

31st March 2023

Dear Families

Re: End of term update

I wrote to families at the start of this month about some pastoral changes being implemented within the school. I am pleased to be able to say at this point that whilst there is still plenty of room for improvement, there has been a marked difference over the past few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both staff and students, but also families for your support in making these positive changes possible. I also know that many of our students have received individual letters of recognition today for their incredible ethos and attitude to learning, they should take the time to reflect on this recognition, it is well deserved.

There have been some positive and heart-warming stories, and successes this term. Please take the time to look at our bumper end of term newsletter, which is packed full of these events, ranging from our KS3 Takeover Day, which hit the local news. Our fantastic 'Big Sing' event with our Primary schools, to our Year 8 rugby team, who only yesterday, won the Shropshire schools rugby tournament and therefore, go on to represent Shropshire in the National finals.

In this letter I would like to share with you some other notable events, a big announcement for our canteen and some further areas for improvement we will be looking to implement over the forthcoming term.

Carnegie Gold Mental Health Award

Earlier this week we became one of the first schools across the Midlands to have our gold mental health status renewed following an intensive review process. This is incredible recognition for our continued support for mental health across our entire community. The reference we received from the adjudicators was glowing and they felt we continued to be trailblazers within this field. To receive this award for a second time is a fantastic achievement and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in making this happen.

Local Authority SEND Review

Last week the Local Authority conducted a review into SEND provision within the school. The feedback we received was incredibly positive and the lead reviewer felt it necessary to personally email to pass on her praise. She was impressed with 'The leadership of SEND at BBS, the rapid pace of change, and the commitment to developing BBS as a truly inclusive school that serves the local community.' Whilst there are still areas for development within our SEND provision, it was very pleasing to receive such a positive review.

Continuing pastoral improvement and reviewing our values and vision

Over time it is important for all schools to review what it considers its core values and its vision. This year has been the first in a long time where there has been relative normality in education following turbulent years. This affords us the perfect opportunity to reflect upon where Burton Borough stands in its community and what its core values should be. Over the next term we will be consulting with all our significant partners to discuss and develop our vision for the future. When these consultations happen, we would welcome the views of our families both present and past!



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Over the next term we will also be working with staff and students to raise our expectations in the classroom and around school. We want all students to feel and be, proud, safe, and confident. Each week in assemblies there will be a focus upon how we take pride in our school community and key improvements we want to see so that standards and conduct continues to improve. Notably we will be addressing the following:

Uniform: Taking pride in your appearance is an important element of that sense of community and we want all students to feel part of this. We will therefore be tightening up on areas such as trainers and wrong uniform such as hoodies/coats, and those students who arrive without a tie or blazer. We will also be re-iterating our mobile phone policy.

Equipment and Organisation: Part of the role of a school is to prepare students for the future and develop good young adults. A large part of this is handing the responsibility for organisation over to our students where it comes to managing their timetable and having the right equipment. These are key life skills, and it is important that we recognise those who are diligent, but also challenge those who are not.

Punctuality: This has been much improved over the past half term however there are still a small minority who disrupt the start of lessons by being late. This will be a key focus area in the new term and those who are regularly late will be attending the 2-hour SLT detention after school.

Attendance: Nationally it has been recognised that attendance has not returned to the normal levels. Small Schools and tutors will be working with families to really push this agenda because it is proven that attendance can be the biggest factor on academic achievement. Those who have an attendance less than 90% have a 43% chance of achieving 5 grades at 5+ including Math and English. Those with 100% have an 82% chance. Whilst we appreciate that some students have extenuating circumstances for low attendance it is important that we as a community work to improve it.

Canteen Expansion

We are really pleased to announce that we have recently had confirmation from Telford & Wrekin have applied for planning permission to double the capacity of our canteen and give the kitchens a full make over. It is planned that this work will start during the summer term closure, more information will follow. This is something the school has been lobbying for over a number of years. I am sure many parents and even grandparents may have sat in the very same canteen at a time when our population was over half what it is now. Once completed this will allow for a better queuing system and quicker service, more choice, and a much bigger and better environment for students to sit and enjoy their food.

For now, on behalf of all the staff at Burton Borough, I would like to wish you a good Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Ben Morgan
Senior Vice Principal



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