



12 December 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

We are nearing our Christmas holiday and I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the many positive outcomes this term and also give you some early notification of some changes for next term.

In Football, the Year 11 team reached the last 16 of the National Small Schools Cup and the Year 10 team are now in the quarter final for the same cup and will travel to Scunthorpe to play The St Lawrence Academy. The team are also in the last 16 of the Cheshire Cup. The girls' football teams (Years 7-9) are also in the National and Cheshire Cup. Every school team has been successful up to this point in the Cheshire Cup. Well done to the PE department! Year 7 girls have reached the final of the Chester and District 5 aside competition at Christleton High School. The school also works with the Wheelchair Basketball Club with a group of Year 7 and 8 students. The work with partner primary schools also continues with tournaments for Tag Rugby, Football, and Basketball.

Our English Department took a very successful trip to London for Year 9 students to see the stage production of War Horse. All agreed that it was a fantastic experience. In February Year 7 students have an opportunity to watch The Lion King in Manchester.

Once again, our students were involved in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and performed Romeo and Juliet and Julius Caesar at the Contact Theatre in Manchester. The two groups then performed again at school and the quality of the work was exceptionally high. Mrs Salisbury and the Year 11 students worked exceedingly hard on these performances – thank you and well done!

The Music and Drama departments also supported a large number of students who performed in our Halloween Spectacular which was a very enjoyable event. Students from this school have also taken part in the Theatre in the Quarter's performance of 'Over by Christmas' and Year 11 Music students are involved in a Music Soirée on 16th December, showcasing the band and choir. Our band and choir also performed at the Blacon Carol Concert along with choirs from our partner primary schools. Miss McHale is taking members of the band and choir to play and sing carols outside local supermarkets just before the Christmas break on 18th December.

In Maths, the department have been working with The Sale Sharks to promote budgeting and money handling with KS3 students. The programme includes a workshop at the AJ Bell Stadium followed by a rugby session delivered in school by ex-international rugby players from the team. We have also been invited to attend a match at the stadium with 45 students. The Maths department also have 20 student leaders who have planned Maths enrichment sessions for Year 5 and 6 students and they are teaching small group Maths sessions to Year 4 students at Highfield Primary School. A group of Year 7 students visited The Kings' School for a Maths seminar on cryptography and the secrets of the enigma machine.

In Science extra-curricular activities have led to a young Scientist of the month being chosen by staff and members of the Chemistry Club and some of our most able Year 10 students are involved in delivering subject knowledge to younger students. This teacher led peer teaching is something that a number of subject areas are using to good effect.

In Technology staff took a group of students to The Clothes Show Live in Birmingham to enrich their textiles curriculum.

This final week before the Christmas holiday Mr Scoltock is taking a group of Year 11 Geography students on a three day field trip to a centre outside Betws-y-Coed to enrich their Geography coursework. *Miss Jones, Head of History, is taking Year 8 students to visit the Slavery Museum in Liverpool on 9th January and would like to remind students that they need to bring in their reply slips and money before we break up on 19th December.*

Mrs Parnell, out leader of Art, worked with a group of gifted and talented art students from each of the Blacon schools to produce all the art work marking the 'healthy mile' on the Greenway. This was a cross generational project with Vintage Blacon and anyone walking the mile will enjoy the carvings and art work produced by this talented group of students.

We have been able to offer a number of reward trips to students – trips to football matches, bowling, the cinema and karting trips. This reflects the hard work and enthusiasm that is a hallmark of the school.

Following the Year 11 mock exams, students and parents/carers are invited to the Year 11 Progress Evening on Thursday, 8th January 5pm – 7pm. This is a very important evening for all Year 11 students and we will be sharing the results from the mock exams and identifying next steps for continued progress. Thank you in advance for joining us on this evening and supporting students at this vital time of preparation before the final exams. Closely following this will be the Year 10 Target Setting Evening on Thursday, 15th January and more detail regarding this will be sent out soon. All key information, and letters, can be found on our school website along with latest news of activities our students are involved in. Please visit the website (www.blaconhighschool.net) on a regular basis for updated news.

Students at this school take pride in their uniform and I would like to thank you for your support in maintaining high standards. Reminders on the detail of what is acceptable uniform can be found on our website via the Parent link. *Please remember that trainers are not allowed as school shoes and that blazers must be worn every day.*

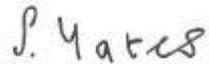
Please may I also remind you that application for Free School Meals is now quick and easy to do. To check if you are eligible telephone 0300 123 7039 and successful claims can be processed quickly by the local authority. There is also information on the council website (www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

In January, we are focusing on making sure that every student is well equipped for lessons. Students must have their planners with them every day (to record SSA grades, homework and other vital information) and must bring their own pen(s). We would ask you to support us in this by checking that your son/daughter has this basic but essential equipment.

Please note that the new term starts on Monday, 5th January 2014. Students are asked to be in school at the later time of 11.15am and go straight to tutor rooms for registration – this is only for the first day back. It will be Week 2 on the student timetable.

I hope that you have a happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and look forward to working with you in January 2015. Please accept the good wishes from all the staff here in school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Yates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Mrs Sue Yates
Headteacher