



Happy New Year! The pupils appear to have returned from their holidays fresh and excited about the prospects for the term. It is an unusually short term with Easter so early this year but there is much to look forward to over the next few weeks; there are a plethora of House competition events, music concerts and the school musical (*Jekyll and Hyde*), trips to the theatre, sports tours and the annual expedition to Nepal. We certainly look forward to welcoming you to some of these events and to seeing many of you at Parents' evenings.

The S5 pupils have hit the ground running, starting off the year with their GCSE mocks. Hopefully all of the boys have revised carefully during the holidays so that these exams can provide a helpful indicator of the areas they still need to work on before the real exams in the summer. The U6 pupils have their mocks to look forward to on their return from the half-term break in February.

Thankfully, the weather this coming week looks to be fine so the football season can get underway immediately with the first set of fixtures already taking place this weekend against Hull Collegiate School. The girls' netball team are also in action on Wednesday at the EIS. We wish all the teams a successful season.

Successful Ski Trip to Spain

Over the Christmas holiday, Mr Woodley took a number of S4 and Sixth Form Birkdale pupils out to the Sierra Nevada region of Spain for a memorable ski trip. Europe seems to have had a spectacular snowfall this year and the pupils enjoyed excellent skiing conditions.



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13 January

U15, U14, U13, U12 Football v Hull Collegiate School (H)

Monday 15 January

S2 House Cross Country – 11.00 am - **postponed**

S1 House Cross Country – 2.00 pm - **postponed**

Dubai Cricket Tour Information Evening (Heeley Hall) – 6.00 pm

Tuesday 16 January

A Level Psychology Visit to Sheffield Crown Court

U15, U13 Basketball v Meadowhead School (H) – 4.00 pm

Wednesday 17 January

Girls Netball (A Team) v Hull Collegiate School (H) (EIS) – 2.00 pm

1st XI, 2nd XI Football v Hull Collegiate School (A) – 2.45 pm

Thursday 18 January

U17 Basketball v Wickersley School (H) – 4.00 pm

Saturday 20 January

16+ Scholarship Exam Day (Grayson) – 9.30 am

Linguists recognised by Sheffield University

Congratulations to Ray Cheung and Henry Taylor who have achieved first and second prize respectively in the Herbert Hughes Spanish competition. This prestigious competition is run by Sheffield University to promote the study of Hispanic languages in schools.

1st XI, U14, U12A, U12B Football
v Queen Ethelburga's College
(H) – 10.30 am

2nd XI, U15, U13A, U13B
Football v Queen Ethelburga's
College (A) – 10.30 am

Experience of a lifetime

Towards the end of last term, Salahudeen Hussain (S2) travelled to Thailand with the Sheffield Thai Boxing Gym to train at some of the prestigious Thai Boxing camps run by former Bangkok Stadium champions. The heat and humidity was oppressive and the Thai trainers regimen even more so! Sal however dealt with the environment stoically and embraced the opportunity to learn from the instructors.

During his time in Thailand, Sal also had the opportunity to visit some of the Buddhist monasteries, Wot Poh and the reclining Buddha, in the process learning much about Thai culture, particularly their reverence to their King. After an initial reluctance to try Thai food, sticking with pizza and chips, he enjoyed Pad Thai - a signature street food. He was less keen to try the grilled scorpion!

Sal also saw the hardships many Thais endure and the manner in which many who are poor are exploited by the wealthy – sadly, particularly by some Western tourists. It made him all the more grateful for the opportunities he has in Sheffield.

Sunday 21 January

Birkdale Senior School/Sheffield
High School Joint Orchestra Day
(Heeley Hall) – 1.30 – 5.30 pm



It is always a very great pleasure and privilege to tell you about the achievements of our pupils both in and outside of their involvement at Birkdale. Please do not hesitate to contact me at npietrek@birkdalschool.org.uk if you ever have any news about your child that you would like to have included in the bulletin.