



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 19th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The end of a calendar year is always a time for reflection and there is certainly much to reflect on this year.

There have been many 'highlight' moments, one of my personal favourites was the launch of the Biddick Way in September. This is because it was created by everyone involved in the Academy: students, staff, parents and trustees. It serves as a daily reminder of our core values: equality, integrity, respect, commitment and excellence. Many of the 10,528 Biddick Way reward points given are for the smallest of gestures, for example holding a door open for a visitor. It is these small behaviours and actions that create the sense of community at the Academy.

Together, pupils have shown their care and support for others through charity fundraising activities such as Christmas Jumper Day, the Christmas Fair, the Christmas Show, the annual Toy Appeal, St. George's Residential Care Home care packages and Community Food Bank Donations as well as supporting a brave band of teachers in their Movember challenge. So far students at Biddick Academy have raised **£948.37** which is a fantastic achievement of which we are all incredibly proud.

We were delighted to have our first visit from the Humanutopia team this term as they dropped in to deliver their 'Who am I?' workshop to our Year 10 students. Self-reflection, resilience, confidence and pride radiated from our Year 10s throughout the day as they reflected on their own qualities and considered the person that they want to become. It brightened up a wintry December morning to hear the aspirations that our Year 10 students have for a bigger and brighter future and a commitment to chasing their dreams. Humanutopia will be back in school in January working with Year 9 students.

Our anti-bullying ambassadors continue to embrace the Diana Award campaign and are developing in confidence to promote inclusive language. This term they have received training around anti-racist bullying and have led the way with our Show Racism the Red Card campaign. Our Pride Youth Network continue to build in confidence and visibility across the Academy promoting equality through all aspects of school life. We are certainly very proud of the way they embody and model The Biddick Way.

We have also received a Bronze Award in recognition for our work with Young Carers in the Academy. We are delighted to receive this in recognition for the steps we have taken to ensure that our Young Carers have the same opportunities to succeed, despite their additional caring responsibilities.

As 2022 draws to a close, Year 11 students can be proud of the way in which they approached their mock exams in November. All Year 11 students showed great maturity and determination to succeed when completing mock exams in most of their GCSE subjects, allowing them to celebrate their results which they will receive in an official Results Day on Monday 19th December. Students should now use the information from their mock exams to direct their revision moving forward, focusing on those areas in each subject where they lost marks or perhaps need to revisit altogether.

Undoubtedly, the next term will be full of challenges for Year 11 students, and motivation will be hard to find at times when the work load and pressures are high. However, the coming months are vital for all Year 11 students and I would urge every student to make the most of the last 5 months at Biddick Academy so that they can leave knowing that they did everything they possibly could in order to achieve their potential.

After School Learning will restart in January (please see the timetable in the 'Year 11 support' section of our website), lunch time revision will be held every day in a variety of subjects and homework will be provided in order to prepare students for those final GCSE examinations in May.

There are only 15 school weeks left until the first exams begin, which for some subjects means less than 40 lessons in total, therefore I cannot stress enough the importance of attending every day and making every lesson count. Thomas Edison once wrote; 'There is no substitute for hard work' and I have no doubt that all of our Year 11 students will give everything they have over the coming months so that they can be proud of the results they achieve in August.

Ahead of the spring term I would like to draw your attention to the following information:

Uniform Expectations

Uniform, worn correctly, is very important. It helps students to feel proud of themselves and Biddick Academy. Whilst the majority of students meet our high expectations every day, there are a few who need to be reminded. Now that we are experiencing the colder weather, woolly hats can be worn outside, however caps are not allowed. A jacket or coat is advised, especially as students are outside for break and lunchtime, but students should not be wearing any jumper, sweater or tracksuit top under their blazer in the school building. Only the official Biddick Academy jumper is permitted.

When our students return to Biddick Academy on Thursday January 5th 2023, we will be conducting uniform checks to ensure all students are meeting our school uniform expectations. It is important to note the following:

- Students can choose to wear either a) grey trousers or b) a Biddick Academy skirt
- No leggings are allowed, leggings should not be worn instead of tights
- No black trousers are allowed
- Tracksuit bottoms of any description must not be worn
- A Biddick Academy school tie must be worn at all times in the school building
- No jewellery is allowed (one small stud in each ear is permitted)
- No false nails of any description are allowed
- Shoes and/or trainers must be entirely black and made of leather, not canvas or suede

We will be firm but fair when applying the above rules in January, if students are not in the correct uniform it is likely that they will lose their social time until the issue is corrected.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Biddick Academy Access Fund

Biddick Academy has an Access Fund. This is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered students. The aim of the fund is to help students who have difficulty in paying for:

- Curriculum trips and visits
- Uniform, shoes or PE kit
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

For further information, please visit www.biddickacademy.com.

Any questions or for clarification please email Mrs Dickson (Deputy Headteacher) at dickson.s@biddickacademy.com

Dates for your diary in January and February 2023

- Wednesday 11th January 2023 5.00pm – 6.00pm Parents Forum
- Thursday 19th January 2023 4.00pm – 6.00pm Year 9 Options Evening
- Wednesday 1st February 2023 5.00pm – 6.00pm Year 8 Looking Ahead Evening
- February 15th February 2023 5.00pm – 6.00pm Year 10 Readiness for Mocks Evening

Students return back to the Academy on **Thursday 5th January 2023**.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe Christmas period.

Best wishes,



Miss Morris
Headteacher

Staying safe around ice

Following the recent tragedy in Solihull, The Royal Life Saving Society has shared a link to detailed information about staying safe around ice.

Please read and help to spread the message.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/news/royal-life-saving-society-uk-issues-winter-water-safety-advice>