

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for your positive welcome since my arrival to BHA on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and to update you on some key successes of this past week and upcoming events in the next half term.

### **Summer Showcase**

Last night, we held our wonderful Performing Arts Summer Showcase, which was attended by more than 200 members of the community. This was a truly impressive spectacle and one which really highlighted the incredible talent we have here at BHA. I am very proud of everyone who took part in making this such a roaring success and for the support of family members who came to watch. A huge congratulations to every pupil who performed and a huge thank you to all staff involved in planning and supporting our pupils.

### **Standards and Expectations:**

Over the course of past few weeks we have seen a significant improvement in uniform standards and punctuality from the overwhelming majority of our pupils and I thank you for your support in upholding this with your children. Our focus on *Consistency Across The Academy (CATA)* is critical to our school improvement drive and it is crucial that we maintain this and it becomes our 'norm'.

### **Year 11 – Exams after half term**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May saw the last day of timetable lessons for Year 11 pupils as they now end their year on study leave. During my short time as Principal at BHA, I have been incredibly proud of our Year 11 pupils and the focus and determination they have shown over the last few weeks. They have worked incredibly hard and I wish the best for them all. The entire staff body and I are looking forward to results day in August so we can see these young people achieve the grades they truly deserve for all their efforts! Please see the timetable below for exams after half term:

Monday 3rd June	08:30	1:30	Maths Calculator
Tuesday 4th June	08:30	1:45	Spanish Listening & Reading
Tuesday 4th June	13:00	2:00	History 2A & 2B
Wednesday 5th June	08:30	1:30	Geography Paper 2
Wednesday 5th June	13:00	1:45	Business Studies
Thursday 6th June	08:30	2:00	Eng Lang: Nonfiction
Friday 7th June	13:00	1:45	Science and Biology

### **Year 10 Summer Assessments**

Year 10 will start their summer assessments after half term and all assessments will take place in the Sports Hall. This is to familiarise pupils with the environment and formal examination procedures so that this time next year, they will be able to focus on doing their best without the worry of wondering how it feels and what happens. We begin on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June with English Literature.

A full timetable will be emailed to you and a paper version has been given to all pupils this week. Please ensure your child is equipped with pens, pencils and highlighters.

## **D of E**

On Friday 17th May, 14 of our Year 9 pupils were blessed with great weather as they embarked on their qualifying expedition for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Many of the pupils found the expedition challenging but showed great resilience and determination to overcome obstacles and pass this section of the award.

The expedition started near Tittesworth Reservoir and took them over the Roaches to Gradbach Scout camp. On the second day, pupils followed the river Churnet along to Danebridge before climbing up to Luds Church. Pupils particularly enjoying exploring the landscape and taking in the beautiful terrain as they made their way to their final destination at Bearstone Rock in Roach End. D of E is a prestigious award, designed to empower young people and support them as they learn new skills. I am very proud of the confidence, resilience and motivation shown by our Y9 pupils and look forward to hearing about their next adventure.

## **Anti-social / behaviour concerns in the community**

I have been advised by local Police, and the City Safeguarding Team, that Schools should no longer look to tackle or address any form of anti-social behaviour or concern arising from social media / harassment, which take place between parents or pupils outside of the school grounds. We have a responsibility as members of our community, but I have a key responsibility to ensure staff are not placed at risk by challenging issues outside of the school grounds and in the community with individuals who may not be members of BHA.

All incidents outside of school should be reported using 101 or online reporting methods, or through existing arrangements, for example, to a local PCSO. The call will be logged by an operator and depending on the nature of the incident the appropriate response will be made. We will, of course, continue to support pupils and families as best we can, and ask that you speak with your child to ensure they are behaving in a positive manner in the community.

## **Dates to remember**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June: Visit from MP Jonathan Gullis  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024: Year 11 Leavers Assembly  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024: Year 11 Prom  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024: Examination contingency day  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July: Awards Evening

I wish all pupils, staff and families a restful half term break, and I thank you again for your support and welcome from those I've spoken to and / or met since my arrival to BHA on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. We have a very busy and positive half term ahead and I thank you for your continued support moving forward.

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](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Masher  
Principal