

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following my observations from the last seven days since my arrival, and also discussing standards with the Senior Leadership Team and wider staff, I would like to highlight some key areas where we need greater consistency from all students and parents in upholding our high standards & expectations. This information is being shared with students in assemblies across the week ahead and via Form Tutors in a specific Academic Review on Wednesday 15th May so everyone is aware.

Uniform

At BHA, we believe that our uniform is an integral part of our ethos and that students are smart, are ready to learn and take pride in their identity as members of our BHA community. We have had a recent focus on uniform standards and the majority of students are meeting our expectations, but a growing number are not and then responding to staff negatively when this is being challenged. Our uniform policy is clear and has not changed. Specifically, can I remind parents that our BHA policy is to wear school shoes at all times, unless we receive an official letter from a GP / Medical Practitioner who can make recommendations around suitable footwear. To be clear, we will not accept written notes from parents regarding suspected medical conditions and students arriving to school wearing trainers will be offered alternative footwear or face sanctions, including being placed in our ISC.

Extreme temperatures

As agreed in a previous Parent Forum, if the temperature exceeds 20 degrees, as it has this past week, contact will be made with parents to advise each day whether jumpers are required. The unpredictable British weather means we are rarely in receipt of extreme weather, but please ensure that your child brings a filled water bottle each day. Students are able to fill up their bottles before morning Line Up, at Break time and during lunch so they remain hydrated. Learning time is valuable and, as such, students will only be permitted to fill their bottles at these times and not during lessons.

Jewellery and Henna Tattoos

I would like to remind parents that the wearing of any jewellery, piercings or temporary tattoos are not permitted at BHA, with the exception of Mehndi for special occasions following Eid. We are seeing an increasing amount of students wearing jewellery, bringing henna and / or stick on tattoos into school. Moving forward, if students bring any of these prohibited items to school, they will be confiscated by staff and parents / carers will be able to collect them at the end of each day from the Main Office.

As I stated in my last letter to you, I have high standards and expectation of and for your children, so, in advance, I thank you for your anticipated support in upholding our high standards and expectations.

Year 10 Senior Pupil Leadership Team Interviews

Following on from the successful Pupil Leader interviews last week with Mrs Owen and Miss Howorth, I had the great pleasure of meeting ten of our Year 10 ambassadors on Friday who are all striving to be selected for the coveted Senior Pupil Leadership Team roles. The group discussed our Trust and Academy values, as well as sharing with me their feedback on what they believe the strengths of BHA are, alongside ideas for how we can improve even further.

It will be a very difficult decision, as each of our applicants are fantastic role models and are passionate to represent our community and lead on the next phase of our Student Voice drive, but we are excited to announce our Senior Pupil Leadership Team with you this coming week.

Rewarding Excellence

Over the past week, I have met many of our fantastic students across all Year groups through our Wonderful Wednesday and Principal Lunches. Celebrating excellence and recognising the positive contributions of our young people is a core part of our work and we will be working with all students over the coming weeks through our Student Voice activities to shape our new BHA Rewards Programme.

Year 11 Information

If you see claims on social media offering this year's exam questions or papers, do not look at them. You should tell your teachers straight away. These papers will most likely be fake – and even accessing fake materials could mean you're disqualified. Please see the link below with further information:

[BBC News - GCSE pupils targeted by 'manipulative' exam scams](#)

Y11 Exam timetable next week

DATE	START	LENGTH	EXAM
Monday 13th May	08:30	2:00	English Lit: Shakespeare
Tuesday 14th May	13:00	1:45	Business Studies
Wednesday 15th May	08:30	2:00	History Paper 1A/1B
Wednesday 15th May	13:00	1:30	Computer Science
Thursday 16th May	08:30	1:30	Maths Non Calculator
Thursday 16th May	13:00	1:45	RE: Islam
Friday 17th May	08:30	1:45	Chemistry
Friday 17th May	13:00	1:30	Geography Paper 1

Dates to remember

Monday 13th May – Parent Forum (9:30-11:00am)

Tuesday 14th May - Welcome From The Principal & Leadership Team (5:30-6:30pm)

Thursday 23rd May 2024: Year 11 Study Leave begins

Thursday 23rd May – Summer Performance

Friday 24th May – Final day of Half Term 5 (Half Term Break Monday 27th to Friday 31st May)

Monday 3rd June – School opens to students

Friday 14th June - Visit from MP Jonathan Gullis

Friday 21st June 2024 - Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Thursday 27th June 2024 - Year 11 Prom

Friday 28th June 2024 - Examination contingency day

Finally, a reminder that we are holding our '*Welcome from the Principal & Leadership Team*' on Tuesday evening from 5:30-6:30pm and I hope that as many of you as possible are able to attend. I look forward to meeting you and discussing how we will support and challenge your child to be successful and ***Aspire to Be More***.

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.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Masher
Principal