

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

7TH MARCH 2024



Here are a few notices and snippets of information to keep you up to date:

CONTENTS INCLUDE ...

Holiday Activities & Food Programme - Sessions are available to book for this Easter. Find a local session to you using the link in the newsletter.

Youth Parliament - Our students have been "making their mark" and voting on issues important to them.

Careers Week - Thank you if you attended the Careers Fair on Monday. If you would like to visit and chat to students about your work/your workplace, and provide some inspiration, please give us a call.

Devon Wallet - Sessions are available to help families learn more about this new initiative from Devon County Council.

BB Treasurer - We desperately need a new PTFA Treasurer. See the newsletter for details.

World Book Day - See the newsletter for some lovely photos from today!

Key Stage Coffee Mornings Coming Up - New dates added for Key Stages to meet up at Pizzalogica and have drinks served by our own BB Work Experience Students!!

Free Government Childcare - Updated information in the newsletter including a link to apply.

Comic Relief / Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March - Save the date. Further details to follow.

Approaching Road to BB - Fingers crossed Baker Estates can help fill our potholes.

Hollow Lane Club - Sessions are available in Exeter this summer.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Wednesday 13th March - SF2 families @ Pizzalogica at 10.30 am

Thursday 14th March - Animation Workshop for Sixth Form families (invite to follow)

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day

Tuesday 19th March - E-Safety training for Upper School families (details to follow)

Wednesday 20th March - NEW - Key Stage Coffee Mornings @ Pizzalogica at 10.30 am. Early Years AND Key Stage 1

Thursday 21st March - BB PTFA meeting at 9.30 am in school

Friday 22nd March - KS4 families into BB, details to follow

Friday 22nd March - Easter Raffle Draw

Wednesday 27th March - NEW - KEY STAGE 2 Coffee Morning @ Pizzalogica at 10.30 am; KS2 Easter Fun Family visit to BB, 1.45 pm

Thursday 28th March - Term ends

Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme - The HAF programme for Easter is now available. The programme is for children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals and families can book up to 4 sessions. To see what programmes are available near you, please [click here](#). If you are struggling to remember your HAF Code, please call the School Office.



Student Council - Across our Federation, our Upper School and/or Sixth Form students have taken part in this year's "Make Your Mark" vote to determine what young people in Devon think are the most important issues in our county right now. Schools and Youth Centres across Devon also participated in this national Youth Parliament initiative.

Students had 10 issues to vote on, which had been narrowed down from issues submitted by various youth groups including Champions for Change. The 10 issues are summarised in this [YouTube video](#) which features a couple of our students!

Students voted on which matters they felt were more important to them, and BB votes are currently being counted. At a school level, these votes give us another channel to listen to our important Student Voices and working alongside the Student Council, consider actions we can take. The voting information will also be shared with the Devon Youth Parliament team and the results for the County will be shared with Senior Managers / Leaders and County Councillors and will also inform their planning and decision making.



Careers Week - Thank you if you attended the Careers & Transitions Fair on Monday afternoon (for Years 9-13). There were lots of providers and exhibitors spread out around the Hall, and we hope you found it useful being able to spend time chatting about employment and placement opportunities in the future.



This week, in all classes from Early Years through to Sixth Form, we have been learning about various jobs and roles both in the community and private sector, and career opportunities for all.

One of our members of staff also brought in her horses, and talked to students about working roles in local stables.





The Devon Wallet - is the [new virtual wallet platform](#) that will support the delivery of direct payments and personal budgets. Enablers, services and activities can sign up to become an official provider. There are also virtual drop-in sessions planned this month, and fortnightly availability to meet with an Advisor. Details of all support available is on DCC's website (click [here](#)).

BB PTFA Treasurer - So far, our search for a new PTFA Treasurer has unfortunately not been successful. Our previous, long-standing Treasurer has stepped down and it is becoming critical that we find someone to take on this role asap. We have money in the account waiting to be spent on our students, but need someone to help manage the account.



What does a Treasurer do?

