

2nd February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Greener Futures Project with Chester Zoo

We are pleased to inform you that Blacon High school will be taking part in an exciting project in collaboration with **Chester Zoo**, called **Greener Futures**.

Greener Futures is an educational programme designed to support young people in developing their understanding of nature, wildlife and sustainability, while empowering them to take positive action within their own environment.

As part of the project, Year 7 students will:

- Take part in a series of sessions led by Zoo staff, focused on environmental issues and how we can improve our school site for nature.
- Attend a **free educational visit to Chester Zoo on Thursday 26th February**, where students will participate in workshops led by zoo education staff and also have the opportunity to see the animals. Students will be required to wear footwear suitable for walking on grass and possibly some mud.
- Following the visit, students will be invited to join a new **Eco Club**, where they will be supported to put their ideas into practice and help make our school site a better place for nature and wildlife.

Over the course of the programme, Chester Zoo would like to understand any changes in students' knowledge, connection and attitudes towards nature and wildlife. To support this, students will be asked to complete anonymous surveys.

If you are happy for your child to participate in this research element, **no further action is required**. However, if you do not wish your child to take part in the study, please complete the **opt-out form** and return it to Blacon High reception. If you haven't returned this opt-out consent form to the school by **13/02/2026** we'll assume that you agree to your child taking part in the survey. Only complete this form if you DO NOT want your child to take part in the study.

Please complete and return the **photo consent form**, which gives permission for your child to appear in photographs taken during the sessions and visit.

The visit to Chester Zoo on **Thursday 26th February** will take place during the normal school day. Students will travel to the zoo by coach after being registered at school and we aim to return to school by **3:00pm**, traffic permitting.

Students should bring a packed lunch for the day. Students who are entitled to free school meals will be provided with a lunch by the school, if required.

Students may wear suitable non-uniform on the day. Please ensure clothing is appropriate for the weather, as there will be time spent outdoors. As we will be walking on grass and may encounter muddy areas, students should wear suitable footwear that can get a little dirty.

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Mrs S. Hughes

Teacher of Science

Learning Outside the Classroom Coordinator