

Our Ref: RBR/FSC-2502WSL

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## Year 10 and Year 11

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting week at Baysgarth, I want to pay tribute to our Year 10 and Year 11 students who have been sitting PPEs (mock exams) this week. Year 11 students have had nine exams in five days and have been outstanding in their attitude and effort. Despite everything that has been thrown at them over the last couple of years, they are more motivated than ever and determined to achieve their potential in the summer. We know we are going to have another amazing set of exam results this year and we also know that this will continue the year after as the Year 10 cohort is already showing their grit and determination with their commitment to weekly after school sessions and a superb attitude in their exam today.



One of the reasons behind their success is the fact that our staff go out of their way to support our students. It was lovely to see so many of our staff volunteering to run revision and coursework sessions for our students over the half term break. These were really well attended by our students who are taking every opportunity to get back on top after the disruption caused by the pandemic.

This dedication has certainly paid off for our Engineering students. Mr Browne and Mr Wilson worked tirelessly with them before their external exam in January and we received their results last week. The students achieved remarkable results, especially considering how much of their education had been disrupted. 50% of them achieved a Merit or Distinction grade in their exam, equivalent to grades 6-9 (an old B/A/A\* grade) which is a fantastic achievement - we're really proud of their efforts!

## Student Successes Outside School

Whilst we're on the theme of praising our students for amazing achievements, you will remember that in my last letter we wished Connie Bell good luck in her international dancing competition in Naples. Connie told me she had to dance from 10.00am to midnight in all her competitions, working with some of the world's top coaches and competing against some of the best young dancers from across the globe. Her results speak for themselves:



- **International Champions in Under 14s Ballroom and Under 16s Open 5 Dance Ballroom** 🏆 🏆 (1st place for both age categories)
- **Champions in Under 16s Latin 3 Dance** 🏆 (1st place)
- **Vice Champions in Under 14s Latin** 🏆 (2nd place)
- **Finalist Placing 6th Under 16s Latin Open** 🏆

A massive well done to Connie and to the rest of the competitors!

We've also received a letter of commendation for Sam Hogg from [Hull Wyke Rugby League](#). They have been fantastically impressed with his dedication and skill all season in what has been another trophy-winning season for his team. Well done Sam!

### Support for our Students and our Community

Baysgarth is one of the first schools in the area to sign up to the 'With Me in Mind' project. Education Mental Health Practitioners will be in school to support us with our mental health strategy and to support interventions for students with mild to moderate mental health needs. Their focus will be on supporting students who struggle with depression and anxiety, based around Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) principles, involving parents as well, and will be run through small group sessions or on a one to one basis. We know that continued cut-backs to local services to support students and families over the last decade have left many of our students lacking the help they need with their mental health and we are hoping that this initiative will go some way to redressing this balance. [Find out more here.](#)

Thank you for your responses to our plea for donations to support our local food bank. The goal was to fill Mr Browne's van and from the generosity of staff, students and the wider community, this was achieved. Mr Browne delivered the donations earlier this week...



### Exciting School Developments

Mr Browne has achieved further success for the school by working with Mr Wilson to put in a successful bid for Baysgarth to become North Lincolnshire's Greenpower Centre of Excellence. Our Greenpower electric racing cars have already competed around Silverstone but now the school has been recognised for the way we have built the elements associated with

design and build into our curriculum, leading to exciting and innovative learning opportunities for our students. We are the only school in the area to receive this accolade (we are one of only nine centres of excellence across the UK!) and will now be supporting other local schools to help them develop their Greenpower offer.

Now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, we are going full steam ahead for our school production of 'Matilda'. Miss Hamilton has been buzzing about the auditions and has reported 'the students have been incredible! We have a large number of students auditioning and many more as part of the ensemble. The commitment the students have shown and the way they have conducted themselves in preparation for the auditions has left me beaming with pride. The students have been rehearsing in my room at breaks and lunch times and staying behind after school to learn lines with me. I couldn't ask for more!'. Students have also been fundraising for the production with bake sales during the school day and we're very proud of their efforts to support what I am sure will be an incredible show.

