viable option, it also helps to protect the environment as 'sustainable fashion' becomes ever more popular.

We want this to be a time to celebrate, we do not want students to feel any pressure to spend large amounts of money for a one-off occasion. As part of our drive to make this a more sustainable Prom, we have a number of anonymously donated prom dresses/suits that students are able to borrow for the occasion. Mrs Pickbourne is able to support with this so please do not hesitate to contact her on -
pickbourne.s@biddickacademy.com for more details.

We look forward to working with you to reduce any unnecessary anxiety and making this an evening to remember for all students.

Year 11 Countdown

- Please click the link below to access document which is a countdown to the final GCSE examinations that was given to all Year 11 students this week.
<https://biddickacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Year-11-Countdown.pdf>
- If you have any queries in the run up to the final exams or questions around how best to support your child, then please do not hesitate to contact Miss Moore on;
moore.g@biddickacademy.com.

Biddick Aspirations Fair 2022 – parents and carers invited

- On Friday 6th May 2022 we are holding our long awaited Biddick Academy Aspirations Fair.
- This will involve all students from Years 9, 10 and 11 attending a market place event with lots of exciting college and sixth form providers, post 18 providers, training providers and employers.
- We are opening up this event to our parents and carers and would like to invite you to attend, with or without your child, from 3.00pm - 3:30pm.
- If you require any further information, or even could support us with stall holders, please do get in contact: roberts.k@biddickacademy.com.

Charity Bake Sale

- Thank you to all Year 8 and 9 Junior Ambassadors who contributed to the "Biddick Bakes" fundraising event.
- Our Junior Ambassadors showed outstanding leadership skills whilst running the event and we are very proud of each student for all their hard work.
- We would also like to thank each student who purchased a cake on the day, raising money for both Cancer Research UK and the Disasters Emergency Committee, who are supporting with the current crisis in Ukraine.
- In total students raised **£286.64!**
- We will continue our fundraising efforts when we return to school after the Easter break.

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 28th April 2022

- Year 8 parents and carers will have received information today by Class Charts on how to book video appointments on SchoolCloud for Year 8 Parents' Evening on Thursday 28th April from 4pm to 6.15pm.

Active Families North East

- Active Families North East held some fitness sessions for some of our Year 8 and Year 9 students this week.
- Active Families aim to help tackle the current high levels of inactivity across the region. As well as staff training, they are visiting schools to deliver some classes to promote physical activity.
- At 9.00am the Year 8 students were put through their paces with a High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) class. The students were amazing and never gave up, despite the tough 'finisher' activity after 5 rounds of different exercises.
- There was great excitement throughout the Year 9 students as they were going to have the opportunity to try Glow Dance. This was a really enjoyable session, where the students had glow sticks and were trying to keep up with a range of dance moves, it's fair to say they were more co-ordinated than the teachers! They left exhausted but smiling, demonstrating that exercise can be fun and so beneficial for the body and mind.

PE Fixtures Results

- Year 8 and Year 9 girls football team played St Roberts on Tuesday night in very tough conditions, the team did well to come back at from losing 4-1 at half time to the final score of 5-3.
- On Thursday the Year 7 girls football team played St Roberts and Consett Academy. They drew with St Roberts and were defeated against Consett.
- Great resilience from the Year 8 boys football team! 2-0 down after 10 minutes against Oxclose and battling back to win 5-3! Excellent performance from all. Huge shout out to Lucas who left school for a dentist appointment and then came back to play in the second half!