

# head'sherald

SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL, GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROAD, WARRINGTON, WA4 1JL | 01925 636414 | INFO@BOTELER.ORG.UK

## VOLUME 17 DATE 27TH JANUARY 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well. Firstly, can I apologise if I offended anyone by not recognising any other cultures who were celebrating the Lunar New Year in any of my correspondences last week. We are fully inclusive of all cultures traditions and religions and would not want to leave anyone out. Many thanks to those who contacted me regarding how you celebrate and the important of the Lunar New Year to you. For example, Tet Nguyen Dan, shortened to Tet, is Vietnam's Lunar New Year and is the most important annual celebration and public holiday in Vietnam spanning 5-7 day I find it so enlightening that I am able to have such informative and rich conversations with both the young people and parents and cares at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

It has been another busy but brilliant week and there has been so much to celebrate with our young people – more will be coming out in the Sports Bulletin and the Performing Arts communications.

### 'That's Entertainment' – The School Show

PLEASE do not forget to buy your ticket from the school reception **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm** start. I have been privy to the rehearsals and it is going to be amazing.

### Strike Action Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Please click the link - <https://bit.ly/3HCHdXN> - to read the letter that was sent out this week. School will only be open for Year 10, 11, The Designated Provision and those students in all years who access The Progress Hub.

### Year 9 Options Process

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The attendance was excellent. It was amazing to see how keen our Year 9 students were, asking our teachers detailed questions about the subjects and courses on offer. All the information that was presented on the evening including the 2023-2025 Options booklet and supporting material is available on our designated Options Webpage. The deadline for the Options form to be submitted to Year 9 form Tutors is Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Year 9 Parents' Evening**

Following on from the Year 9 Options evening, we will be holding our Year 9 parents' evening on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January**. Bookings are still available on School Cloud. This is an excellent opportunity for students and parents/carers to ask teachers about potential option choices as well as how students are currently working in each of their subjects.

## **Year 11 Mock 2 Exams**

Year 11 were issued with their Mock 2 Exam Timetables in registration last week. These exams start on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February which is the first Monday back after half term. It is so important that students are working independently at home each evening and that students engage with all the revision material and resources that will be provided over half term. Mr Koltan delivered an assembly to Year 11 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January about how much revision students should be doing independently at home. For students in Year 11, the national average is between 3-4 hours of revision each evening. Students' revision should be well under way by now especially given the proximity of the next set of Mock exams.

## **Survivor Story: Leah Burman walks year 9 students through her father's remarkable survival during the Holocaust**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 9 students had the excellent opportunity to listen to the story of a Holocaust survivor, Ziggy Landschaft, through a presentation delivered by his daughter Leah Burman.

The presentation walked students through his horrific journey of survival and pain using primary evidence, maps and voice recordings from Ziggy, now aged 97, to help understand the human impact of the holocaust. This complimented their current studies of the holocaust in their history lessons this term and served as a harrowing reminder of why Holocaust Memorial Day and the teaching of the systematic murder of over 6 million Jewish people is so important.

A synopsis of Ziggy's journey and suffering can be found below:

Ziggy was born in 1925 in a town called Chorzow, Poland, and grew up with his father Chaim, his mother Liba and his younger brother Mayer. He grew up in a traditional orthodox Jewish community, and as a result his family were singled out during the Second World War and transported to the Cracow ghetto in 1940. As we tracked his journey we learnt of the tragic death of his mother Liba, who was murdered in the Cracow ghetto one day whilst going about her shopping. Ziggy and his brothers were then transported to Plaszow labour camp before moving onto Gross - Rosen concentration camp in Germany, where his father Chaim died in Ziggy's arms from being overworked.

In 1945 the war was reaching an end and the Germans needed to hide their barbaric activities, Ziggy and his younger brother Mayer were taken on a death march in the freezing winter of January 1945, dressed only in camp uniform, without shoes, and sleeping in the open air, to the notorious Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria where the brothers were separated. We learnt that Mayer died soon after, aged 18, from starvation and exhaustion.

By age 19, Ziggy hardly had the energy to move and was saved by a small group of Czech political prisoners who generously shared their meagre rations with him, the group dug a tunnel under a fence and on May 6<sup>th</sup>, escaped under the wire. Ziggy was shot through the back of his neck and his thigh during this escape, but woke up in a hospital where he was

nursed back to health by the men who had liberate his camp. Despite the pain he endured, Ziggy went on to live in London before retiring in Israel where he lives to this day. He married Leah's mother, another Holocaust survivor, and had 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. His motto, Le Chayim, a Jewish toast meaning "To Life", is a powerful one and the students in the sessions delivered were incredibly grateful for the opportunity to hear Ziggy's story.

We cannot thank Leah, Ziggy and the Northern Holocaust Education Group enough for allowing us to have such an in-depth, eye opening and impactful session.

## **Personal Development**

Need to talk? Whatever's on your mind, ChatHealth can help. Even if you just need someone who understands or want advice for a friend.

The ChatHealth teams help lots of people like teenagers in schools, parents of young children and mums with new born babies. ChatHealth is a confidential, safe and easy platform for you to speak to a qualified health professional. Just send a message - you don't have to give your name. Discreet and quick. It only takes one message to start making a difference. You'll get confidential advice from trained health staff. For more information and to start chatting, visit <https://chathealth.nhs.uk>.

