

A Message from Mr Harris

We have made it to the end of the longest half term of the year and I think that we are all ready for the half term break. It has been a challenging start to the year but we have embraced many adaptations to our normal school life, some of which, for example the new online Parents' Evening system, have been very well received.

Thank you all so much for the way that you have supported the School, and in particular your sons and daughters, with the demands of this term.

Please can I ask you to reinforce the government COVID guidelines of 'Hands – Face – Space' to your sons and daughters to ensure that the risk of infection is minimised and we are all ready to start the new half term. Please continue to keep us updated of any tests and results by emailing covid@birkdalschool.org.uk at any point over the holiday period.

I know that the move to Tier 3 in South Yorkshire is a great frustration to many of us but I hope you will still manage to have some time out and a rest.

Peter Harris

U6 Geography Field Trips

U6 geographers enjoyed two days of fieldwork this week in preparation for their A Level coursework projects. On Tuesday, they focused on physical geography and visited Hornsea to study coastal defence schemes as well as studying coastal landforms at Flamborough Head. The following day they stayed closer to home and focused on human geography visiting a variety of locations including Kelham Island. Both days were valuable opportunities for students to collect primary data in preparation for the write-up of their non-examined assessments.

Express yourself!

Lower Sixth Drama and Theatre Studies students devised a piece of theatre this week using expressionist techniques inspired by their study of *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. Using their voices, bodies and props to convey this powerful form of theatre, the students certainly seemed to embrace the challenge!

Dates for your Diary**Sunday 1 November**

Half Term ends

Monday 2 November

L6 Assessments start

S1 Assessments (Maths, English, French) start

Tuesday 3 November

S4 Parents Evening – 5.00-9.00 pm

Wednesday 4 November

University Admissions Tests – Day 1

Thursday 5 November

University Admissions Tests – Day 2

Friday 6 November

Senior School Photo Day 2 (Sixth Form)

Saturday 7 November

Birkdale Football "Bubble" Competition (U12A, U12B, U13A, U13B) – 9.00 am

Birkdale Football "Bubble" Competition (U14A, U14B, U15A) – 10.45 am

Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Sunday Guided Military Tour of Sheffield General Cemetery (including Ceremony of Remembrance) – 10.30-11.30 am

(Note – limited numbers permitted – advance booking via General Cemetery required.) (Tel 0114 268 3486, sgct@gencem.org)

Doncaster Knights Coaching Masterclass



A big thanks to Matt Smith and Tyson Kidd from Doncaster Knights who provided a rugby masterclass to three of our year groups on Saturday. All those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed their training, taking part in a range of drills and benefitting from some expert guidance and advice.

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award



Congratulations to yet more students on completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award encourages participants to improve fitness, gain skills, help others and explore the countryside. Well done to all those receiving their awards this week!

Individual Success



Congratulations to S2 pupil James who has been selected for the U13 Sheffield Schools' Football Squad. James completed a rigorous selection process and his place in the squad recognises the talent of this promising young footballer. Congratulations also go to our Head of Art, Mr Armitage, whose entry in the Ashmolean Museum Lockdown Competition has been shortlisted in the last 13 out of 1200 entries.

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