



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week commencing 5th December 2022

Biddick Academy has successfully gained a Young Carers in School Award!

It is with great satisfaction and pride that we can share with you that Biddick Academy has recently been awarded a bronze certificate by The Children's Society for their continued work to ensure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.



The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

To achieve their Bronze Award, Biddick Academy has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including homework clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff who is responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils. Vital information about how to identify young carers is made available to all school staff, and noticeboards to let students and their families know where to go for help.

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2011 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 5 secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

Research carried out by Carers Trust and The Children's Society shows that, on average, young carers miss or cut short 48 school days a year and often have lower levels of self-confidence, mental wellbeing and significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, because of their caring role. Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework states that inspectors will look at how well schools support young carers. While some schools are doing this really well, others struggle, and this causes real problems for young carers.

Giles Meyer, Chief Executive of Carers Trust, today congratulated Biddick Academy saying: "The Young Carers in Schools programme is helping to transform schools and support staff across England. Schools play a vital role in a young carer's life, as many care for relatives without their teachers even knowing what they do. On average young carers will miss a day of school each month as a result of their caring role, so the steps schools take to identify and support them can have a huge impact on their learning, wellbeing and life chances."

14 Days of Christmas Attendance Rewards Initiative

Dear parent/carer,

On Thursday 1st December we will be getting into the festive spirit by launching our '14 Days of Christmas!' This is an attendance rewards initiative whereby students will enter into a prize draw each day to win a selection of fantastic prizes. Prizes include shopping vouchers, Christmas gift sets and AirPods. To be entered into the prize draw, all students must have 100% attendance in December.

We know how hard you work ensuring that your children come to school every day, be it a gentle nudge to go to school when they have a cold or explaining to them the link between high attendance and good grades. Consequently, as a thank you for supporting us with attendance there will also be prizes for parents and carers. On certain dates, when students win, parents will win too! Most prizes are a small gesture of our gratitude, but we are hoping that someone will win a Christmas food hamper!

As ever, if you have any questions regarding attendance or need any support with attendance, please contact the Attendance Team on 0191 511 1600 or attendance@biddickacademy.com

Kind regards,

Mr Howe & Miss Hughes

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Please find the link to SchoolCloud below where you can book your appointments with your child's teachers for Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 15th December from 3.45pm to 6.15pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://biddickacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Durham University Spanish Apprentice Challenge

A massive well done to Amy, Holly, Leah, Amelia and Ebony in year 9, who took part in Durham University's Spanish Apprentice challenge on Wednesday. The girls gave a presentation about local tourism, in Spanish, to a panel of 3 judges and an audience of well over 100 other students, educators and investors. The judges described them as 'original, engaged and with a 10/10 presentation style', and the university student ambassador supporting them said they were a 'pleasure' to work with. They did themselves and Biddick Academy proud!

Mock exams and Results Day

Year 11 students showed excellent tenacity and determination during the mock exams, and I am sure this will be reflected in their mock exam results. In order to replicate the real exams experience, students will receive their mock exam results on Monday 19th December with a formalised 'Results Day' in the Watson Hall. Parents and carers will also receive the results as part of your child's report which will be shared the week commencing Monday 19th December. In the meantime, teachers will be revisiting topics in lessons which have been highlighted as needing further reinforcement and these will also be outlined on your child's report

Year 7 STEAM drop down experience

We are thrilled to announce that our year 7 students will be given the opportunity to develop and explore their skills in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) in an off-timetable event. Staff from the Maths and Science faculty will be delivering sessions where students will get hands on experience with problem solving, evaluating and developing models, creative process of developing a recipe, and cutting-edge neurobiology. The objective for the day is to give the students exposure to the many facets of STEAM education and allow the students to identify where they are using STEAM specific skills in their normal curriculum lessons.

Students in the A side of Year 7 will be participating in periods 1 and 2 on Tuesday 6th December, where students in the B side will be participating during periods 4 and 5.