- Manages the PTFA Bank Account
- Arranges payment of invoices
- Arranges cash payments to school when required eg for Christmas presents etc
- Banks cash and cheque income
- Check and balances the bank account to make sure all transactions have been recorded
- Keeps a record of payments made and income taken
- Shares updates about the account for PTFA meetings
- Pulls together the annual Financial Statement (assistance can be provided)
- Submits financial details on the Charity Commission website (assistance can be provided)
- Provides financial details as required for any grant or bid submissions
- Responds to financial queries

If we cannot find a Treasurer soon, we may need to re-consider the future of the PTFA.

PLEASE

could you consider becoming our new Treasurer? There will be a full handover and support all along the way. Call Sarah K in the School Office if you would like a chat.

World Book Day - Today we celebrated World Book Day.



New Dates for your Diary - As the coffee mornings for classes at Pizzalogica were well received, we'd like to offer families the opportunity to meet again. But this time, within Key Stages! Same time - 10.30 am. Same Place - Pizzalogica. Same offer - delicious refreshments served by our very own BB work experience students, with a key member of BB staff present.

Join us for a morning of chat and coffee!

WEDNESDAY'S

20th March -
Early Years & Key Stage 1

27th March
Key Stage 2

Easter Holidays

17th April
Key Stage 3

24th April
Key Stage 4

1st May
Sixth Form

8th May
Early Years & Key Stage 1

15th May
Key Stage 2

22nd May
Key Stage 3

May Half Term

5th June
Key Stage 4

12th June
Sixth Form



Catch up with old friends and make new ones over a cup of coffee served by BB's own work experience students



@ Pizzalogica @ Meadowbrook, 10.30 am

Childcare - The Government is extending their childcare offer to make it more affordable and accessible for parents to reduce the barriers that may be preventing some parents from working.



At present, all parents in Devon are entitled to up to 15 hours a week funded childcare for children aged 3-4 years old. This increases to up to 30 hours a week for parents who work and earn more than the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage, but less than £100,000 per year. Some 2 year olds are also eligible for up to 15 hours a week funded childcare if their family receive some additional forms of government support.

From April, the scheme will be gradually expanded so that by September 2025, working parents of all children over the age of 9 months will be entitled to up to 30 hours a week funded childcare.



Key dates:

- from April 2024, eligible working parents of 2 year olds will be able to access up to 15 hours a week funded childcare
- from September 2024, up to 15 hours a week funded childcare will be extended to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months to 3 years
- from September 2025, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to up to 30 hours a week funded childcare

Will your child be two years old by Sunday 31 March 2024? - Applications are now open for eligible working parents of 2 year olds to receive up to 15 hours a week funded childcare, starting from April 2024. You'll need to be working, and earning under £100,000 a year, but at least £167 a week (the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage).

If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible.

How do I apply for funded childcare? - You can apply for a code to get funded childcare on the [Government website](#). The deadline for applications is Sunday 31 March 2024 to be able to access the funding from Monday 1 April 2024. If you miss the deadline, you won't be able to start using the new entitlements until the next funding period, which starts on Sunday 1 September 2024.

DEADLINE



Comic Relief / Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March - A head's up that this charitable event is taking place a week on Friday.

Planning is underway at BB to celebrate Red Nose Day and we'll let you know what's happening on the 15th of March as soon as the ideas have been rubber-stamped!

Approaching Road to BB - You may notice we have heras fencing in the road, covering the large potholes. We have approached the team at Baker Estates who are building the new housing development next door to us.



We have explained about the state of our road, and they have agreed to meet with our Site Team next week. We are hoping they will agree to send a truck full of cement our way very soon to fill in the deep, pesky potholes!

We'll keep you posted.



The Hollow Lane Club

You may have recently received notification from the Hollow Lane Club that they are unable to run sessions at Bidwell Brook School this summer.

The Hollow Lane Club usually staff their Summer Club by offering work to our teaching assistants and other classroom support staff. However, many of our staff at school already carry out enabling for families through a private arrangement, or have children of their own to look after during the school holidays. As it is not possible for the Hollow Lane Club to run sessions at Bidwell Brook School this summer, they are offering sessions in Exeter instead.

