



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 26th September 2022

Anti-Bullying Event

Mrs Pine and Mr Todd had the privilege of taking our second set of students to Newcastle High School this week in order to train as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and gaining the Diana Award for this.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors is a new programme running throughout the Academy where students are trained in recognising the signs of bullying and how to support peers when they need to report an incident. The students learned what is classed as bullying behaviour and were able to demonstrate skills in how to approach situations and be upstanders.

The students who are trained will now work towards earning the Diana Award Badge for Respect, which fits neatly with our pastoral values of the school. As ever, the students were a credit to Biddick Academy with exemplary behaviour and attitude throughout.



Year 8 Assessment

- Week commencing 26th September is Year 8 Assessment Preparation Week.
- Some lessons and activities this week will be used to prepare your child for their assessments which start week commencing 3rd October so that they feel both confident and ready to achieve well.
- If you would like any further information on these Year 8 Assessments, you are welcome to contact Mr Knowles, Assistant Headteacher on knowles.j@biddickacademy.com.

After School and Lunchtime Clubs

- We are looking forward to launching our after school and lunch time clubs and activities in school next week.
- We begin our launch with a 'Taster Fortnight', a chance for students to see and experience a club or activity that is a little different or to try something new.
- Clubs are a great opportunity for your child to make new friends and get to know others with similar interests. We appreciate the benefits and encourage all students to be a member of at least 1 club in the Academy.
- We would appreciate your support in taking a look through the lunchtime and after school clubs with your child/ and helping them to discover a club to join.
- Please click the following link to our website to see our current timetable – <https://biddickacademy.com/parents-carers/extra-curricular-activities/>
- If you have any questions about clubs at the Academy, please contact Mr Brown on brown.c@biddickacademy.com

Year 7 Settling-In Evening – Monday 3rd October 2022

- The Settling-In Evening for parents and carers of Year 7 students will take place between 3.45pm and 6.15pm on Monday 3rd October 2022.
- This is an ideal opportunity for you to both meet your child's Form Tutor and find out how they have settled in to life at Biddick Academy.
- You will also be able to ask any of your own questions which you may have.
- You are able to sign up to a 5-minute meeting with your child's Form Tutor either virtually by video on SchoolCloud from 3.45pm to 4.45pm or visit in-person on site from 5.00pm to 6.15pm.
- If you have any problems in making your appointment, please contact Miss Sparks on sparks.j@biddickacademy.com or call 0191 5111600.
- As we receive your information by electronic file from the primary schools, there are usually some initial teething problems with our new Year 7 parents when first using SchoolCloud for booking appointments for Parents Evenings. This is because the data you enter to register on SchoolCloud must match exactly with the information we receive from the primary school, therefore please do not hesitate to contact Miss Sparks if you have any issues.
- Please click the following link to our website to find a letter and instructions on how to make your appointment. <https://biddickacademy.com/year-7-settling-in-evening-monday-3rd-october-2022/>
- If you have any further questions or queries about the Year 7 Settling-In Evening, please contact Mr Morrison, Year 7 Head of Year on morrison.c@biddickacademy.com.

Year 11 – Readiness Evening

- The staff and trustees at Biddick Academy would like to invite parents and carers of Year 11 students to our Year 11 Readiness Evening on **Wednesday 28th September from 5.00pm – 6.00pm.**
- This event will provide parents and carers with vital information about the forthcoming year as well as advice and tips on how best to support your child.
- There will also be representatives from local colleges and Sixth Forms and talks from our Faculty Leaders of English, Maths and Science.
- We very much look forward to seeing you there and if you have any questions, please contact Miss Moore on moore.g@biddickacademy.com.

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Headteacher:
Miss K Morris



Biddick
Academy

23rd September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is unusual for me to write directly to you so I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am the current Chair of the Trust Board at the Academy and have been in position for twelve months now. In that time, we have continued to see significant progress within the Academy. Hopefully your children have enjoyed the first weeks back at school and have been talking excitedly about the improvements that are ongoing in school. I know you will have all been delighted to see the progress that the Academy made moving from being a school that 'Requires Improvement' to a 'Good' school. I am proud that the Board of Trustees are playing a small part in the progress that the school is making.

The role of the Trust Board is to **govern** the Academy by:

- Setting the vision, ethos and overall strategy of the school,
- Working with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure delivery of the strategic vision,
- Monitor financial performance

The reason for writing to you today is to let you know that we now have two vacancies for Parent Trustees to join the board. This is a great opportunity to participate in helping to shape and influence the strategic direction of the Academy that will play a huge part in your child's development.

In reality, this involves attending nine meetings in the academic year which take place on an evening. The key to this is reading any papers and policies in advance and being prepared to ask questions and share relevant thoughts. There is also an opportunity to get involved in the Human Resources and Finance committees as you grow in the trustee role.

Trustees have many different motivations for getting involved. In my case, I grew up in Washington, my son attends the Academy and I want to ensure that him, and all of the young people in our local area are offered the best possible start in life. The Trust Board are supporting Miss Morris and the Leadership Team to continue on the positive pathway our school is on, so that we ensure that all of our young people can maximise their own individual potential.

There is a real opportunity for parents to contribute and make a significant difference at an exciting time in the Academy's journey. If you would be interested in becoming a trustee and would like to find out little more, please get in touch for an informal chat.

You can make contact me by emailing Mrs Southwick at the Academy on southwick.k@biddickacademy.com

Yours faithfully

Mr M. P. Cowley
Chair of the Trust Board