

Student Hero Saves the Day/School Award Success

BPS

Class of 2016...



We wish you every
success in the future!

Headteacher's Message



As we approach the end of the school year, we inevitably reflect on our journey since September and take in all that has been achieved. The world of education moves at such a fast pace that we often miss out on the opportunity to regularly take stock of all that is happening, as we are so immersed in the wonderfully busy days of school life!

The current education climate is changing perhaps more rapidly than ever before. New GCSEs, the loss of National Curriculum levels and new school performance measures are just a few of the most significant developments. I am pleased to say that we have been planning for these changes for some time. Our thinking here at BPS is that the curriculum is truly a five-year journey where we seek to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding year on year in order for all our students to be successful in every subject area at the end of their time with us. The work that we have done this year to develop this has been forward-

thinking and will, I know, yield even more positive results for our students going forward.

In addition to a relentless pursuit of the highest academic standards for every student, you will see from the pages of our newsletter that we are determined that life at The Birkenhead Park School is also about accessing a wealth of opportunities and developing wider skills. Whether students' interests lie in sport, the arts or overseas travel, you will see just a few examples of the wonderful range of activities and events that have taken place this term.

I am incredibly proud of our students and enjoy celebrating their achievements every week when I meet our "Stars of the Week". The growing use of our Twitter account and Facebook page to share these good news stories has been very well received and has also enabled us to celebrate their success even more widely.

The end of the year is also a time to plan ahead to make sure that we hit the ground running in September. Much of the forward thinking, planning and preparation takes place before the summer holidays. Teams of staff are busier than ever with plans for next year, both for our new Year 7 intake and also our current students. I am delighted to share that we will be welcoming record numbers into our new Year 7 and will be working hard once again to ensure that their transition to secondary school is as successful as in previous years.

Finally, I would like to share with you an extract from a letter that I received recently from a local resident. The letter states "Most days I see pupils from your school walking through the park. I am extremely impressed. Their uniforms are always smart and they stand aside to let me past. The pupils I see are a credit to your school and more importantly to themselves". What a wonderful way to end my message to you as a very proud Headteacher of The Birkenhead Park School.

With my thanks for your ongoing support and my very best wishes to you for a wonderful and relaxing summer holiday.

Helen Johnson, Headteacher

Celebrating in Style at Leasowe Castle

Our annual Year 11 Prom was once again held at Leasowe Castle Hotel on Friday 17th June and everyone certainly dressed up for the occasion.

It was a fantastic celebration and special thanks must go to staff and students for their hard work over the last five years. Good luck for results day and we wish all our Year 11's success in the future.



Pupils 'Discover Birkenhead' in authentic event

Hundreds of Wirral Primary School children were taken back in time when they visited our school for a unique insight into history.

Our 'Discover Birkenhead' event saw the Year 5 pupils become investigators and learn about the history of the school as well as Birkenhead and its community.

Actors assisted staff dressed in authentic costumes to give the children realistic snippets of history from historical figures such as John Laird and Andrew Irvine, to a ghost from the war.

The children were given four investigations focussing on finding out about Birkenhead Park, the impact of World War I and II, famous people of the local area and the history of The Birkenhead Park School itself. In groups they created timelines to preserve the history for future generations.

Year 5 pupil Harvey from Mersey Park Primary said: "The event was really good because we learnt lots of historical facts about Birkenhead. It was fascinating to learn about the school and I am now thinking of coming to BPS."

The event is organised by the Year 7 team as part of the schools Primary Liaison work. Head of Year 7 Miss Evans said: "The children always have a fantastic time and we put a lot of preparation and effort into making it an exciting as well as educational morning for the children. They always leave with smiles on their faces and learn a lot from the visit which is great to see."

Green room technology was also used to take pictures of the pupils in costumes onto historic backdrops, something to give them a lasting memento from the day.

Nathan from Mersey Park Primary said: "It has been really interesting and I have learnt all about the park and who created it."

Macy from The Priory Primary said: "I have had a really good time, the actors were really funny and I have learnt a lot. I really enjoyed the green screen and seeing everyone dressed up."

Ten schools took part in 'Discover Birkenhead' over a four day period.

Ms Sanders from Bedford Drive Primary said: "What a fantastic learning opportunity for the children to find out about the history of their local area. The staff and students from The Birkenhead Park School were enthusiastic and charismatic and we all learnt a lot, thank you!"

The 'Discover Birkenhead' event was hosted in the Year 7 base which is a 'school within a school' that gives the younger students the best possible start to their secondary education by easing the transition from primary to secondary school.



