



Dear Parent / Carer,

16th October 2023

Time has flown by and we already find ourselves at the end of this first half term. It has been a long term but successful with Year 7s settling into their new school, Year 9s settling into their Creative Curriculum choices, Year 10s starting their new GCSE courses and Year 11s working hard to be ready for their mocks and starting the slow build up to their exams in summer 2024.

As we draw this term to a close, can I remind you that **Friday 20th October is an INSET day**, so we don't expect students to be in school; next **term re-starts on Monday 6th November** and **finishes on Thursday 21st December**; Please find below various dates for your diary for next term:

- **Flu Vaccination on 14th November** – Please see previous emails sent with the consent link
- **Parents' Forum on 16th November (6:00pm-7:00pm)** – focussing on the new Key Stage 3 assessment approach and how we prepare Key Stage 4 students for their exams. Please complete the link below to request an invite/link to the meeting.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kigUXB6JdE-JrjiFDhS2M7Bxwny3-zpKtYtMRf2wC25UN0g4T1czODhFTVNINDJQNDNSRkpFVFNURUS4u>

Included with this letter is a set of guidelines for the meeting which include how to request the meeting link and how to raise questions for this and future forums.

- **The PTA Market on Thursday 23rd November (6:00pm-8:00pm)** - this is our third year of running a Christmas market and we already have bookings for a lot of art, craft and food stalls and our amazing school band will be showcasing their talents.
- **2pm INSET (short day) on Tuesday 28th November**
- **Year 7 Parents' evening on Thursday 30th November** – Full details will be sent separately
- **Year 11 Parents' evening on Thursday 14th December - November** – Full details will be sent separately
- **School Christmas lunch on Friday 15th December**
- **The Year 7 & 8 PTA Christmas disco in the afternoon on Wednesday 20th December**

Looking forward to 2024, we have one important date change to make you aware of: the summer **INSET day for 2024 is changing from July 5th to July 12th**. Another event to look forward to in 2024 is the school production of *Beauty and the Beast* (performances are on March 19th to March 22nd 2024); this year we have our largest cast and crew involved in the production, and while it is wonderful to see participation growing across all years, we are aware that although some students are thrilled to be embarking on developing character roles for this production, there have been a few disappointments and I would encourage everyone to focus on the importance of being a part of the Beauty and the Beast team and all the fun that will bring over the coming weeks and months.

At this point in the year the days are already starting to get shorter, and the weather is now starting to cool off too, so I would encourage students to wear a waterproof and warm coat to school. We welcome brightly coloured coats to make students more visible as they will soon be going home in the dark, especially those who cycle to and from school, who also need lights on their bikes and a bike helmet. We are always happy to help support the cost of helmets to ensure students have them.

At Bramcote College we have always felt that strong home-school links are important and links with our wider community and I just wanted to highlight some ways in which the school can support students and families through the current cost of living crisis. Over recent years we have introduced our 'Ask for Susie' project, where students and parents / carers can ask Reception if they have something for Susie and be given a supply of sanitary items (various items are available) for free. Nationally 'Period Poverty' is a real concern, with girls missing school at their time of the month because of the cost of sanitary items; at Bramcote College we do not want this to be a barrier to learning, so we have a year-round supply of items available. In addition to this we also run three 'Uniform Swap shops' per year, which allows parents / carers and students to come along and either, donate, swap or pick up items of pre-loved uniform that they may need, we will be running one of these before the Christmas break and will post dates and times on our social media (Facebook). We also offer uniform financial support on request (please contact your child's Head of Year, or Jo Cooper). Finally, we are always happy to support with the costs of trips, residentials, music tuition etc to make sure that our students have the opportunity to get fully involved in their school experience (please also contact your child's Head of Year, or Jo Cooper).

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Heidi Gale', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College