

10th June 2022

Dear Families,

Re: You said, we did, and an invitation to come and visit Burton Borough School!

I hope you are well, had a lovely half term break and were able to join in with some Platinum Jubilee celebrations!

Over the last couple of months, we have held various events for families and students so that they can be involved in tackling issues that concern them and help shape the policy and procedures at Burton Borough School. Some of these events included:

- Meet the Principal event on Assessment and Reporting
- Anti-Bullying Workshop
- SEND coffee mornings
- Year 7 Welcome Evening
- Small School Events
- Year 10 induction evening for Year 11

In addition to the above, we have been able to capture the views of families through our 'Voices' surveys with Years 7, 8 and 10. Here is a brief overview of the main concerns some families raised and what we are doing about it:

Homework: a new system was put in place at the beginning of the academic year so that homework would feature on the MCAS app. However, despite reassurances from the company that this would work perfectly, it has not, and families have not been able to see homework set for their children. We are therefore returning to the ShowMyHomeWork (SMHW) app in September 2022.

Phases: Families said that they wanted to see which subject and teacher set behaviour phases for their children as the MCAS app did not show this information. From today, all phases given will show who set the phase and which subject it was in.

Reporting: Families have expressed that they would like a simple red/amber/green system that shows whether their child is working on target, above target or below target. From September 2022, this system will be in place through the new style template that has been designed.

Bullying: The Anti-bullying Workshop was very useful and the work we have completed around this has given us a great insight of what we think is happening. Although unkindness and bullying can happen at any school, there is currently a perception with some families that there is a massive issue with this at BBS which is not reflective of what our school is really like. Mrs Stephens, Head of Chetwynd Small School, has been leading our anti-bullying work, and following surveys and focus groups with our students and comparing what is happening at BBS to the national average, I am pleased to say that we are well below the national average. What has been very interesting however, is that our students say that they worry a lot, and this was higher than the national average and something that we are looking to tackle. In addition, parents/carers and visitors who have visited Burton Borough School during the school day, have said that what they thought they were going to see what they actually saw, was very different – in a positive way!

In tutor time next week, we will be asking students to take the anti-bullying survey again. If students are not able to complete the survey in school, we will send out a link and would be very grateful if families could encourage them to complete the survey at home. The survey will only take 10 minutes.



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Survey results will also help form part of our accreditation as an 'Anti-bullying School', which we are hoping to achieve in conjunction with the Anti-Bullying Alliance. We look forward to sharing with you the results before the end of term.

There will be another Bullying Prevention Work Group on Thursday 30th June at 10:15am. This is a meeting between families, students, teachers, support staff and governors and will shape the future direction of the Anti-bullying Policy at Burton Borough School. We would really like to have greater parental participation in this group so if you would like to get involved, please email Mrs Stephens at: kim.stephens@taw.org.uk.

Come and visit us! We would like to invite families and members of the community to Burton Borough School on one of our **Open Mornings on the 7th and 8th July 2022, 9am to 11am** so you can see what life is really like with us! To book your interest, please use the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BGV2V9C>

The best way to get a 'feel' for the school is to come and see us in action. **Please do spread the word around Newport!**

Assessment: We have written a new policy for Assessment and Feedback following our Meet the Principal event which is being ratified at our next Governor's meeting on Monday. The new policy will be in action from September 2022 and will be available from our website.

Conduct: Finally, the behaviour standards and expectations that students have for themselves across the school are still not back to the pre-lockdown standards that we expect at Burton Borough School. Mr Morgan, Senior Vice Principal, will be writing to all families next week following a Governor's meeting for their approval on Monday to inform families of the more stringent sanctions that we will be implementing until the standards across the whole school are back to where they need to be.

Thank you very much to all families who have attended events over the last two months to make your voices heard and to influence policies and procedures at our school.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Yours sincerely,



Krissi Carter
Principal



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