



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week beginning 15th July 2024

Attendance Notice

- Just to inform all parents/carers that the attendance@biddickacademy.com email address is no longer in use.
- Please can all absences be reported via phone to 0191 511 1600 (Option 1).
- If you require to provide medical evidence for appointments, please direct to info@biddickacademy.co.uk and insert FAO: Mr Howe/Attendance Team in the subject line.

Put down a phone. Pick up a book.

- Evidence shows that young people who continue to read regularly for pleasure over the summer holidays are more likely to improve their reading ability, well-being and readiness for the new school year. Evidence also shows that young people who don't are likely to regress.
- With this in mind, pupils in Years 7 and 8 have been provided with a Summer Reading Booklet to support their reading over the summer.
- This contains a range of reading activities for pupils to choose from - including a range of adventurous texts and a flavour of extracts to try.
- We also encourage pupils in Year 9 and 10 to browse through our KS4 Curriculum Reading List and to select some books that link to the subjects they are studying at GCSE:
- <https://biddickacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/KS4-Curriculum-Reading-List.pdf>
- At a time when social media use can be all consuming, we would urge that our pupils take some time to put down their phone and pick up a book. Washington Library continues to be open over the summer so that young people can access books.

Online Safety

- Below is a link to an updated Parent Online Safety booklet, which includes an overview of key parental controls. This is a useful guide for parents to ensure your child is accessing age-appropriate material on their devices.
- <https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Parental-Controls-booklet-2024.pdf>



Our New House System

- Dare to be different! Dare to get involved! Dare to stand out from the crowd.
- This week saw the launch of our DARE House System with the new House Teams: Discovery, Adventure, Resolution and Endeavour.
- Launch assemblies were led by Mr Osa-Nappier and House Leaders: Discovery (Miss Robotham), Adventure (Mr Dodds), Resolution (Mr Jordan) and Endeavour (Miss Walker). All pupils and members of staff are in a House and will be working as part of a team to get as many House Points as possible whilst also competing with the other Houses.
- Activities have already begun and each House has an anthem, a vision and are now on the look out for a House Captain. Could this be your child?
- Our House System has been established to provide pupils with the opportunity to compete as a team and to show and develop leadership skills.
- Activities and challenges will run throughout the year to develop personal qualities and behaviours that will help your child to feel success. We recognise that everyone has different talents and we want to provide a platform for pupils to showcase these whilst having some fun. Whether that be through the sports, arts, games, music, baking, languages or their own areas of interest.
- In lessons, clubs and House events next year, students will earn House Points; these will enable pupils to earn rewards from the Biddick Shop whilst also accumulating points for the House they belong to. The House with the most points each term will win a special reward activity at the end of each term and this will refresh for the next term.
- There are lots of exciting opportunities coming our way at Biddick and we're looking forward to seeing our pupils work as part of a team to achieve as many House Points as possible!