



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 16th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now completed our first full week after returning from the Christmas period. Consequently, this is my first opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. Returning to school and to work after any holiday presents a bit of a shock, at this time of year many people feel it more keenly. However, with each passing day the amount of light increases and students get back into the rhythm of the school year as we move through winter towards spring.

I often ask our students to reflect on the concept of time and remind them how precious it is. It seems to pass so quickly. My own children, who are twins, are both in Year 11. This unsettles me, as do the daily 'on this day' reminders that my phone sends me, showing them, and me, in our younger years. Today, it was a photograph of my children aged 8, with beaming excited smiles after being introduced to their new puppy 'Gizmo'. It makes me happy to see such memories, but sad that I'll never recapture those moments with them. I would think that some of you have also had these thoughts or harbour these feelings. As we get older the realisation of time passing by becomes more apparent. However, we can forgive our students, your children, for not sharing this wisdom. They mainly live in the moment and occasionally that moment feels that it is going by all too slowly. It is our collective responsibility to remind them that time is precious, to make the most of it.

A clear example of the importance of time can be seen with our Year 11 cohort, they have only 13 school weeks until their first exam. In November, just before their Mock Examinations, our after-school revision lessons were bursting to capacity, students taking advantage of taught sessions to help maximise their potential to do well in the days ahead. Those revision sessions are still available, they remain extremely worthwhile, yet the numbers attending have dropped. In the eyes of some of our students, their GCSE exams are an age away rather than weeks and days. The realisation of the urgency to attend has not yet hit them all, as their concept of time differs from ours. As a result, we will be contacting parents and carers of Year 11, explaining what revision sessions are on each evening and recommending which subject their children should attend. We will ask parents and carers to remind their children how quickly their exams will be upon them and to make use of every moment afforded to them. This will support their success.

For parents of other year groups, reading the above and thinking 'this doesn't apply to me'. Perhaps it doesn't, not yet, but it will do soon, much quicker than you might think! For 'time and tide wait for no man'.

Mr Delf
Acting Headteacher

Flu Jabs

- The nursing team are holding flu jab appointments taking place at the Fire Station on Hylton Road on Wednesday 18th January 3:30pm – 5:30pm available for all students, on an appointment basis only. Call 0191 4028179 to make an appointment.

Year 10 Assessment Monday 16th January- Friday 27th January

- Year 10 Assessments run from Monday 16th January - Friday 27th January. Students will complete an assessment in each of their subjects, the outcome of which will be used to inform your child's report. Reports will be posted to parents and carers on Monday 27th February.
- Year 10 Mock Exam 'Readiness Evening' is on Wednesday 15th February.
- The evening will be an opportunity to hear from key staff around the importance of Mock Exam preparation, what to expect from the exams and subject specific tips and guidance from our Core Faculty Leaders. More information to follow from Miss Moore.

Year 9 Options Evening

- On Thursday 19th January from 4pm to 6pm, we will be hosting a Year 9 Options Evening in the Watson Hall.
- This will be an excellent opportunity for all Year 9 parents and students to find out more about the Options process and to speak to staff members from each of the G.C.S.E Subject areas, to give you an insight into the G.C.S.E courses on offer at Biddick Academy. We look forward to seeing you there!
- Before the 19th January your child will be bringing home a G.C.S.E Curriculum Information Booklet which they will receive from their Form Tutors during Registration - this booklet contains all the information you and your child require about the Options process and each course on offer.
- Also ahead of Thursday's Options Evening, Mr Knowles will electronically share with Year 9 parents and carers a virtual (voiceover) presentation all about the Options process via email, ClassCharts, Teams and the Biddick Academy website. For more information email knowles.j@biddickacademy.com

Year 11 After School Learning

- With only 10 school weeks left until the Easter holidays, we would urge all Year 11 students to attend as much After School Learning as possible.
- Please see below the full timetable of sessions that students are able to access in order to receive targeted support to help them to achieve their target grade

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Lunch (12.20pm-12.50pm) | | | | |
| Science (Mr Johnson) | Science (Miss Hopper) | Science (Mr Gwilliam) | Science (Mr Johnson) | Science (Mr Gwilliam) |
| BTEC Sport (Miss Cooksey / Mrs Hodgson) | French (Mrs Lessels) | | Business Studies Catch Up - Invite only (Mrs Fisher) | Creative iMedia Catch Up - Invite only (Mrs Fisher) |
| | | | Spanish (Mrs Lessels) | |
| | | | Geography (Miss Lynch) | |
| After School (3.00pm-4.00pm) | | | | |
| | English (Miss Wilkinson) | Maths (Mr Ramshaw) | Science (Mr Gwilliam) | Engineering (Mr Hinder) |
| | History (Mr Hughff) | History (Mr Hughff) | History (Mr Hughff) | History (Mr Hughff) |
| | | Art and Design (Mrs Teasdale) | Hospitality and Catering (Miss Gatherar) | |
| | | Textiles (Miss Robotham) | Fine Art (Mrs Garton) | |
| | | Music (Mrs Tufnell) | Geography (Mr Robertson) | |
| | | | | |
| *Please contact the member of staff in brackets for more information regarding these sessions. All sessions last one hour. | | | | |

For more information email moore.g@biddickacademy.com

Parents of Year 11- College/ Sixth Form Open Evenings

- Whilst the majority of our Year 11's have now made their Post 16 applications, there are some further Open Evenings available if your son/daughter still remains undecided at this stage about their next step.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Gateshead College 16 th January | 4:00pm - 7:00pm |
| Gateshead College 18 th January (A levels only) | 5:00pm - 7:00pm |
| Newcastle College 1 st February | 4:45pm - 7:00pm |
| St Anthony's and St Aidan's Sixth Form 1 st February | 5:00pm - 6:30pm |
| New College Durham 7 th February | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |
| Sunderland College, Bede Campus 7 th February | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |
| Sunderland College, City Campus 8 th February | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |
| Durham Sixth Form: 20 th April | 4:30pm - 7:30pm |

- Whilst Open Evenings for Sixth Forms including St Robert's, Park View and Southmoor Academy have already occurred, applications are still open and further information can be found on their websites. For more information, email brown.c@biddickacademy.com

Year 10 & Year 11 'Careers at Sea' Open Day

- There is a 'Careers at Sea' Open Day for Year 10 and Year 11 students at South Shields Marine School on **Saturday 28th January 2023**.



SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY | 10AM-2PM

Find out more about a career at sea and the opportunities it offers at our marine school open event. There are so many different jobs in the Merchant Navy - from navigation to engineering and electrical - and our event is the perfect one stop shop to find out everything you need to know.

There are so many jobs in maritime and studying at South Shields Marine School could lead onto so many careers!

About the event:

- Shipping companies on site who are actively recruiting to their 3 year cadetship training programmes.
- Industry experienced lecturers on hand to discuss options.
- Tours of the facilities including our multi award winning simulation centre, Ofsted 'Outstanding' Halls of Residence, workshops and other demos.

Studying at the marine school will prepare you for a life at sea, debt-free - with experience and transferable skills to last a lifetime.

This is one event you don't want to miss!

SIGN UP NOW



Scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.stc.ac.uk/events-marine>

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