

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 7 June 2021

School opens to students
Year 10 & Year 12
Examinations begin

Year 12 Post-18 Virtual
Choices Evening

Tuesday 6 - Friday 9 July 2021

Year 11 Sixth Form Induction

Friday 16 July 2021

School Closes for Summer
at 12.45 pm



Please check our school website for holiday dates. Other sources are not reliable as they request the information from the Local Authority, not directly from the school.

May we raise children
who love the unloved
things - the dandelion, the
worms & spiderlings.
Children who sense
the rose needs the thorn

& run into rainswept days
the same way they
turn towards sun...

And when they're grown &
someone has to speak for those
who have no voice

may they draw upon that
wilder bond, those days of
tending tender things

and be the ones.

- Nicolette Sowder



Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

This half-term has been a very busy one. We have been very lucky to escape any bubble closures and the majority of our students have enjoyed six uninterrupted weeks in the classroom. Sadly, we have not been as lucky with the weather, but it is looking hopeful for the half term week.

This week we will be saying a formal goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Some of them will be coming back after half-term to complete assessment work and we will be looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 in for their Sixth Form Induction Week later in the term.

It is always an emotional and strange time for students and staff; a combination of excitement, nerves, and sadness at leaving school life behind and stepping into the world as young adults. We wish all of them the very best in their next steps and seek to remind them that our door is always open should they need anything.

I would also like to thank all of the staff for their incredible hard work and effort in putting a comprehensive Teacher Assessed Grading system in place. They have been working evenings and weekends to assess and moderate, not only their own students' work but also work from across the Potteries Educational Trust, to ensure that all grades are as accurate and fair as they can be. Everything that we have done has been as transparent as possible and we know how much you have appreciated the time and effort that has gone into this.

As for Years 9, 10 and 12 there will be assessments and exams after the half-term break. I hope that all of our students prepare for these thoroughly and I would ask for your support in this.

We are looking forward to being able to allow Year 9 further access to the building and specialist resources and, at the end of term, we will be looking forward to holding our annual sports and celebration days.

Our mental health awareness work has been hugely successful this half-term, in helping our students to understand how they can access help if they need it. I would strongly encourage you to read our Safeguarding Newsletter which contains a wealth of information to support you and your child.

We have been able to go ahead with some of our extra-curricular work and provision and it was lovely to see our Duke of Edinburgh students heading out on expedition on Saturday morning. We have also been able to take small groups out of school to Rudyard Lake and the seaside!

I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 7 June.

Take good care.

Mrs E Robinson, Headteacher

YEAR 9 NEWS

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY HISTORY QUIZ

On Tuesday 11 May 2021, eight Year 9 students took part in Birmingham University's Big History Quiz. 28 teams took part from all over England which made for a really fun yet challenging competition.

The questions covered a large range of topics, from Ancient Egypt to World War II. The quiz began with a few topics that we weren't particularly well versed in and, while we gave it our best go, we ended up near the end of the leaderboard, but we didn't give up. As the first half of the quiz ended, we experienced a fantastic lecture that addressed the topic of the British Empire and its relevance in modern education which inspired some very interesting conversations between our two teams.

The second half of the quiz was much more in our favour, beginning with World War I which we have recently learned about in History lessons, then moving on to the Holocaust and Women in History which were some of our strongest subjects. One of our teams even managed to get the highest answer streak with 13 correct answers!

After a tense few hours of quizzing, it all came down to the final round! Both of our teams had climbed the leaderboard, and were in sixth and seventh place. The final question approached, if we got this right, both teams could remain in the top ten; get it wrong, however and we could fall to the teens. We clicked our answers in record speed, hoping that we were correct. Hearts racing, we waited for the results...

The numbers flashed on to our screens – we had indeed come in sixth and seventh place with only 49 points separating us.

By the end of the quiz, we were all ecstatic. The quiz served as both a great educational experience and a fun competition. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would love to take part in similar challenges in the future.

L Berry, Year 9



PEN PAL LETTERS TO OUR PARTNER SCHOOL IN ERLANGEN

After receiving cards and letters before Easter, Year 9 students have completed their first pen pal letters to students at Hermann-Hedenus-Mittelschule, our partner school, in Erlangen.



ROYAL MAIL STAMP COMPETITION

Mrs St Clair would like to thank Year 9 for their involvement in the Royal Mail stamp competition this week. Some of the entries received so far are fantastic. The deadline for any remaining designs is Tuesday 25 May. Good luck!