Vital first aid training leads to student rescue

A Year 7 student from The Birkenhead Park School never expected to be putting the first aid skills she had just been taught in school into action so quickly.

Sophie was part of a group of students who were taught vital life saving skills by a trainer from St John Ambulance this term. The session aimed to give students the confidence to act quickly and effectively if someone collapsed and that is exactly what she did.

While walking to school a few days later Sophie and two of her friends saw a woman collapse and hit her head. She appeared to be fitting and they rushed over along with another member of the public.

While one of the students called an Ambulance, Sophie instructed the others to turn the woman over to make sure she didn't choke. Sophie then started to talk to the woman to reassure her and keep her calm while they waited for the emergency services to arrive.

Sophie, who is a cadet with St John Ambulance as well, said the recent session really helped remind her what to do: "It was quite scary but the information I had been given in school was still fresh in my mind as well as what I have been taught previously. I remembered the importance of talking to the person and making them comfortable which is what I did. I am glad I have learnt these skills and I am keen to continue to learn more."

Paramedics and police soon arrived at the scene and after explaining what had happened, Sophie and her friends continued their walk to school.

Headteacher Helen Johnson said: "I am so proud of Sophie and her friends for their quick actions. This situation shows just how vital the skills that St John Ambulance can teach young people are and the confidence it gives them to be able to react quickly in situations like this."

92 students took part in the sessions with St John Ambulance which covered CPR as well as defibrillator training.



Students enjoy Shakespeare workshop



A group of Year 7 students enjoyed a Shakespeare workshop at Williamson Art Gallery as part of the 400 year anniversary celebrations of his death.

After studying A Midsummer Night's Dream the students explored Shakespeare's language in the session by creating posters and exploring the world of theatre skills to predict and interpret images.

Year 7 student Imogen said: "It was a lot of fun and it teaches you a lot about Shakespeare. I particularly liked learning how much he introduced to the English Language that we still use today."

The students were praised by staff at the gallery who made contact with the school after they had left to acknowledge their work and behaviour.

International School Award success

Our school has once again been recognised for its continued & growing international links.

We have been awarded Intermediate level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world to the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

We impressed assessors with the range of activities across the school. Our staff have worked hard to embed a global dimension in the school, providing students with a knowledge and appreciation of other cultures, something which is considered essential in the 21st century.

This year has seen another group of students and staff from BPS visit our partner school in China, our Chinese friends then returned to us in July and we welcomed staff and students from Denmark back in April.

Headteacher Helen Johnson said: "Our students are always very keen to celebrate and be part of our international links at the school and benefit greatly from the variety of activities we offer. We now have a well-developed relationship with our partner school in China and I believe both schools have learnt so much from each other. Opportunities like this linking into activities in our learning programme mean our students get a unique insight into the variety of cultures across the globe, as well as the opportunities open to them."



Projects across the curriculum link to international activity including identity and belonging, equality and fairness, conflict and peace, and science and religion.

Stephen Hull, Senior Project Manager at the British Council, said: "The Birkenhead Park School's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition in the form of the British Council International School Award - Intermediate Certificate.

The school's dedication to internationalism is enriching education for its pupils: the collaborative projects with partner schools abroad bring an essential global dimension to learning and encourage the development of skills children need to be global citizens of the future. Teachers at The Birkenhead Park School have been linking up with colleagues overseas to share successful classroom practice and resources to make this all happen."

Second visit from Danish Kontiki School

The summer term has seen us continue to build on our international links by hosting a visit of students and teachers from a school in Denmark.

Four teachers and 22 students from Kontiki School in Hillerod were keen to include a two day visit to BPS as part



of their trip to the North West. Hillerod is a city of 30,000 people situated around 20 miles from the Danish capital Copenhagen. Education in Denmark is very highly regarded, with single school education up until the age of 16.

Subject Lead for Geography Mrs Kaye said: "This is our second visit from Kontiki School and once again it was a great success. The education system in Denmark is completely different to the UK so relationships like this are a great way for us to build up our integration of different cultures, with staff and students from both schools learning a lot from the experience."

The Danish students were given a buddy from The Birkenhead Park School who they went to lessons with. On their first day they took part in cookery where they cooked Frikadeller (Danish meatballs). Day two saw them try out some rock climbing, table tennis and circuit training sessions, as well as a question and answer session with BPS students as part of a project they are working on.

A Tall Ship Adventure



Two of our Year 9 students have their feet firmly back on dry land after a life changing experience with the Tall Ships Adventures.

