

Friday 3rd May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome:

As I complete my first three days as Principal of BHA, I wanted to write to you to introduce myself, update you on my first impressions and outline some key upcoming events.

I am absolutely delighted to join The Frank Field Education Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust with a strong moral compass, a people centric approach and a clear vision on ensuring social justice is achieved through excellence in education. Most importantly, however, I am extremely proud and privileged to be appointed as the Principal here at BHA and I am excited to be leading our team of committed staff to drive the next phase of our school improvement journey.

I have had a very positive first few days and the overwhelming majority of our students have looked extremely smart and proud in their full school uniform, have been polite and respectful to me, staff and their peers, and have been keen to speak with me to share what they are proud of about our school and how we can improve it further. I introduced myself to all students via Year Group assemblies on Wednesday; sharing my background, my passion for sports and reading, alongside my ambitions for them, supported by my high standards and expectations with regards to behaviour, uniform and effort.

I have high standards and expectations **of** our children and **for** our children and we will uphold these through my personal mantra of '**Rigour with a Smile**' - high standards and expectations underpinned with compassion. As a parent myself, also, my benchmark as a leader is clear – if it wouldn't be good enough for my own two children, then it isn't good enough for our children here at BHA and under my leadership we will be relentless on our school improvement journey and ensure that we provide the best possible school experience for every child.

I am ambitious for every child and to uphold our vision we will deliver our knowledge rich curriculum with passion and purpose, promote social capital through our Be More curriculum and, as a bedrock for success, provide an inclusive education where every child is known, cared for and challenged to be successful. Building on the legacy of our founder, the late Rt. Hon. Lord Frank Field, we will work tirelessly to improve the life chances of our young people and support them to '**Aspire to be More**'.

Year 11:

The next few weeks are very important for Year 11 pupils, with the first set of examinations in the hall beginning from Tuesday 7th May. 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 P6's will continue to run right up until the examination in each subject; we encourage all pupils to take part! For your information, examinations for next week are listed below:

DATE	START	LENGTH	EXAM
Tuesday 7th May	08:30	2:00	BTEC Health & Social Care
Thursday 9th May	08:30	1:45	RE Christianity
Thursday 9th May	08:30	1:30	BTEC Sport
Friday 10th May	08:30	1:45	Science and Biology

Year 10 Pupil Leader Interviews

Following a record number of applications for roles within the Pupil Leadership Team, interviews have taken place today with Mrs Owen (Assistant Principal) and Miss Howorth (Y10 Head of Learning) to begin the final selection. The aim of the various groups within our Pupil Leadership Team is to enable pupils the chance to develop their leadership skills within the school and to ensure that the voices and opinions of all students are heard.

At BHA, we believe that involving pupils in decision making, creating a culture of leadership and listening to, and acting on, their views will generate an ambitious and aspirational culture in which our young people will develop the skills which be invaluable to them throughout their time at BHA and in later life, particularly when entering the work place!

Year 10 Summer Assessments (From Monday 3rd June 2024 - a timetable will be emailed to you)

To begin preparations for their GCSE examinations next year, Year 10 pupils will sit their Summer Assessments in the Sports Hall as they will in Year 11. By sitting their Summer Assessments in the same space as their GCSE exams, it helps to familiarise them with the space, rules and regulations of examinations, and reduces any worry or uncertainty. When the time comes for them to sit their GCSE examinations in Summer 2025, they are then fully prepared as they know what to expect before, during and after the exam. This will allow them to focus their efforts and energy on the knowledge and skills needed in each subject to fulfil their potential.

Parent Forum Meeting and Welcome From The Principal & Leadership Team

On Monday 13th May at 9.30-11am, I am looking forward to meeting with parents/carers in my first scheduled '*Parent Forum Meeting*' at BHA. This is an informal meeting where parents can come together to meet with me in person, raise any concerns, be consulted on school policy and share your views on our school improvement journey. I would welcome as many parents as possible to attend and if this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact my PA, Mrs Jocey Bracegirdle jbracegirdle@bircheshead.org.uk, to book your place no later than Friday 9th May.

In addition to the above, I will also be holding a '*Welcome From The Principal & Leadership Team*' on Tuesday 14th May at 5:30-6:30pm, where all parents are welcome to attend an informal meeting with me and our two Vice Principals, Mr Baxendale and Mrs Toach. You do not need to sign up in advance for this meeting and I will briefly share our school vision and how we will drive the next phase of our school improvement journey, as well as a chance for a Q&A activity with the three of us. You do not need to sign up in advance and I look forward to meeting with of many of you as possible.

Dates to remember

Monday 6th May: Bank Holiday Monday – School Closed

Tuesday 7th May: School re-opens for all students

Thursday 23rd May 2024: Year 11 Study Leave begins

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

Thursday 22nd August 2024: GCSE Results published

I thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting with you and working in partnership as we move forward together as Team BHA and deliver on our school vision.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Masher
Principal