YEAR 10 NEWS

As our Year 10 prepare for the next stage in their studies, we will be offering some assemblies on revision techniques and support. The best preparation for GCSEs is to revise thoroughly for mocks. This helps to build confidence and identify areas for improvement as well as refining examination technique.

We are still awaiting confirmation from the exam boards as to whether the specification will alter due to the latest lockdown and disruption to classroom learning. Once this has been confirmed, we will be able to inform students and sell revision guides for the topics that we will be delivering.

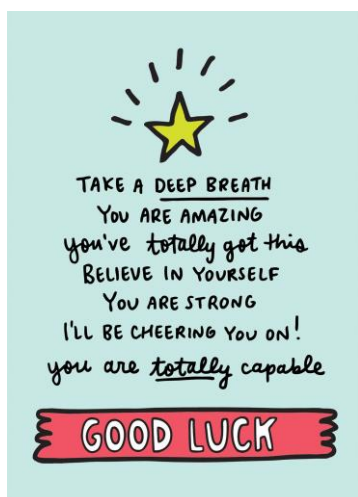
Part of our next steps with Year 9 and 10 students is for them to use their social areas for next year. This will enable them to be clear about our expectations of behaviour in these areas in readiness for September.

You will be aware that students are completing mocks and in-class assessments. It is therefore imperative that they are prepared to learn by being fully equipped every day!

YEAR 11 NEWS

This week we say a huge congratulations and fond farewell to our Year 11 students. They have coped admirably this year with home learning and maintaining standards. Their approach to their Exam Board Assessments has been admirable. We hope to see many of them come to our BH6 induction weeks.

If your son/ daughter is still unsure about their next steps, please encourage them to keep in touch so we can support them and arrange interviews should they need them. We will miss them very much.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY THE GREAT MINDS TOUR BUS!

From the second students stepped on board, Staffordshire University took them on a journey into their future, without even leaving the car park. They literally brought University life to their doorstep by combining all things Staffordshire University do together. Students immerse themselves in the epic 'Staffs The Movie', a short film about the University, and meet Beacon, the University's award-winning digital coach. By climbing up the stairs of the double-decker bus, students were transported to an on-board recreation of Staffordshire University's Esports Hub.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BH6 'VOICE AND LEADERSHIP TEAM'

Congratulations to our Year 12 students (listed below) who have been selected to join the BH6 Voice and Leadership Team, 2021-2022. I really hope that together we can help to continue to support the development of the school, the Sixth Form and support our local community. I am excited to be part of the forthcoming journey and I really look forward to working with you.

Caitlin A, Freya A-L, Hattie B, Jake C, Grace C, Callum H, Matthew H, Hannah H, Joseph M, Jessica P, Emily R, Emily S, Leah S, Jack S and Molly W.

Mrs C Taylor, Head of Sixth Form

COLIN, CUTHBERT & CORPORATE CAKE CRUMBS

On Wednesday 19 May, Year 12 Business and Computing students attended an online conference on social media. This was an exciting opportunity to find out more about the power of social media in today's society. The conference explored Aldi's reaction to the copyright battle they are currently experiencing with Marks and Spencer. Throughout this session we examined other companies who engaged with social media to support the #savecolin and #freecuthbert trend.

SCHOLARSHIP SECURED AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC FOR EX STUDENT BEN BIRKETT

Congratulations to Ben Birkett an ex student who has gained a place and substantial scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music to study the Postgraduate course in Musical Theatre.

On hearing the news Ben said, "I am also very lucky that The Royal Academy have awarded me a very generous scholarship, as without funding this would not have been possible.

I want to say a huge thank you to the people within the industry for helping me with my application and auditions, and to everyone who has encouraged and believed in me. Your support means the world!

Last but not least I want to say a huge thank you to Mr Windsor, the man who took me from Mrs Brown all the way to The Phantom of the Opera (those who know... know!)"





NSPCC Contact Numbers

- ⇒ Help for adults concerned about a child: Call us on 0808 800 5000
- ⇒ Help for children and young people: Call Childline on 0800 1111
- ⇒ Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding (Child Protection Information) at Biddulph High School

- ⇒ Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs E Moss
- ⇒ Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs S Marks



Supporting your child Self-harm and Suicide

Scan the QR code to download your free guide:



Stay Alive

Stay alive is a free suicide prevention app that helps its users to stay safe from acting on their thoughts of suicide. Downloading this app means that the help and information someone may need when managing thoughts of suicide is easily accessible, helping them to stay safe.



