



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY

Week starting 1st May 2023

A Message from our Acting Headteacher

The Biddick Way is an integral part of our way of life at Biddick Academy. These are the values that our students, parents/carers and staff agreed should be at the centre of our school ethos. The final words we arrived at are Respect, Integrity, Commitment, Equality and Excellence. However, there were many other words that were debated and could have been chosen.

One of these was Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. On Wednesday this week, we were visited by Steve from Amnesty International alongside three refugees from Iraq and Kurdistan. Our guests worked with our budding journalists who write our student newspaper. It was a fascinating session, the students learned so much and represented the academy and its values exceptionally well. I was so proud of them and the way they conducted themselves. Not only did they interview the refugees, but they asked questions back to the students about their school life and how they view refugees.

Florence in Y7 said to one of the gentlemen "I just feel really sad that there isn't more we can do to help you and make it easier". Mrs Armstrong, who organised this session will be writing an article with our young journalists which will be released soon. I am very much looking forward to reading it.

Thank you for all of your support this week. Have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Year 8 Parents' Evening

- As a result of this Thursday's trade union industrial action, Year 8 Parents' Evening has been re-scheduled to **Monday 22nd May 3.45pm to 6.15pm**
- You will be able to access this Parents' Evening virtually and sign up to appointments with your child's teachers by following this link to School Cloud: <https://biddickacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Parents Forum

- Parent Forum will be taking place in the Academy on **3rd May 2023 at 5:00pm – 6:00pm**.
- All parents welcome
- The agenda for the meeting will be;
- Canteen food options, healthy options and general update with Mr Carr
- School trips with Mr Knowles
- Music and performance updates with Mrs Tuffnell Head of Music

Leavers' Assembly

- The Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 14th June from 11.20am-1pm**. Mr Wilkinson will lead the Leavers' Assembly which will be followed by refreshments in the Forum
- Students will then have the opportunity to have their shirts signed by staff and their peers in order to mark the end of their 5 years at Biddick Academy
- At 1pm, all students (with the exception of those who have a Music exam on the afternoon of **Wednesday 14th June**) will be able to leave site but are expected to attend school as normal until they have finished their exams (**this is Friday 16th June** for most students)

Study leave and revision support during exam season

- Students in England are no longer automatically granted Study Leave and, in line with government guidance, this is only to be used in exceptional circumstances
- With this in mind and in order to support students during the exam season, we are making some amendments to the existing timetable from the start of the exam season on **15th May**
- During this time, there will be a timetable in place for subject specific revision which follows the exam timetable. For example, when students have a Biology exam on **Tuesday 16th May**, they will attend Biology revision on the afternoon of the **Monday 15th May** with their Science teachers instead of following their normal timetable
- Students will receive a timetable which outlines the revision sessions in due course

Exam rules and regulations

- In the summer 2022 exam series, the biggest malpractice issue was students having a mobile phone on them in the exam, accounting for 43% of malpractice cases
- Remember, just having a mobile phone in their possession, even if they do not use it, will lead to a total loss of marks for a student
- Using or attempting to use a phone will lead to disqualification
- Please make sure your child knows about the serious penalties that come with having a phone with them in the exam
- Students must keep their phones in their bags which remain in the locked cages in the Forum

Fake exam material on social media

- There have been reports of summer 2023 exam materials being advertised on social media platforms, such as TikTok and Instagram
- Exam boards do not release digital copies of exam material in advance of the exam and any images in these posts are nearly always fake documents designed to extort money from students

Prom

- A reminder to email moore.g@biddickacademy.com if you wish to book your child a spot on the bus to/from Prom on **Friday 30th June** as well as any dietary requirements your child may have
- The deadline for the remaining £20 to be paid is **Friday 26th May**

Online Safety

- **BeReal** is a social media app that is gaining popularity amongst young people. It notifies users once a day to upload an image of what they are doing. Once users receive the notification, they have two minutes to capture and share what they are doing at that moment. Friends post at the exact same time and once users have posted, they can then see what their friends have posted
- **What do I need to be aware of?**
BeReal is private by default and only visible to friends. However, it is possible to share with all users by selecting the public option
- If selected, BeReal will appear in the Discovery tab so all users can see and interact with it, therefore there is the possibility of strangers contacting your child
- There is also an option to share the users location. Chat to your child about location sharing as it is important that your child understands the risk of location sharing and when it is and is not appropriate to share
- *Discovery tab* – this is the area where users can view all other BeReals that have been made public. There is an element of risk that your child may see an inappropriate image depending on what others have uploaded
- If your child is using BeReal then talk to them about what they share, what they should do if they see something inappropriate or that they find upsetting and that they know how to use the reporting tools.
- For more information please visit the link below:
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-bereal-safe-for-my-child>