## **Bike safety**

We have an increasing number of students coming to school on bikes. We have previously delivered sessions regarding road safety; however, many students do not wear a helmet. If your child does ride a bike to school, please ensure they wear a helmet. Can we also ask that students use a bike lock (guidance suggests levels of security of the lock should match the value of the bike) and that they do not leave their bikes on the student pathway at the front of school.

## **Vaping**

As you are likely aware, we are seeing an increase in young people choosing to use vape devices both across Warrington and nationally. This is something that we are deeply concerned about, from the perspective of the potential immediate dangers and the unknown long-term health risks.

It is illegal for stores to sell vaping products to under 18's. Worryingly, we have become aware of shops in Warrington that are selling disposable vape devices to underage children. Of even greater concern, is that the products they are selling are often illegal or counterfeit devices. Please advise your child on the risks associated with vaping.

Any student choosing to bring a vape device to school will be sanctioned according, with the device disposed of.

## Careers

### Year 7, 8, 9 Work Experience with ITV

Monday 30th January at 4.30pm - [ITV "First Step" live online career challenge](#) – Who should be the main sponsor of Britain's Got Talent in 2023?

Tuesday 31st January at 5pm - [ITV "Next Step" live online career challenge](#) – ITVX – Ads or No Ad's that is the question!

Thursday 2nd February at 6.30pm - [ITV live online career panel](#) - We invite students, parents, teachers to discover more about their career and placement opportunities in data!

W/C 6<sup>th</sup> February is National Apprenticeship Week, all students will take part in various workshops and activities to learn about Apprenticeships. We have businesses and colleges coming in to talk to students about their apprenticeships and what they offer, how to apply and what they involve

In their ISP there is additional information or please click here:

<https://www.boteler.org.uk/careers/>

## PE AND SPORT UPDATE

### Oarsome Success!

Our Year 8 and Year 9 Rowing Team competed at the Indoor Rowing Competition at Birchwood High School with many other North West Schools. The atmosphere was electric and all the students were fired up and ready to go!

The events were an 8 minute Girls and Boys Relay, Year 8 3 minute individual and Year 9 4 minute individual race.



The positive attitude and determination the students applied to their races highlighted sheer mental and physical endurance leading to all the Year 8's smashing their PB's and some of our Y9's and taking home medals! Lewis Brooks (Gold), Ruby Wells (Gold), Maisie Seed (Silver), Year 9 Girls Relay (Gold) and Year 9 Boys Relay (Silver).

One of our Year 8 students finished 9th out of 140 in his individual piece and has qualified to compete for Warrington and Merseyside in London later in the year!

A brilliant effort from everyone, well done!

## The Boteler Sports Social is on every Thursday!

**What:** a fun, welcoming environment to play sport with your friends – competitive or non competitive.

**Where:** Ball Hall

**When:** every Thursday 3-4.15pm

**Who:** all year groups and all welcome

### Events to look out for...

Indoor Sportshall Athletics – All Year groups – 7<sup>th</sup> February

U12-U16 Basketball - starts 8<sup>th</sup> February

U12-U16 Netball – starts again in February

Year 7 Boys Rugby Competition - 9<sup>th</sup> February

Year 9 Cheshire Cup Football Quarter Final – date TBC

## PE WIDER CURRICULUM TIMETABLE:

|                 | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   |
|-----------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| LUNCH           | FOOTBALL<br>(ALL YEARS)-<br>BALL HALL<br>AND TENNIS<br>COURTS<br><br>DANCE CLUB<br>(ALL YEARS)-<br>OLD GYM | FOOTBALL<br>(ALL YEARS)- BALL<br>HALL AND TENNIS<br>COURTS                          | DODGEBALL<br>(YEAR 7+8)- BALL HALL<br><br>TABLE TENNIS<br>(ALL YEARS)- BALL<br>HALL<br><br>BASKETBALL (YEAR<br>7+8+9)- BALL HALL<br><br>SHOW REHEARSALS<br>(ALL YEARS)- MUSIC<br>ROOM | FOOTBALL<br>(ALL YEARS)- BALL HALL<br>AND TENNIS COURTS<br><br>DANCE CLUB<br>(ALL YEARS)- OLD GYM<br><br>SHOW REHEARSALS<br>(ALL YEARS)- MUSIC<br>ROOM | FOOTBALL<br>(ALL YEARS)-<br>BALL HALL AND<br>TENNIS COURTS   |
| AFTER<br>SCHOOL |  | BOYS FUTSAL (ALL<br>YEARS)- BALL HALL<br><br>GIRLS FUTSAL (ALL<br>YEARS)- BALL HALL | BTEC SPORT P6 (YEAR<br>11)- ROOM 29   | BOTELER SPORTS SOCIAL<br>(ALL YEARS)- BALL HALL<br><br>DANCE CLUB<br>(ALL YEARS)- OLD GYM  | BTEC SPORT /<br>DANCE /<br>DRAMA P6<br>(YEAR 11)-<br>ROOM 29 |



Beverley Scott –Herron  
**Headteacher**