

12 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the start of the Spring Term at Birches Head Academy. I hope that you and your families enjoyed the Christmas break. Though this year's Spring Term is shorter in length than the Autumn Term, there is still plenty for us to fit in! Please see below for some information regarding some of our Year Groups.

Police Incident – Thursday 11th January

You are all aware that an incident occurred in the Birches Head area yesterday and it was requested that pupils remained in school at the end of the school day whilst the police dealt with the matter. All children remained safe in classrooms and I was proud of their maturity and sensible conduct. Police advised when it was safe for the children to leave school and we communicated this to you all as soon as we were able. Thank you all for your support whilst we navigated this situation.

Y7 and Y10 Review Day - Friday 19th January

We are looking forward to welcoming Y7 and Y10 parents to Birches Head Academy on Friday 19th January for Review Day. This is an important part of the academic year as it provides quality time you to discuss your child's learning, and how we can work together, supporting children to live 'choice filled lives'. Please use schoolcloud to book your appointments if you haven't already done so. Y8, Y9 and Y11 will be working from home on this day, all work will be on Microsoft Teams and a reminder letter will be sent to all parents.

Year 9

This term will see Year 9 pupils considering their Options ahead of making decisions just after Easter. Pupils will select their option subjects that they will study in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), alongside the core curriculum that all pupils follow. Full information will be shared with pupils and parents ahead of the Options Evening on **Thursday 7th March**. This event will explain the Options process and offer guidance to help ensure our pupils make the most effective choices. We encourage all to attend. Pupils should utilise their time in class during the next few weeks to speak to staff in order to find out the key information for potential courses. This term will also see some Year 9 students taking part in an Ambition Day at the Sixth Form College in which they explore some future pathways that may interest them Post 16.

Year 10

On **Monday 15th January**, Year 10 pupils will have an Ambition assembly delivered by the Army about careers in the military. The talk will take place in the school hall for an hour and pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a question-and-answer session.

Year 11

We have now reached the midway point in Year 11 ahead of the start of the summer examination series! There are 15 school weeks before exams start, and whilst this is ample time for pupils to have a real impact on their achievements, it is short enough to help emphasise that they have to make the best use of the time that they have left with their teachers. The first significant event of the build-up to summer exams is the Mock Exam Review Evening scheduled to take place on **Thursday 25th January**. On this evening, pupils and parents will receive their results in the same format as they will in the summer, serving to add some significance to the occasion.

Whilst we know that some pupils will be pleased with their results, we know that others will not be. The important thing is that pupils use their results as motivation to work closely with their teachers, and to engage in all revision opportunities, as the summer exams approach

Dates to remember.

Friday 19th January – Y7 and Y10 Review Day (more details to follow)

Thursday 25th January – Y11 Review Evening

Thursday 7th March – Y9 Options Evening

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

Yours Sincerely



Ms K Dixon
Principal

