

12 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the start of the summer term at BHA, I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful Easter break.

### **Attendance**

Regardless of your child's Year Group, our main priority this year remains attendance. There is no clearer path to success than ensuring that pupils are in school as much as possible. We understand that absence may at times be unavoidable, though staying off from school should be the last resort. It is important to remember that although 90% might seem like a high attendance figure, that equates to a day off every fortnight. Even 95% means that a pupil is missing for half a day each fortnight, and each half-day is lesson content that is not easy to catch-up on!

### **Year 11**

The next four weeks are very important for Year 11 pupils. With the first examinations beginning from 9th May, the four weeks ahead of that provide pupils with the chance to ensure that they are fully prepped for their assessments. Focus and engagement in lessons along with a structured approach to revision will help ensure that pupils can sit each of their exams with confidence, serving to alleviate some of the inevitable nerves and anxieties that all will experience. Revision sessions and P6s will continue to run right up until the examination in each subject; we encourage all pupils to take part!

Please find a link below for parents and carers related to supporting with exam stress.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

### **Year 8 Ambition Day**

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, Y8 pupils enjoyed a day learning about Digital Careers. The providers 'My Digital Future' presented their creative programme, developed by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, to help create and inform career opportunities for all young people, no matter their background or circumstance. The day provided lots of learning about the future of technology and digital media, helping to ensure the next generation of tech specialists is diverse and inclusive.

### **Year 9**

By the time this letter is sent, Year 9 pupils will have completed their Options forms and the process for allocating subjects will be underway. We aim to confirm all pupil allocations by June, giving time for pupils to prepare themselves for the subjects they will study in September. The Summer Term is an important transition for pupils ahead of them beginning work on their GCSE and BTEC courses in the Autumn. It is essential that Y9 pupils continue to apply themselves fully to all of their subjects in order to ensure that they are best placed to move on to their Level 2 courses come September.

### **School Reports**

At Birches Head Academy, we report on your child's progress three times per year. Next week, you will receive your second subject and attendance report in the post. At Key Stage 3, we report progress based on developing, securing and mastering. A covering letter and explanation of what that means for your child is enclosed with the report. For Key Stage 4, our grades are based on the GCSE scale of 1-9. Please take some time to sit with your child and discuss the report with them. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you do not receive the report, please contact your Head of Learning in the first instance.

### **Dates to remember**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Y11 Ambition Event Period 2

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – School Photographer in to photograph Sports Teams

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday

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