



# BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Important information included in the Parent Bulletin

- We have shared some important letters/information in this Parent Bulletin on pages 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- Please take five minutes to read the letters which include the importance of attendance, further details regarding the Biddick Way from Mr Delf, a Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM) Summer School and some information from Together for Children regarding cost of living support.

## Sports Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

- We are really excited to be holding a Sports Day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July for our Year 7 and Year 8 students.
- Year 7 will take part in the morning and Year 8 in the afternoon.
- If your child is in year 7 or year 8, and has signed up for an activity, please arrange for them to arrive to school in their PE Kit. They will then be allowed to wear their PE Kit all day.
- If your child has not signed up for an activity, then they must attend in their normal school uniform.
- If you have any questions about the day, please contact Mrs Hodgson on [hodgson.h@biddickacademy.com](mailto:hodgson.h@biddickacademy.com)

## Year 11

- With exams ending, many pupils will be preparing to take their next step into further academic studies or the workplace – which we know can be confusing and feel a bit daunting.
- Throughout the summer, the National Careers Service is running a series of webinars for parents and carers of young people who are expecting their exam results this August.
- They will be able to learn more about how to support their children with advice about choices and careers, including useful information sources, advice for results day and a Q&A with a panel of experts.
- Please see the link below to book your place.  
[Exam Results 101 - What you need to know as parents and carers Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

## Transition – Year 7 students - September 2022

- As mentioned in our bulletin last week, we recently hosted the students and parents/carers of our new admission students.
- As part of the next stage of the transition programme we have written to the parents/carers of the new admission students to ask them to help us to get to know them a bit better. We have asked what interests their child, if they have any particular talents, gifts or areas of expertise, what motivates them, what do parents/carers love about them, and also what drive them mad!
- All responses can be sent to [gettingtoknowyou@biddickacademy.com](mailto:gettingtoknowyou@biddickacademy.com)
- A photograph is also good as we can put a face to the name and we look forward to reading them all!

## Writing Competitions

- How much does a story change if we change the point of view?
- We are offering our students a fantastic opportunity to explore character perspectives through creative writing by entering your child's mini-saga into the 'Young Writers Twisted Tales: A New Point Of View' competition.
- Will your child choose to give a supporting character a starring role, or will they flip the whole story on its head, turning a happy ever after into a tragedy, or a famous horror story into something more romantic?
- The five favourite published writers will each win a trophy and a [Complete Writer's Toolkit - Young Adult Edition](#) which allows aspiring authors to plan, write, and publish their own books! In addition to this, every entrant will receive a bookmark and for every student chosen for publication, Young Writers will also award a certificate of merit to all young writers.
- If you have any questions please contact Mrs Nicholson on [nicholson.l@biddickacademy.com](mailto:nicholson.l@biddickacademy.com)

## Free School Meal Vouchers

- Please note, all parents and carers that are entitled to Free School Vouchers will receive these by email in week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- This includes the parents/carers of Year 11 students.

## Pride Month

- We have enjoyed celebrating everyone's differences during Pride month.
- This week our Pride group and our LGBT+ ally's have been raising awareness of respecting others pronouns and celebrating what makes each of us unique at our Pride stall in the Forum.
- We are looking forward to building on our equality work with Educate and Celebrate in the year ahead.

## National Council of Young Women Conference

- A small group of Year 10 students attended the National Council of Young Women Conference at Durham High School on Monday, 27th June.
- The National Council of Young Women aims to ensure that women play a full role in our society and are represented at the highest levels.
- Throughout the day there were keynote speeches from successful women that have taken different career paths and students took part in activities with students from other local schools, to present their thoughts about why a career in the creative industries is so important.
- Our students found the day really interesting, and loved hearing about how other young women have found their way into their careers, and understanding their struggles and the resilience needed and how they overcame them.
- The students represented Biddick Academy incredibly!



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Headteacher:  
Miss K Morris



**Biddick**  
Academy

8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We want every child, every day, to have the highest expectations for themselves and each other. Our aim is to be an exceptional school; we believe that our community deserves this. Consequently, we asked for your thoughts on what values should be at the core of our school community.

I am pleased to share with you our final values that have been chosen by pupils, parents and staff. This is known as 'The Biddick Way'.

Value	What it means at Biddick Academy
<b>Respect</b>	We value ourselves, others and our environment by treating people with dignity and by being thoughtful.
<b>Integrity</b>	We do the right thing because it is correct to do so. We do this by holding ourselves to the highest moral standards all the time.
<b>Commitment</b>	We strive to always persevere by facing challenges with courage and determination.
<b>Equality</b>	We show pride in our diversity by celebrating difference across all aspects of our community.
<b>Excellence</b>	We aspire to be the best version of ourselves by having the ambition to reach our full potential.

We want our students to be guided by the ethos and values of The Biddick Way. These shared values capture what it means to be a part of Biddick Academy and the wider school community.

The Biddick Way will run through all areas of the school. For example, during tutor group time, students will read together and discuss the values of the school via the characters and story of the stories they are reading. The Biddick Way will be the central theme of assemblies and our Personal Development lessons. Moreover, students will be awarded reward points for demonstrating the values across school life and within the community.

