BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY
Week starting 24th April 2023

A Message from our Assistant Headteacher Miss Moore

➢ It's lovely to be back after the Easter Holiday's working hard.
➢ We have a countdown to the Prom, with lots of hard work needed in the final weeks ahead, however it's always nice to have something to look forward to and work towards
➢ Prom is **Friday 30th June** which is **10 weeks today**!
➢ A reminder that a deposit of £20 was due **Friday 31st March** in order to secure your child's Prom ticket. If your child has not paid and wishes to attend, can you please pay the deposit via the Student Office
➢ There will be a bus leaving Biddick Academy at 6.30pm to take students to the Prom and will return to Biddick Academy at 11.00pm. In order to finalise numbers, if your child wishes to book a free spot on the bus can you please email moore.g@biddickacademy.com by **Friday 28th April**
➢ If your child has any dietary restrictions, can you please email moore.g@biddickacademy.com and I will make the appropriate arrangements with the venue

Revision Support

➢ As the GCSE examinations are fast approaching, please see below a link to useful revision Podcasts for Science and English Literature

   Podcasts

➢ In addition, please remember the Year 11 Support Page on our website which has a vast amount of revision support including subject specific revision ideas, a revision timetable template and links to GCSE past papers for all subjects
➢ A reminder that the date of the first GCSE exam is **Monday 15th May**!

Year 10 Mock Exams

➢ Year 10 students have now completed their first week of mock examinations and I would like to commend them for the mature way in which they have approached the exams
➢ The mock exams that were due to take place on **Thursday 27th April** will now take place during lesson time for those subjects (Music, Geography and Hair and Beauty) as a result of the planned Industrial Action taking place on that day

Imagination Writing Competition 2023

Online Safety

What is Discord?
- Discord was launched in 2015 as a platform for people to connect online whilst playing video games, and since then it has expanded beyond this to become a widely used text, video, and audio chat app.
- Discord can be accessed on computers, smartphone and tablets, with an email address needed to set up an account.
- Discord hosts servers, which are chat rooms based around a particular interest or activity. These are set up with a particular focus or theme as a way for people to meet up online to discuss and exchange images, links and information. These servers offer both text channels and voice chat via a microphone.

What are the concerns?
- Moderation within these servers has historically been mostly left to the members themselves, with Discord relying on user reports and private server owners to catch worrying behaviour.
- Unlike most popular social media platforms where users post photos of themselves and tend to use real names, it is an almost universal practice on Discord to employ usernames and profile pictures because they not connected to identities.
- It is considered normal to interact with strangers on Discord without having any sense of who they are, what age they are, what their name is, or any other identifying traits. This means that it is very easy for strangers to have contact with young people without revealing their true identity.
- Discord is extremely popular with children and teens, and while the app is intended for ages 13+, there is no meaningful age verification to enforce this age limit, or to ensure that the few child protection measures Discord offers are actually applied.
- Children can and do easily enter a false date of birth to bypass the age restriction. For example, servers and individual channels within servers can be age-gated with a "NSFW" tag (*Not Safe For Work*), but that protection is easily bypassed due to the lack of meaningful age verification. Such

- servers often contain adult material, which children can be exposed to.

What steps can be taken to ensure safety?
- Explain to your child why age restrictions are important. It can be easy for young people to bypass age restrictions, but they must understand the dangers of doing so.
- Ensure privacy and safety settings are enabled. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if they can only receive messages or friend requests from server members.
- Inappropriate content can be filtered out using the privacy and safety settings.
- For more information, please see the links below:

Discord official parents information

Discord parental control guidance