If you are interested in your child or young person attending the Club at Exeter, please email admin@hollowlane.org.uk or call 01392 463823. You would need to arrange transport to and from the Club yourself. The Club will run between 10am and 4pm on:

Week 1: 29 July – 2 August

Week 2: 5 August – 9 August

Week 3: 12 and 13 August

Safeguarding - Across our Federation, we take safeguarding very seriously and have robust policies and procedures in place. If you ever have a safeguarding or wellbeing concern, please contact your **Designated Safeguarding Lead - Kate Bromage**.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Kate Bromage



If Kate is unavailable to speak to or meet with, please contact one of our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads**.

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Marie Barrett

Tom Cook

Danielle Prowse

Nikki Burroughs





KINGSBRIDGE GYM CLUB
GYMCLUSIVE SEN
EASTER HOLIDAY
CLUB

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL
4PM - 5:30PM

DROP IN SOFT PLAY GYM SESSION

£6 + £4 PER SIBLING

PARENTS / CARERS MUST STAY AND PLAY

NO NEED TO BOOK

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
annie@kingsbridgegymclub.co.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DATA BACKUPS AND STORAGE

Making backup copies of files and other content is very useful for avoiding issues (such as hardware failure, software problems or accidental deletion) that could cause the loss of important information or treasured images and videos. While backing up files is considered good practice, it's also essential for adults and children alike to stay aware of the risks which can potentially result from saving these extra copies of your info – particularly if your additional backup versions use cloud storage services.

BACKUP BASICS

Consider how valuable different types of files are – and what the impact would be if they were lost. Family photos and videos might be irreplaceable, for example, whereas emails to friends tend to be less important. This thought process can help you decide what to back up.

For your most indispensable files, follow 'the 3-2-1 rule': keep 3 backups of your data (your original plus two copies) using 2 different media (such as a USB flash, cloud storage or a hard disk drive) with 1 copy held in a physically separate location. This reduces the chance of a single event meaning that your files aren't recoverable from any of these backups.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DISAGREEABLE DUPLICATES

Because we tend to back files up in groups rather than individually, it's very easy for some content to get inadvertently swept up in the saving process – creating a duplicate that we aren't aware exists. If this were to include the unintentional backup of malware files, it would mean when we recover our data from the backup, we're also restoring the harmful malware to our computer, phone or tablet.

HIDDEN IN THE CLOUD

It's not unknown for children and young people to make use of cloud backup services to effectively 'hide' content that they know their parents and carers wouldn't approve of (such as something age inappropriate, for example). They can then delete the content from their device, safe in the knowledge that they can easily retrieve it from the cloud at a more convenient moment.

THE WEAKEST LINK

If any of our backups are insecure, then – in the event of a breach – the entirety of our data might become accessible to cyber criminals or other malicious individuals. Cyber criminals are aware that, by default, backups tend to contain important or valuable files that people want to keep safe – which makes them a popular (and potentially lucrative) target for cyber-attacks.

RANDOM RECOVERIES

When restoring data from one of our backups, we may find that some data is recovered which we hadn't even realised had been backed up. This doesn't necessarily sound like a huge drawback – but it could potentially cause a problem if the files were sensitive or personal in nature and then (without us realising) suddenly become available on our devices, where others might see them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE ORGANISED

Try to keep on top of what backups you and your children have in place – including where your files are saved (to the cloud or an external storage device, for instance) and how they can be accessed. It can also be helpful to stay aware of what data *isn't* being backed up, which could save you the time and the stress of looking for something in your backup that was never actually there.



KEEP THINGS TIDY

Where possible, curate your backups by learning how to add or remove content selectively. The former will save you from having to carry out a complete backup on every occasion (which can be time consuming), while being able to prune individual files can be extremely useful if a small number of unwanted – or possibly sensitive – items have been copied over and saved accidentally.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Find out how to recover files and information from backups until you're fully confident with the process. You could help your child practice with their own (or less essential) files, so they're able to restore items to their device if they need to. It's intensely frustrating knowing that your (or your child's) important files or cherished photo albums are there somewhere, but you can't get to them.



SCRUTINISE YOUR SECURITY

It sounds like obvious advice, but it's absolutely vital: ensure that your backups are secure. This includes appropriate technical measures – like encryption, strong passwords and multifactor authentication – and, where possible, physical security to prevent the media being stolen. If you're backing up to a hard drive or an external storage device, you should ideally use password protection.



Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.

