



BIRKENHEAD
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

BHSA Newsletter

Christmas Edition

2020

Edition 07

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter and an opportunity to reflect on some of the events of the term. This is also a chance for me to thank everyone throughout the academy for their hard work and support this year and also to thank all of our parents and carers for their support and encouragement throughout the year. 2020 has certainly had its challenges, but the resilience, team spirit and positivity at BHSA has shone through; there are some wonderful examples to read about here. I know our Christmas celebrations, performances and nativities will look very different this year as we operate in a virtual world, but I know you will agree that all the girls' performances still generate a warm glow when you watch them. This glow matches their rosy cheeks after all the freezing outdoor rehearsals this year!

Please remember that we finish early on Wednesday 16th December:

The staggered finish times are as follows:

Nursery & Reception: 11.45am

Year 1 & 2: 11.55am

Year 3 & 4: 12.05pm

Year 5 & 6: 12.15pm

Seniors 12:30pm

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming the girls back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Rebecca Mahony



Nursery

This half term, Nursery girls have been planting herbs and bulbs for our outdoor area. We have also learnt about Diwali and made diya lamps from salt dough which the girls painted and decorated with sequins and glitter.

happy diwali



Reception

Reception have enjoyed a jam-packed term from observing Dinosaur eggs hatching to attending a Scarecrows wedding and everything in between. We couldn't be prouder of how well the Reception classes have settled, following new routines, and making wonderful friendships. It is fantastic to see the progress they are making each day. We look forward to seeing what a new year has in store for us.



A recycling Christmas

With so many girls in reception enjoying a school lunch Mrs Nelson set herself a recycling project to reuse the brown paper bags. It wasn't long before the Reception classroom was decorated in wonderful snowflakes. From then, the bags were also reused to make Christmas gift bags and Christmas cards.



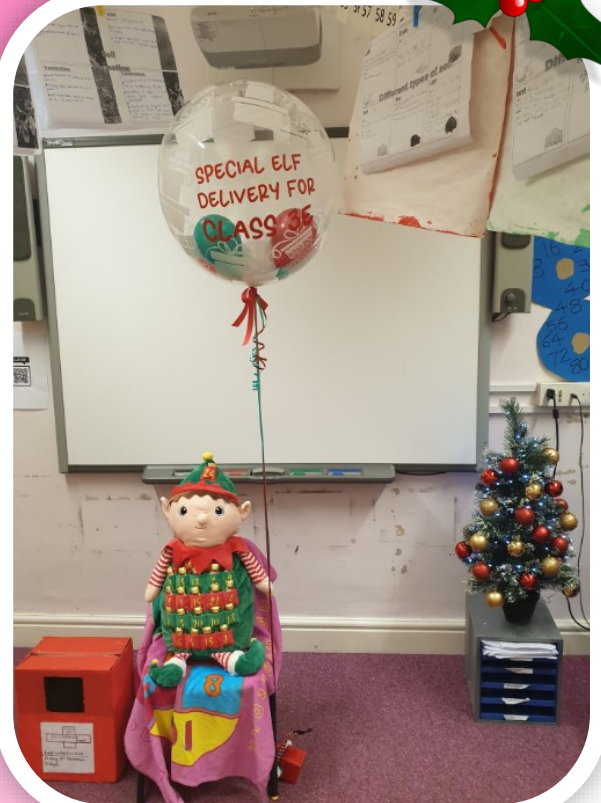
Christmas Nativity

The infants have been busy practising their Christmas Nativity. This year has brought its challenges with the year 1 performers (including Mary and Joseph) needing to be socially distanced in their bubbles and all singing needing to take place outdoors in somewhat unreliable weather conditions! However, all our wonderful pupils have, as ever, risen to the occasion and we couldn't be more proud of them.



Class 3E

The girls in 3E have recently enjoyed running their laps for the Kairos foundation during their PE lesson. They all tried very hard and have brought their money in for their medals in order to raise money for this amazing charity. Equally, in their music lessons, the girls have enjoyed practising their Christmas song. They created many of the actions to the song themselves and have worked hard to be ready for recording day. On Tuesday 1st December, the girls were thrilled to find that an elf with a balloon had arrived in their classroom and the elf gave the girls a chocolate advent calendar. On Friday 11th December, the whole of Year 3 are having a pyjama day as a reward for all their hard work this term and to celebrate everything that they have achieved. To complete our Project Explore topics for this term, Year 3 are also having an art day on Monday 14th December; the girls are making salt dough Stone Age jewellery, Stone Age paintings and painting rocks.