We are very much looking forward to developing The Biddick Way with our pupils and with you and would welcome any comments or questions you may have.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T. Delf  
Senior Deputy Headteacher

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Headteacher:  
Miss K Morris



**Biddick**  
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8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to thank you for your support in stressing the importance of good attendance to your child.

As you will be aware, we aim for all students to achieve 100% attendance for the best outcomes with educational attainment whilst also providing our young people with the necessary life skills to succeed in school and for life after school. It is important to note that we set a 96% attendance target for all students which equates to eight days absent within the school year. From September 2022, parents/carers will be issued a 96% attendance letter reminder and leaflet as soon as their child falls below their target level.

Additionally, punctuality is extremely important. Approximately three days of the school year is lost if a student is late 5 minutes each day. If your child is going to be late, please contact the Attendance Team at the earliest opportunity. Punctuality letters will be issued when no reason has been provided. The Bagel Bar which runs from 8.00am to 8.20am in the Café provides the perfect opportunity to start the day and is free to all.

Throughout the last two years, students have become familiar with Stay on Green rewards initiative whereby students with attendance in the green category within their planners are celebrated for achieving 100% attendance. We have recently introduced an initiative 'Friday Five' whereby students are rewarded for 100% weekly attendance and receive a postcard and prize. We believe it is important to make parents/carers aware of the rewards initiatives we set for our students to support with the home/school partnerships we have developed.

On a final note, we want to ensure that we have 100% attendance on the first day back to school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any concerns or need any support in relation to attendance, please contact us on 0191 511 1600 Ext: 5047.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T Howe  
Attendance Manager

# STEM Summer School

22nd-24th August 2022



**Tech Demos • Industry Insight • Career Guidance • Top Tips**

Join us for our STEM Summer School this August  
Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th August from 10:00-14:00  
Sunderland Software Centre, Tavistock Place, Sunderland, SR1 1PB

Students will benefit from tech demos with equipment for our immersive lab, Industry insight and awareness sessions, exciting and engaging activities and or top tips for getting into STEM.

Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Lunch and snacks will be provided so please get in touch with any dietary requirements or preferences.

To get in touch or book a space, please contact: [jessica.sawyers@sunderlandsoftwarecity.com](mailto:jessica.sawyers@sunderlandsoftwarecity.com)

# Cost of Living Support

There is a range of support available for families to help them manage a range of pressures including increased Cost of Living Pressures

## Holiday Activity and Food Programme

### Targeted Support for FSM Families

A one-off voucher for each qualifying child (£60) will be distributed via schools in July in advance of the school holidays and ahead of the planned HAF programme which will offer activities with food across the summer months.

### Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme

Children in receipt of means-tested free school meals and those who fall into the DfE vulnerable categories are eligible to attend the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme for free. Activities will be delivered by Together for Children and a range of providers across the city from Thursday 21 July to Friday 2 September. A healthy meal will be provided at each session. A timetable will soon be made available at [www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/HAF](http://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/HAF).

## Government Support

The government announced help with energy bills via the Council Tax Energy Rebate, which means households in Council Tax Bands A-D will receive a minimum £150 payment, or £170 where the household received Council Tax Support. Payments are being made automatically where the Council had confirmed details, including bank details. If you have not already received your payment, you can apply at [www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/20280/Council-Tax-Energy-Rebate](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/20280/Council-Tax-Energy-Rebate).

The government confirmed in May that it will be providing additional support. Some households will qualify for more than one type of support.

The payments below do not affect any current benefit awards and payments are being made automatically if you qualify, so you will not be asked to apply for these. Please be aware of this as there are some scams circulating linked to these payments.

- Energy Bills Support Scheme doubled to a one-off £400 instead of £200 and this will not now have to be repaid. This support starts from October 2022 and comes from your energy provider.
- £650 Cost of Living Payment for those on the following Benefits/ Tax Credits (see grid below)
  - Universal Credit
  - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Income Support
  - Working Tax Credit / Child Tax Credit
  - Pension Credit

These payments will start to be made from 14 July and will be made in two stages, with the second payment due in the autumn.

- A one-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment will be paid in addition to the normal Winter Fuel Payment, made in November/December.
- A one off £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment will be paid from September to those that receive Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence payment, Attendance Allowance and equivalent War Pension Mobility Supplement and Armed forces Independence Payments.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022) contains more details of these payments including who qualifies and payment dates.

This information is also included on <https://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk/> which also includes details of the following wider support:

- Supporting your income
- Help with bills
- Help with childcare costs
- Housing support
- Help with transport costs
- Help finding work

## Local and other support

[www.sunderland.gov.uk/get-support](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/get-support) includes details of local and national advice provision, local emergency food support and a range of other services / schemes that may be able to help you.

The information includes what is available in each local area including locally based Voluntary and Community Sector support.

- The Council is working with VCS organisations/networks in each local area to provide some support to vulnerable households that are struggling financially and facing increased cost of living pressures.
- All support is being provided as a contribution towards these additional costs and will be based on households providing the required information. All awards are discretionary and based on available/remaining Household Support Fund (HSF2) funding. Support available in your own area is detailed in the above link.

Normally, only one HSF2 award can be made to a household between June and September, however in exceptional circumstances additional awards may be made. VCS organisations that are making HSF2 awards and the Council will have access to a shared record of all households that have received awards to prevent duplication.