

head'sherald

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all looking forward to the half term break. All our young people are very precious to us and their safety is paramount. Therefore, please could you have a conversation with your child around road safety and the dangers of not concentrating when crossing the road. We work with parents/carers and outside agencies all the time on safety and we have had reports of young people who have nearly been injured because they are just not aware of what is happening around them. They also need to understand about the impact that this can have not only on themselves, but on the drivers too. We are going to do some work on this topic during PD sessions and assemblies in the coming months.

Safeguarding Inspection

On Tuesday 15th February, a TCAT Safeguarding and Business Compliance Review Team came into school to review our Safeguarding measures. It was clear for our visitors to see, that students come first in everything that we do, and the culture of care and support was evident. They were able to see that our systems and processes are embedded and are having a significant impact on the safeguarding of all students.

Mock Exams

Mock Exams start on Monday 28 February 2022 and run up to and including Friday 11 March 2022. These are for Year 11 and some Year 10 students. Please refer to the timetables that were handed out in January 2022. Seating plans are displayed in the canteen. Students need to be in full uniform and bring the necessary equipment required (including a scientific calculator). If you have any questions, please contact Miss Morris, Exams Manager jmorris@boteler.org.uk

Letters to the Earth

In English lessons, students will be expressing their views on saving the planet by writing letters to the earth. Many of our students' work will go on display in Golden Square from March 5th. People of all ages and backgrounds have submitted letters and everyone is free to do so. More information can be found on <https://www.letterstotheearth.com/>

World Book Day 2022

As a community passionate about reading, our school will be celebrating World Book Day 2022 by exploring some of our staff's favourite reads via a Masked Reader Quiz! Staff have been busy selecting, reading and filming extracts from one of their favourite books. Students will

guess the identity of the masked readers and be inspired to explore more about these books. Look out for the Boteler Masked Reader video on social media after half term.

Year 11 Assembly

On Monday 14th February, Mr Kinsey and Mr Koltan delivered an assembly to Year 11 on what students need to be doing over the coming weeks to help them prepare for both their Mock and real GCSE exams. Students were told they now have 38 school days remaining until the GCSE exams start in May. Students were also given some practical tips on how to revise and what would be happening over the coming weeks.

Year 9 Options

Meetings have been taken place with students regarding their option choices and will continue to take place after half term. Some interesting patterns have emerged already which we will be responding to. A reminder the deadline for option forms to be completed and handed to form tutors is the first Monday back after half term, Monday 28th February. Confirmation of the option choices will be emailed to parents/careers on Thursday 24th March. A reminder for students that all the information about the options process and additional guidance is available on the school website <https://www.boteler.org.uk/options/>

Reading Champions

Reading Champions is a national reading quiz that supports and celebrates reading culture within schools, encouraging reading for pleasure, reading diversely, and the development of reading stamina. Last year, our **fabulous** Year 9 team won **3rd prize** in an incredibly challenging competition amongst more than 30 schools across the North West. Good luck to this year's team.

If you would like more information on Literacy, including reading lists for all students, please visit <https://www.boteler.org.uk/literacy/>



Year 7 Steel Band

After running a successful steel band workshop for Year 7 students during Mental Health Week; the Music Department are launching a new Steel band for Year 7 students every Wednesday lunchtime. The rehearsal will begin at 1.25pm so students have some time to get their dinner. Passes are available from Mrs Clarke and Mrs Butcher. It is an exciting new opportunity and we would like to encourage students to get involved.

National Careers Week

We are looking forward to National Careers week which begins on Monday 7th March. Year 9, 10, 11 had talks this past week about T Levels the new POST 16 qualification. To find out more please attend Priestley College 's event on Tuesday 8th March. To book your place please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/3oRsa2j>

Boteler Chess Grand Prix

12 students took part in the first STB Chess Grand Prix competing against each other in a Swiss tournament (a method to get down to one player who has won all of their games) after school on Monday. After some hard-fought games and a tough competition Matas Milesinas came out as the outright winner with 5 wins from 5 games, in second was Hiroki Hasizume with 4 from 5 closely followed by Liliana Keating, Regan Waiting, Reace Thomson and Herbie Bennett with 3 points. Congratulations to all of the competitors who enjoyed the competition and who are looking forward to the next one! We will hold 3 Grand Prix events and this will identify the STB champion.



In the photo is Matas, Hiroke and Herbie receiving their certificate from Richard Betts the Chairman of the Warrington District Chess League and Headteacher Mrs Scott-Heron.

Year 11 Mock Exams

As you all know, the final Mock Exams start immediately on return from half term - the week beginning **Monday 28th February** to **Friday 11th March**. All students have been given a hard copy of these as well as being on the school website <https://www.boteler.org.uk/ks4-exam-timetables/> These Mock Exams will reflect the adaptations that have been made by the exam boards and will only assess the content outlined in the Advance Material. The content on the Mock Exams that students sit will be very similar to the content that will be assessed in the summer exams. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to achieve the best grades possible this year and is very unlikely to ever happen again as we move out of the pandemic. Results will be released to students as soon as they become available from their class/subject teacher. They will of course be emailed out to parents on Friday 25th March.

Half Term Revision

This week, Period 6 sessions have been delivered by Mr Vallender for English, Mr Koltan and Miss Jones for Maths and Mr Iqbal for Science. In these sessions, student have been given a specific resource, a bit like a fitness plan, for them to complete over the half term. In addition to the hard copy given to the students, electronic versions are available on Teams as students have voiced they would like to access them on their mobile phones at home. These resources

have been designed to give students the maximum gain and improvement for their investment in time. It will certainly help them prepare for the Mock exams.

In addition to the Period 6 Sessions, Mr Vallender is providing a revision/preparation session on Monday 21st February starting at 9am and finishing at 11am. Students will need to confirm their attendance with Mr Vallender before we break for half term on Friday. Mr Iqbal will also be delivering a Triple Science session on Tuesday 22nd February starting at 10am and finishing at 1pm. Again, students will need to confirm their attendance with Mr Iqbal before we break for half term on Friday. For both sessions above, a signing in sheet will be available in the reception area at the front of school where students come in each morning.

Thank you as always for all your support. Please enjoy half term and stay safe.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Scott-Herron'. The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters.

Beverley Scott –Herron
Headteacher