BHSA Junior school staff have replaced the Christmas card tradition with a 'Giving Tree'. Our Junior Choir and selected instrumentalists usually visit Oxtan Grange Care Home to provide the residents with some fun seasonal entertainment. However, due to the pandemic that has not been possible. Therefore, our staff have kindly provided a gift for each resident at the care home to demonstrate our support and best wishes. Our children are also taking part in the 'Hearts for Homes' initiative which promotes close community links. We aim to share some joy following what has been a very difficult year for so many.

Social distanced debate club

Miss Murphy and her year 12 politics A level group have just started our socially distanced debate club! We have already had our first debate as girls argued the motion 'People need protecting from violent video games, films and lyrics' with the proposition making the winning arguments. Well done to all who spoke, particularly, Millie Healing, Jess Salisbury, Grace Osuhor, Frankie Lowe and Lucy Wickstead. Next debate is looking at the motion 'historical monuments to controversial figures should remain'



Mrs McCarthy and Miss Murphy have fully embraced virtual learning to create a suite of online videos and resources to show off our wonderful sixth form! Given the Covid 19 restrictions we have been unable to host an open evening in the usual format but never a pair to be deterred, the Sixth Form leadership team co-ordinated a range of online and lunchtime events within the year 11 bubble. In an exciting development, in addition to our sixth form instagram account @BHSAsixthform, we now have a You tube Channel! You can find us by simply searching BHSA Sixth Form. Here you will find lots of videos including subject taster sessions, welcome talks and much more!

Year 11 careers interviews

Since October we have been working our way through the year 11 form groups, offering each of our students an independent 1x1 careers interview to ensure that our students have the very best advice when it comes to next steps! Interviews are conducted by Career Connect and if your daughter / ward would like an additional appointment or further guidance please contact Miss Murphy who can arrange this for you. Career connect would like to thank the year 11 pupils that they have spoken to so far for being so enthusiastic and polite.



Year 13 Health and Social Care

Year 13 Health and Social care students were due to complete their 100 hours of work experience placements this year, many of which were in care homes and other voluntary aid groups around Wirral. Sadly, they have not been able to, so in BHSA they have pledged to donate their time through a phone call to talk with the residents of these care homes. They have really made a difference!

A huge congratulations to our year 13 student Mollie Brown who has secured a conditional place at Chester University to study Midwifery, a very competitive course. Well done!



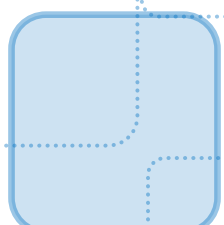
GDST Alumna of the Year

We were thrilled and incredibly proud to have Louisa Blake, a former student of BHSA, named as this year's winner of the prestigious GDST Alumna of the Year Award. She was also the guest speaker at our Virtual Prize Giving Event this year, where we celebrated last year's Y11 and Y13 GCSE, BTEC and A Level results.

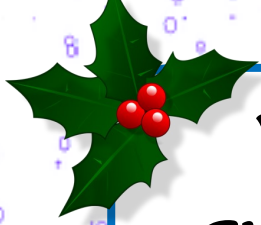
Louisa Blake is founder of Looby Lou's Lovely Lunches, a social initiative that began when she realised many students in primary schools across Wirral, were going hungry during the school holidays. Louisa noticed the behaviour of some pupils changed before holidays, facing the uncertainty of not having a regular meal each day. This term we have been supporting her charity. Congratulations from us all.



Undivided at BHSA



In the summer of 2020, the GDST launched the Undivided campaign which seeks to celebrate diversity and make a real change. At BHSA we embraced the opportunity to carefully look at diversity and inclusion and what it means for our community. We continue to work with the Anthony Walker foundation and also celebrate our multicultural and diverse community by a variety of assemblies and close look at how we can expand opportunities in our curriculum. All students from year 5 onwards were asked to reflect on their experiences via a GDST survey. Helsa Ugbelase has agreed to be our pupil lead on diversity and inclusion and we look forward to more critical debate in 2021.



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL AT BHSA



REMINDER:

School opens on 5th January 2021
following the Christmas break

Follow us



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