

## Parent Bulletin

22 January 2021

### Cracking Codebreakers



The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition kicked off online at 4pm on Monday 18th January 2021 and Birkdale students were able to use Google Classroom to take part in the proceedings. It was good to see a number of returning code-breakers and even better to see several new S1 members of Cryptography Club.

S1 and S3 students have the chance to apply the decrypting skills they have been learning in their recent programming lessons. There was a distinctly fraternal feel to the affair, with brothers Ethan & Seamus and Louis & Max taking part. Seamus and Max are old hands in this event, having won prizes in a previous year. The brotherly support extended to a sharing of ideas about how to solve the first puzzle as there is no team leader board this year. We are looking forward to building up our repertoire of skills over the coming weeks.

### Weekly Wellbeing – Random Acts of Kindness



Research shows that helping others can be beneficial to our own mental health. With this in mind Mr Low challenged his form this week to perform a random act of kindness during one of their form periods. In just 15 minutes pupils reported back what they had done – revealing much tea-making, tidying the house and helping siblings. A great way to start the day for everyone in form 1L. Maybe this weekend we should do likewise and look for opportunities to do an act of kindness for someone? It's a great way of helping yourself as well as another person.

## Online Learning



Lessons on Google Classroom have been in full swing this week. In Theatre Studies L6 pupils explored different ways to demonstrate power through their use of body language – and then demonstrated this on screen! The PE department have been running live HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) workouts, making sure we all get a regular fix of physical activity. While in music, S1 pupils have been making their own drum kits and learning how to play them – improving their co-ordination and timing skills. It may not be our preferred style of teaching and learning but it's clear everyone is rising to the challenge of the current situation.

## High Society



Birkdale Medical Society continues to go from strength to strength. This week they welcomed Dan Shahzad, a recent alumni of the school, to speak about his experiences as a first year dental student. He gave an inspiring talk about navigating A Levels, university applications and how university life is different to being in Sixth Form. Meanwhile this week's Newton Society welcomed Jordan Mcelwee from the University of Sheffield Physics Department who spoke about 'Cosmic Ghosts – The Hunt for Neutrinos'. Despite the lockdown restrictions, it is fantastic to see the number of guest speakers continuing to inspire Birkdale pupils. Many thanks to the staff who make these events happen!

## The Chase is on!



It was great to see ex-Birkdale pupil, Sam Peters on the ITV quiz show The Chase yesterday evening. The show is a gruelling test of general knowledge and Sam gave a good account of himself in the usual high-pressure environment!

*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](mailto:prking@birkdaleschool.org.uk) if you ever have any news about your child that you would like to have included in the bulletin.*