

8 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Uniform

Since progressing into December, we have noticed that the standard of uniform has slipped for some pupils and would like to work together to rectify it as soon as possible. All pupils must wear:

- A school blazer
- A school jumper
- A white shirt
- Charcoal grey trousers/BHA grey, pleated tartan skirt
- Black smart school shoes

Pupils should not have/wear:

- Facial piercings or jewellery
- Non uniform jumpers under blazers
- Coats inside the school building
- Unnatural hair colours or tinsel in hair
- Nail varnish
- Casual footwear including any trainers or canvas shoes
- Socks over the top of black tights or trousers

We would appreciate your support in ensuring your child has all of the essential items. If a pupil arrives in incorrect uniform, or without an item of uniform, uniform will be made available for them to wear. Refusal to comply with the uniform will result in a sanction; this will initially be a lunch time detention but pupils will also accrue negative behaviour points each time they refuse to comply with uniform requests. We want the high expectations of our uniform to mirror those that we have of behaviour in and around school. We expect students to wear it with pride, not only around site, but as they represent us in the wider community.

## Year 11 exams update

Due to the recent and prolonged poor weather conditions, Geography have been unable to deliver the 'field work' section of the course in enough detail for the paper 3 exam. We want pupils to be fully prepared for their exams so that they can feel a sense of achievement, grow in confidence and have constructive next steps from the results. Taking all of this into consideration, we have decided to cancel the Geography paper 3 for the Winter Mocks. It will be taken as part of the spring sessions.

## School Library

There's so much happening in the school library at the moment! As we near the end of term, it will soon be time to count up the house points for our 4 reading houses - J.K. Rowling, Benjamin Zephaniah, Deborah Ellis and David Walliams. Each time a pupil or staff member completes a reading book, they earn a point for their house. Everyone in the winning house who has contributed at least one book to the total will be rewarded with a chocolatey treat!

Also, We are delighted to announce that we now have 12 pupil librarians in post, helping with the day-to-day running of the library and we look forward to introducing you to them via our social media pages in the coming weeks.

### **Local Community – Residents Parking**

We pride ourselves on the good relationship we have with our local community and welcome our neighbours to contact us with any concerns they may have. We would politely remind all our families who travel by car/taxi that when dropping off/picking up children each day that you respect our local residents. We have had concerns raised that cars are parking anti-socially, blocking drives and blocking entry/exit to Widdecombe Drive. Cars are welcome onto the school site for pick up and drop off every morning and afternoon. As you are aware there are no restrictions in the morning, cars are welcome to use the layby by the bike racks to drop off pupils safely. Afterschool, cars are welcome onsite, they can park on the top or bottom car park and will be asked to queue in the 3 available lanes until approximately 3.20pm. Once the majority of pupils have left the premises safely, we allow cars to exit the school site. As our school population continues to grow we are constantly reviewing these measures to ensure the safety of all our pupils and our local community.

### **Dates to remember**

W/C - 11<sup>th</sup> December – Principal's Excellence Reward Lunches

13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December – Reward Assemblies

W/C 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunches

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – INSET DAY

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – School Opens to pupils

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Y8 and Y9 school photographs

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email on [info@bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely



Ms K Dixon  
Principal