

# OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

There are a variety of activities which take place outside normal lessons. These are an important part of school life as they give pupils of different ages an opportunity to share similar interests.

## **Educational Visits**

Throughout the school year many visits of an educational nature take place (including field trips) for Geography, History, Science, Design and Technology, Art and Design, Careers Education and Drama. In addition to these an annual activities day is organised, usually during the last week of the school year.

## **Year 7 Residential Visit to North Wales**

In September, the school organises a three day residential cross-curricular course in North Wales, for all new pupils. The purpose of this visit is to help pupils and their form tutors to get to know each other, whilst facing a series of challenges covering all areas of the curriculum. These include a 'French breakfast', Penryhn Castle, Beaumaris Gaol, Great Orme Copper Mines and the RSPB, all of which are aimed at developing teamwork and study skills.

## **Foreign Holidays**

There are plenty of opportunities for pupils to go on school holidays. In recent years, holidays to Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Germany and China have been organised.

## **Lunchtime and after school activities, including;**

### **Music**

If your child is musically inclined, there are opportunities for individual instrumental lessons during the day. These include; Guitar, Keyboard, Drums, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. Parents who wish their children to begin lessons or to continue them from primary school should contact Mr Flynn (Head of Music). Fees are charged in line with LA policy, however, lessons are free to pupils studying GCSE Music in Years 10 and 11. i.e. provided via contributions from the school budget.

Pupils perform on public occasions such as Open Evening, Prize Giving, Musical Evenings (Music Fusion) and the Annual Carol Service, either by playing an instrument or by singing individually or in the choir. Musical activities in school include:- School Band, School Choir and Rock Band/Jam. The facilities for Music are exceptional and we encourage pupils to become involved.

### **Drama**

Drama rehearsals take place throughout the year either as a continuation of Drama lessons or in preparation for a performance. Pupils of all ages are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of Drama by attending the Drama club, being involved in Drama Showcase events.

## **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

Every year a group of year 10 pupils are given the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Parrenthorn High School embarked upon the scheme in September 2013 and to date we have an excellent history of success. Since its inception we have developed strong links with Bibbys farm campsite in Rivington, a reliable and trusted site that we have used each year. The total distance the pupils have to walk over the two weekends is around 24km and involves compass bearings, map skills, grid references and pacing. We have also planned more outdoor opportunities and varied walking routes.

## **Sporting Activities**

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**Hockey:** Year 7 girls play friendly matches and mini tournaments. Year 8, 9 and senior girls play in an outdoor league as well as the Bury Schools tournaments.

**Netball:** Year 7 and 11 girls play friendly matches whilst Years 8, 9 and 10 play in the Bury Schools League. All Years are also entered in Bury tournaments and rallies.

**Cross-Country:** School teams (girls and boys) enter the Bury Schools Cross-Country Championships.

**Athletics:** A school team takes part in the Bury Schools Athletics Championships and the whole school is involved in our annual Sports Day.

**Basketball:** Boys teams are entered in the Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16 Bury Leagues, as well as playing in the Bury Cup.

**Cricket:** Boys teams are entered in the Under 13 and Under 15 Cup as well as playing friendly games.

**Rounders:** Friendly matches are played in Years 7 to 11. All teams play in the Bury Schools Tournament.

**Football:** We have boys teams in each year. They play a full programme of friendly fixtures, 5-a-side tournaments and Bury cup matches. Year 7 – 11 play in the South Bury CVL League. We have girls' soccer teams who take part in Bury Tournaments.

**Trampolining:** We have a trampolining club for pupils of all ages.

**Other lunchtime and after school activities:** The school library is open during lunchtimes and morning break. This gives pupils access to books, periodicals, computers and to the Careers Library.

We also have a drop-in Computer Club (open daily).

In addition to these, staff have extra lessons after school for pupils who need help or who wish to continue work started in lessons (especially during Years 10 and 11 when GCSE courses are being followed).

The Learning Support room is open for pupils to attend on a voluntary basis at break, at lunchtime and after school, in order to receive help and counselling.

**Evening Activities:** Parrenthorn is extensively used by the local community in the evening. A variety of sports clubs take advantage of the excellent sporting facilities.

**Homework Club:** The school runs a homework club from 3.20 pm to 4.20 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for pupils in years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils bring their homework to the club and can complete it under supervision. Assistance with the homework is given when required.

**School Council:** The School Council meets every fortnight at lunchtime. Each Form has a male and female representative.