



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 3rd October 2022

School Photographs

- Please be aware that the school photographer will be visiting Biddick Academy on the **14th October 2022**

European Day of Languages

- This week, lots of students and staff took part in a variety of activities for the European Day of Languages. The event is about celebrating and preserving the rich diversities and cultures Europe has to offer.
- Lots of classes had fun doing quizzes and having discussions around European culture and history during MFL lessons this week.
- Other extracurricular celebrations included a European Book Club, computer game tournaments, secret agent activity booklets and a T-shirt designing competition.
- We were also delighted to hear that some of our local primary schools joined in with the celebrations in their fun own ways, too!

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.

How to support your child with reading – get help and guidance from the experts!

- We are delighted to invite parents and carers to our 'How to support your child's reading' session here at Biddick Academy.
- The session will be held on **Wednesday 12th October at 5.00pm in the Library.**
- We will be sharing information about our Accelerated Reader Programme for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 as well as tips and strategies that can be used at home to support your child.
- If you have any further questions or you would like to attend the session, please email Mr C. Brown on brown.c@biddickacademy.com to confirm your attendance.

Year 8 Assessment

- Following on from Assessment Preparation Week, week commencing 3rd October is Year 8 Assessment Week where your child will be assessed in each of their subjects.
- If you would like any further information on these Year 8 Assessments, you are welcome to contact Mr Knowles, Assistant Headteacher at knowles.j@biddickacademy.com.

PE Lessons – message from Miss Cooksey, Head of PE

- Thank you to all the parents/carers for supporting us with the correct PE uniform for PE lessons.
- If your child has an illness or injury, please ensure that you write this in your child's planner so we can ensure that we accommodate any issues in the lesson immediately.
- Please try to avoid calling main reception and leaving a message if possible.
- If your child has an illness or injury for more than 2 weeks, please provide a medical note.
- All earrings must be removed for lessons, a plaster over the top will not prevent an injury should the earring be caught; therefore, we request all students to remove all piercings in order to participate safely.

Year 11 Support Information

Readiness Evening

- Please see below the link to the slides from this week's Readiness Evening
<https://biddickacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Readiness-Evening-2022-1.pdf>

Revision timetable

- If your child is struggling to manage their revision, please follow the link below to access an example revision timetable. Here you will also find a link to some student testimonials with tips and advice on creating a revision timetable.
<https://biddickacademy.com/students/year-11-support/>

Revision guides

- The most appropriate revision guides for each subject have been selected by Faculty Leaders and will be available to purchase via Parent Pay from week starting 10th October 2022.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Moore on
moore.g@biddickacademy.com

We have an exciting opportunity for children with SEND to join 'STARS'

- We will be working closely in partnership with the new lead, for participation and engagement within the City of Sunderland who run the STARS Youth Voice initiative.
- STARS Youth Voice have had input on consultations including events within the city, the plans for the new City Hall, consultation on the new Wear pedestrian bridge and even looking at transition within the local authority to support and include all.
- Their hope is to help build a stronger voice within the city and build upon relations within the whole of the Northeast.
- Mrs Mutton will be holding an introduction to this next week inviting all students with SEND to come along and see if they are interested in become a STAR.
- The idea is to create a voice within each school where a member or members can bring that voice and be part of the main STARS group to help shape the future for our SEND children.
- Students involved will be invited to meetings across the school year and then feedback to a fortnightly meeting at The Bunny Hill Centre.
- If you would like any further information about this, please contact Mrs Mutton, Deputy SENDCo on
mutton.a@biddickacademy.com
- If your child is interested in Sunderland Youth Voice, and you would like to find out more please click the following link to their Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/tfcyouthvoice>

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Headteacher:
Miss K Morris



Biddick
Academy

September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of your child's French or Spanish lessons we ask them to complete homework each week. This homework will be added to Class Charts by your child's class teacher and will consist of learning French or Spanish vocabulary and completing tasks on ActiveLearn. ActiveLearn is the online platform we subscribe to and provides students will opportunities to practice reading, listening and vocabulary learning skills.

