



Let them eat cake!

This week at the senior school we have experienced a week dominated by cake! On Tuesday we were delighted to announce that this year's school charity will be the Peace Garden School in Nepal. Members of the L6 who will be travelling to Nepal in the Easter holiday started their fundraising with a cake sale raising over £300! Swift on their heels was the return of the Lower School Great Birkdale Bake-off. This half term S2 and S3 students are testing their baking skills in a variety of different themed weekly competitions, all under the impeccable scrutiny of our very own Paul Hollywood aka Mr Lidbury. Finally, today sees the school celebrate the start of this academic year with the family BBQ and fair. As part of this event students and parents were invited to enter their best baking creations for the Birkdale Bake-off competition.

A big thank you must go to everyone who has contributed to these events either by baking or buying a cake. It is wonderful to see so many people make an effort to develop a skill or help raise money for a good cause. Needless to say this has been an exceptional week, we do encourage a healthy and balanced diet for all members of the school community. Next week will be a cake-free zone!

20 years in Nepal

As mentioned above, we are delighted to announce that this year's school charity will be the Peace Garden School in Nepal. This year we are celebrating 20 years of visits and support for the schools, hospitals and orphanages that we are in partnership with. During this time, we have seen great success especially with the Peace Garden School which has gone from strength to strength but also times of great struggle, not least following the earthquakes in 2015.

Before our next visit at Easter we will be organising a range of activities to fundraise as much as possible including:

- Peak Edges Sponsored Walk – 6 October.
- Design a Christmas Card competition – 23 September onwards
- Charity auction – 22 November

More details will be sent via Birkdale Post; please get involved if you can.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 21 September

U18A, U13A, U12A Rugby v Queen Ethelburga's (A) – 10.00 am

U15A, U14A Rugby v Queen Ethelburga's (H) – 10.00 am

Mon 23 September

U12A Football v Oakwood High School (H) – 2.15 pm

L6 Welcome Evening with Form Tutors (Heeley Hall/Grayson) – 7.00 pm

Tuesday 24 September

U14A Hockey v Tapton School (H) – 4.15 pm

S5 GCSE Drama Devised Performance Examination (Lecture Theatre) – 4.30 pm

Information Evening for S3 Parents and Meet the Tutors (Heeley Hall/Library/Exhibition Area) – 6.00 pm

Wednesday 25 September

U13A Tennis v Crossley Heath School (A) – 1.00 pm

Thursday 26 September

S3 Classics Trip to Doncaster – 9.30 am – 3.30



House Badminton 1 – 12.40 pm

U15A Football v Bolton School Boys Division (H) – 2.15 pm

London Research Trip Presentation Evening (Lecture Theatre) – 7.00 pm

Friday 27 September

Harvest Assembly – 8.50 – 9.25 am

House Badminton 2 – 12.40 pm

Saturday 28 September

U13A, U13B, U12A, U12B Rugby v Ratcliffe College (A) – 10.30 am

U18A, U15A, U14A, U14B v Ratcliffe College (H) – 10.30 am

Sunday 29 September

Old Birkdalian Tree Planting Ceremony (Birkdale Square) – 4.00 pm

Sporting Success Continues

We have continued to celebrate the sporting successes of Birkdale students this week. Captain of the senior tennis team Isaac took part in a tennis coaching clinic at Wimbledon recently, hosted by Dan Bloxham, Head Coach of the All England Club, and former British No. 1 Tim Henman. Congratulations also go to S4 student Sean who has been selected for the Independent Schools Football Association U15 national squad. Well done to both boys!

Royal Marine in the Making

Congratulations also go to S4 student Sal, who was recently selected to visit the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone. This was a rare opportunity for him to visit a world renowned military training establishment and home to the Royal Marine Commandos. Sal is very committed to the Royal Marine Cadets and hopes to read Medicine at university before serving in the marines.

Social Media Safety

This week our School Liaison Police Officer PC Moray McAllister has delivered an assembly to each section of the school. He spoke about the criminal justice system and how to avoid some of the pitfalls experienced by some young people. Included in this was advice on e-safety and best practice for using social media. At Birkdale our advice to parents regarding mobile phones and social media is:

- Check your child's phone regularly.
- Do not let your child keep their phone in their bedroom overnight.
- Know the age recommendations for different apps.
- Apply filters or screen time to help control content and usage where relevant.

If you would like to discuss the above or have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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 prking@birkdalschool.org.uk if you ever have any news about your child that you would like to have included in the bulletin.