Scott and Niall were nominated to be part of the crew on a six day sail around the Scottish Islands, and both have got many great stories to tell. They were part of a group of around 40 students across the Wirral who set sail on the Stavros Niarchos from Greenock in Glasgow.

Scott was initially apprehensive about the trip due to his fear of heights. During the course of the sail he conquered his fears and pushed himself further every day. By the end of the trip he was able to go to the topmost part of the mast and touched the flag.

Scott said: "At first I was a bit nervous as I had never done anything like this before; I had never been on a long ship journey or such a big ship. They taught us everything we needed to know and the whole experience has really built up my confidence as I was quite a nervous person but got to meet lots of new people."

Scott's hard work and achievement led to him getting an award for being the most improved member of his team.

The students were divided into Watches on the ship and had to keep the vessel manned for 24 hours a day. Scott and Niall both experienced steering the vessel, setting the sails and adjusting them by hauling on ropes as a team, standing watch looking out for other ships, and even helping with the vessel leaving and entering port.

Niall said: "I've gained so much self-confidence from the trip and got over my fear of drowning. I met a lot of new people and have become so much more sociable. Scott and I were in different Watches so we had to mix with the other students and we learnt so much, we were shown how to do everything like setting the sails and tying the knots."

Niall's favourite part of the experience was the climbing and this showed with him being awarded Best Climber for White Watch.

The experience was offered by Wirral Safer Schools, supported by The Tall Ships Youth Trust and the Malcolm Eglin Trust. It aimed to deliver an increase in self-esteem and confidence, an ability to overcome mental and physical challenges, a healthier and more active lifestyle, and a willingness to take on more responsibilities.

Students take part in the SLiCE project

Three Year 10 students from The Birkenhead Park School have taken part in a photography project for young artists hosted by the Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool.

The SLiCE project involved a series of workshops with different artists teaching the students how to use digital technology to create artistic photographs and develop them into a photo story.

Three other Wirral Schools were also involved and at the end of the project Skie, Shanane and Heather went to see a preview screening of a film that had been produced showcasing the project and work achieved. The film was also uploaded onto social media.



Football success for our students

Three of our students have been on winning sides recently with the Wirral Schoolboys football teams.

Ben and Liam from Year 9 were part of the Wirral under 14s team that won both the Merseyside and Cheshire Cups. After a tough game against Sefton the game went to penalties and Wirral put all their shots firmly in the back of the net, winning the game thanks to a great save by their keeper.

In the same week Harvey from Year 8 was part of the Wirral U13s team that won the English Schools FA North West Cup Final. They beat Trafford 4-0 to get their first piece of silverware as a team and the best all-round performance all season.



Students compete in **Athletics Event**



A group of students from Year 7 and 8 had a fantastic time at the Quadkids Athletics Event at The Oval Leisure Centre.

The 12 students took part in long jump, howler throw, 200m sprint and 50m sprint and put in great performances. The Year 8 girls were also leaders on the day and were extremely helpful and professional working with the other schools.

Subject Lead for PE, Miss Ponton said: "All the students were brilliant and were praised so much for their behaviour and effort, they made me really proud. We're still waiting to find out exact times and places for the events but most importantly they all enjoyed the day and were a credit to the school."



Term Dates 2016/17

Autumn Term 2016

Closed: Monday 5th September (Staff training)

Term Opens: Tuesday 6th September

Term Closes: Friday 21st October

Half Term:

Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Closed: Monday 31st October (Staff training)

Term Opens: Tuesday 1st November

Term Closes: Thursday 22nd December

Closed: Friday 23rd December (Staff training)

Christmas Holidays:

Monday 26th December - Friday 6th January

Spring Term 2017

Term Opens: Monday 9th January

Term Closes: Friday 17th February

Half Term:

Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February

Term Opens: Monday 27th February

Term Closes: Friday 31st March

Spring Break:

Monday 3rd April - Monday 17th April

Summer Term 2017

Term Opens: Tuesday 18th April

Term Closes: Friday 26th May

Closed:

Monday 1st May (Bank Holiday)

Half Term:

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Term Opens: Monday 5th June

Term Closes: Friday 21st July

Closed: Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th July
(Staff training)



Find us on [Facebook.com/thebirkenheadparkschool](https://www.facebook.com/thebirkenheadparkschool)



Follow us on [@BPSWirral](https://twitter.com/BPSWirral)



THE BIRKENHEAD PARK SCHOOL

The Birkenhead Park School, Park Road South, Birkenhead, Wirral CH43 4UY

Tel: 0151 652 1574 | Email: offices@birkenheadparkschool.com

www.birkenheadparkschool.com



Wirral Academy Trust