The fundraising efforts of our Outlook Expedition team are already going down in the legends of Baysgarth. I've written to you before about how the team have to raise thousands of pounds to fund their trip to Thailand in 2023 and they've surpassed themselves recently with raising money through providing afternoon tea and pancakes for staff and students. This is on top of an incredible bake sale where they produced so much food we had to extend the sale for an extra day! If you would like to support them on their once in a lifetime quest with a donation, either as an individual or a local business, please get in touch with Ashleigh East via [ashleigh.east@baysgarthschool.co.uk](mailto:ashleigh.east@baysgarthschool.co.uk).



Our Maths team are delivering more outstanding lessons and engendering a passion for the subject amongst our students. One of our parents recently commented that their daughter 'is definitely a "maths whizz" as she likes to call herself. I don't know if you know this but towards the end of last year she started asking for a GCSE Maths text and work book. We got her one for Christmas and it was definitely one of her favourite presents. She is also currently working on the maths challenges Mr Cuthbert set her to complete before the end of Year 11. She accepted the challenge last week and is now on 107 of 900-odd so I think she is running with it. We are so proud of her and love hearing about her maths lessons around the dinner table! We have started to talk about careers in maths as she just has such a love and passion for it. Miss Roberts, we're in awe of the time, work and effort that you put into your day to day planning and teaching. It's more than that though, you are definitely an inspiration and role model to her and we really couldn't thank you enough.'

Meanwhile, Mr Thomas, our Food teacher, has been going down a storm with his Friday after school Takeaway Club. Students stay behind to cook their families a 'takeaway' meal as a special treat on a Friday night and they've been cooking some amazing dishes from pizza to Mongolian food.



Mrs Durda's Polish Club is continuing to grow and develop. We are incredibly proud to share that Hanna and Max Wojtala will be representing Baysgarth School in the upcoming 'Polish Heroes in Great Britain' competition (*Śladami Polaków w Wielkiej Brytanii*), organised by the Polish Educational Society (*Polska Macierz Szkolna*). The siblings spent hours of their half term break researching Bartonians with Polish backgrounds; interviewing resident, Edward Plaziuk; they collected various original documents, some dating back to 1940s; and then they created a poster, wrote a letter and sent their work to the Polish Educational Society to be considered in the competition. We're keeping our fingers crossed for Hanna and Max and all their fantastic dedication and efforts as the results are announced next month on 8<sup>th</sup> March.



Thanks to the investment that Baysgarth has put into IT provision in the school, as well as the number of families in our community that have signed up to the Chromebook leasing scheme, we are now in a position where we have nearly 900 laptops, Chromebooks or desktop computers available for our students to use at any one time. This means that we almost have the same number of devices as we have students on roll. The government encourages schools to aspire to a ratio of one computer to every two students, so we are doing twice as well as government aspirations. It's another area where our facilities and support for students is far ahead of other local schools and another reason for us to be proud to be the premier local school for educational provision.

This is again reflected in the number of students wanting to come to Baysgarth. Once again, we have been informed by the local Authority that we are oversubscribed for September 2022. This is despite us increasing the number of students in a year group from 180 to 210 to try and accommodate as many families as possible. We will still have more than a dozen students on a waiting list to come into Year 7. Thanks again for placing your faith in us to deliver high quality education to the students of this community.

### Parent Governor Ballot

A reminder that the [ballot](#) is open to vote in the Parent Governor election. We received two applications and all parents and carers have one vote each, which must be submitted by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**. You can find out more on our [website](#).

### And Finally ...

It's wonderful to finally write a letter full of positives and amazing things without having to mention Covid-19. We have had 212 students and 29 staff absent with Covid-19 since Christmas, so the impact on education is still huge, but it is no longer dominating our thoughts and actions which is a huge boost to everyone here in school. Thank you for all your support during the worst times of the pandemic - we couldn't have got through it without us all working together to minimise the impact on our children and their education. If you do need reminding of what living with Covid-19 means in practice, the key points are:

- From Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.
- Routine contact tracing will end. Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate.
- With immediate effect, the government has removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.
- Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive. People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting.
- Staff and students who test positive should use any test kits they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to school or college if they test negative. If they have run out, they should order additional test kits online via [gov.uk](#). From Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, the government will no longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.
- More details can be found in the [Living with Covid-19](#) plan.

Take care and have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

  
Richard Briggs  
Head Teacher