

28th April 2021
13:00

Dear Families

Re: Update following the Easter Break

I hope you are all well and enjoyed the Easter break! It has been fantastic seeing your children back in school over the last week and a half and to see them settling in so well. A particular well done to our year 11s who are currently sitting formal assessments that will contribute to their final GCSE grades. We would like to wish all of you good luck and will be thinking of you during this time.

As a school, we have been very busy attending training and information sessions to ensure our policies and procedures for our year 11 Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) are completed so that the CAGs are as accurate and as fair as they can be. I know that Mrs Mahon, Head of Hawkstone and Performance and Standards Lead has been working away with our Examinations Officer, Mrs Richardson, to make sure everything is in place as well as sending information out to our year 11 families. There will be more important information sent out in the coming weeks so if you have a child in year 11, we would be grateful if you could read the information very carefully. It is incredibly important that families understand the policy and procedures that we will be following to ensure that there is parity across subjects and across the school.

I was very proud to be emailed personally by Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner, this week to say that Burton Borough School is in the top ten schools out of thousands to complete the Big Ask survey, a survey designed to find out the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on children's lives. Student voice is very important to us and for our students to be able to contribute at a national level is a wonderful opportunity. Not only that, but our Student Democracy Team also contributed to the questions that were on the final survey. Well done to everybody who completed it!

Last week, we were delighted that our school bands, choirs and musical theatre clubs were able to start rehearsals again with Covid-secure measures after not being able to for over a year. Our wind bands are absolutely incredible, and I cannot wait to hear them play in concert again. Thank you to Mrs Ruston, Mrs Burgess-Cliff and the Performing Arts team for all their hard work in getting the sessions set up and running. I really hope that we will be able to host events to show off the talents of our students soon as the Coronavirus pandemic has stopped so many of the fantastic opportunities we were able to provide prior to March 2020.

Our Litter Heroes continue to carry out their excellent voluntary work in keeping the Burton Borough School site litter free. It is always such a pleasure to see young people wanting to contribute to their community and society. Well done to all our Litter Heroes who have received loyalty card stamps and rewards for your kindness! If your child would like to join the team, please ask them to speak to Miss Beaver.

As many families will be aware, we pride ourselves on our high standards and expectations. We always say to our students that if we get the basics right, the rest will follow and how this continues to be important when they leave us and move onto sixth form, college, apprenticeships, universities and careers. We have support from the vast majority of our 1150 families most of the time and we are very proud of the great relationships that we build with you as we believe that this is how we will get the best out of your children. We also teach our students the importance of being kind and having positive attitudes, including on social media and how anything that is posted is public and can affect the person/people you may be writing about.

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It is with great sadness that it was brought to our attention that there was a Facebook post yesterday (which we believe has now been deleted) which subsequently garnered comments – many from people who are not affiliated with the school – making inaccurate comments about our uniform policy which has been in place since September 2017 and making personal attacks about me. The original poster was contacted by two members of staff to explain why we have a uniform policy, what the rules are and why it is important for our students to adhere to it but unfortunately, the post remained for a period of time even though it breached the group rules for the page.

We kindly ask that all our families consider the consequences of their actions when posting comments on social media. A number of staff and students were really upset by the comments and what people were inaccurately saying about Burton Borough School which is really unfair. Although the consequences may be unintentional, incidents like this can really affect our community.

To ensure that there is absolute clarity, trousers worn by all students must be standard full length black tailored trousers. Socks must be plain black socks that cover the ankle. The uniform policy also clearly states that trainer socks (short socks that show the ankle bone) must not be worn. If the ankle is seen, the trousers/socks do not follow the policy. This is the same for all students. For further information, our full uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.burtonborough.org.uk/parents/uniform>

As with many places of work, we have a uniform policy and it is our belief that we must get our students into good habits from the start. We thank the vast majority of our 1150 families who support us, who ensure their children are dressed according to the policy and understand the reasoning behind this. If we do not pick up on the little things now, our children will try and push the boundaries with bigger things. As a school, we do not like having to pick up students who are flouting the rules because it wastes staff time when they should be focussing on important pastoral and academic work to benefit all students. However, it is so important to help our students understand the importance of high standards and rules, we will continue to pick up on the little things as we know that it impacts on behaviour, self-discipline and ultimately, learning and attitudes towards it – not just for them, but for the whole school.

If you are struggling to afford uniform and trousers for example, are short not because it is a fashion trend which you can tell by the style but because your child has grown, please inform your child's small school and we will ensure that your child has a pair of trousers that fit. We have always offered this and will continue to do so as we do not want any student to be disadvantaged.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the week!

Best wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter
Principal



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