I hope that the guide below will support your child in accessing the platform smoothly.

Help with active learn using a computer/phone

When accessing Active Learn, check the following;

- Allow pop ups/unblock pop ups (for the duration of them completing the task)
- Use the correct website www.pearsonactivelearn.com - there is a primary version and this sometimes causes confusion
- Type the correct password Biddick1 for all students (with a capital B)
- Type your username correctly with no gaps or dots and using the capitals given e.g. Mrs Lessels

All students have their own username which should be recorded in their student planner.

If you using Safari (iPhone/iPad) the following may help:

- Open your settings
- Scroll down and select Safari
- Under privacy & security, turn off 'prevent cross-site tracking' and 'block all cookies'

To enable cookies:

- Open your settings
- Scroll down and select Safari
- Under privacy & security, select 'block cookies'
- Select 'always allow' or 'always allow from websites I visit'

These settings should then be changed back once students have completed the tasks set.

Your child can contact their class teacher for support if there are still issues logging in.

If your child has an issue with computer access, we run MFL homework support club every Wednesday lunch time.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Lessels
Faculty Leader of Modern Foreign Languages

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NE38 8AL

Tel: 0191 511 1600
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Headteacher:
Miss K Morris



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

The MFL Faculty have put together a list of top tips and websites to use at home to support your child's learning in MFL. In addition to their lessons, students are set weekly homework. There are also twice weekly lunch time sessions that run on Tuesday and Wednesday, so students can get help with homework or learning in MFL. Students also have regular opportunities to participate in extracurricular challenges in MFL, as well as their being a weekly German and Italian club.

Supporting your child with MFL – Top tips

1. Test them on their vocabulary lists. There are a host of ways to learn vocab: using flash cards, sticking post-it notes around the house, grouping words by gender, listing them alphabetically or thematically, making excel spreadsheets and hiding columns. You can test them regularly, sharing the journey to learn new words yourself and helping them find their most effective way to learn.
2. Once they believe they have grasped the formation of a new tense or some new vocabulary, get them to teach it to you.
3. Use the free Duolingo app to progress with them with some healthy competition! Duolingo is a great tool for learning other languages too!
4. Encourage them to speak the language as much as possible. Practising their accent and pronunciation at home will give them more confidence in class.
5. Watch TV in the language being learnt. Using the language for real purposes could include watching a French or Spanish version of a film or TV series on Netflix/Prime etc. Look if the language being learnt is an alternative setting on their favourite films, they can watch them again with you in the foreign language with English subtitles. You'll be surprised how much extra language they pick up.
6. Tap into their interests by encouraging them to listen to music in the foreign language. They can find the lyrics on Google and follow them whilst listening and join in.
7. For success at GCSE, your child will need strong opinions on areas such as school uniform, healthy living, the environment and friends vs. family. Ultimately, they need to have opinions on things and this is of wider importance for their education. They can watch TED talks (with subtitles in the language they're learning) or read online newspapers.

Useful websites:

- www.pearsonactivelearn.com – website where MFL homework is set each week. Students have their own usernames and passwords
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize - lots of practice material in all 4 skill areas in French and Spanish
- www.languagesonline.com – excellent site for practising grammar points
- www.verbix.com – for verb conjugations in every tense
- www.wordreference.com – online dictionary site
- <https://quizlet.com/en-gb> - great for practising vocabulary. Students have details of how to access this in their planners
- <https://app.senecalearning.com> – lots of free practice materials in French and Spanish
- <https://app.memrise.com> – another vocabulary learning site
- <https://lyricstraining.com> – great website for practising listening skills using songs

We hope that you have found this guide useful. Should you have any questions around lessons and homework in MFL, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Lessels
Faculty Leader of Modern Foreign Languages