Self-help Anxiety Management

This app is helpful for helping the user manage their anxiety. The anxiety tracker can help the user better understand things that make them feel anxious, whilst the self-help toolkit allows them to learn new skills around anxiety management. Some people have found this app helpful to use whilst waiting to access further long-term support or to build on their existing anxiety management skills.



Moodometer

This NHS app allows the user to track and understand influences behind their mood. Acting like a mood diary, this app can be helpful in identifying triggers that can impact on low mood and also suggest ways to lift your mood.



Grief: Support for Young People

This app was created by Child Bereavement UK and bereaved young people. It targets young people aged between 11-25 years old who have been bereaved and are in need of support. It provides the user with information and real life experiences about feelings such as grief that people may experience following a bereavement. It also offers information about where users can access further support if needed.



Calm Harm

This app can be used to help the user manage urges to self-harm. It's a private app and can be password protected. The help and advice provides suggestions of 5-15 minute categorised activities that can help the user 'ride the wave' of an urge to self-harm. The user is signposted to resources that the app determines may be helpful. These suggestions are based on the users answers to questions about what triggered their urge to self-harm.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Welcome to Biddulph High School's community hire facilities

We are delighted to be able to open up for Lettings again!
We offer a range of first class facilities available for hire during the evenings, weekends and school holidays, including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ▪ 3G Pitch (Floodlit) | ▪ Lecture Theatre |
| ▪ Dance Studio | ▪ Conference Room |
| ▪ Sports Hall | ▪ Main Hall |

Outdoor facilities are available to book from 6 April 2021

(Limited availability on the Astro Turf)

Indoor Children's activities are available for bookings from 12 April 2021

Indoor Adults are available for bookings from 17 May 2021

PLEASE NOTE, THESE DATES ARE DEPENDENT ON ANY UPDATED GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES



We can offer:

- ✓ Facilities all year round, including holidays
- ✓ Equipment set out and ready for your sessions
- ✓ Friendly and dedicated staff to help monitor your bookings and invoices
- ✓ Free parking onsite

Opening Hours (term-time):

Monday to Friday: 5.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Saturday: on request

For further information or to make a booking, please contact our dedicated facilities team:

email: lettings@biddulphhigh.co.uk or call us direct: 01782 521828

Biddulph High School, Conway Road, Knypersley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST8 7AR
Main switchboard: 01782 523977

ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR WATER CHARGES?

If you are a Severn Trent Water customer and require assistance, apply for help today via:

THE BIG DIFFERENCE SCHEME

- You could receive up to 90% off the average Severn Trent water bill through the Big Difference Scheme
- Eligibility for the scheme is based on all household income (excluding housing entitlements, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments and Attendance Allowance)
- If you are eligible for income based free school meals it's likely that you will qualify for the Big Difference Scheme

HOW TO APPLY:

- APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.BIGDIFF.CO.UK
- COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM
- SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

The Big Difference Scheme is funded by Severn Trent Water, which offers significantly reduced water charges to some households on a low income.

Apply now: www.bigdiff.co.uk





Term 1 Autumn 2021	Thursday 2 nd September 2021	INSET – school closed to students
	Friday 3 rd September 2021	INSET – school closed to students
	Monday 6 th September 2021	Year 9 students return
	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	All students return
	Friday 22 nd October 2021	School closes
	Half Term Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October	
	Monday 1 st November 2021	INSET – school closed to students
	Tuesday 2 nd November 2021	School opens to all students
	Friday 10 th December 2021	CPD INSET – school closed to students
	Friday 17 th December 2021	School closes at lunchtime (12.45 pm)
	Christmas Holidays Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January	
Term 2 Spring 2022	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	School opens to all students
	Friday 18 th February 2022	INSET - School closed to students
	Half Term Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February	
	Monday 28 th February 2022	School opens to all students
	Friday 8 th April 2022	School closes
	Easter Holidays Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April	
Term 3 Summer 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022	School opens to all students
	Monday 2 nd May 2022	School closed for Bank Holiday
	Friday 27 th May 2022	School closes
	Half Term Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June	
	Monday 6 th June 2022	School opens to all students
	Friday 22 nd July 2022	School closes at lunchtime (12.45 pm)
	Summer Holiday Monday 25th July – Friday 2nd September	

Please note that as these dates are published so far in advance, they could be subject to change.

“Working together to achieve our personal best”