



Dear Parents and Carers,

12th December 2023

It seems amazing to find ourselves at the end of the first full term of this new school year already and contemplating the New Year and all that may bring. I am always appreciative of our students and our wider Bramcote College community. This term has brought many reasons to be proud to be at Bramcote College, from the ordinary day to day commitment that our students show in the work they do in their lessons and homework, to the welcome return of a range of extra-curricular activities and trips and, of course, the events our staff, students and PTA have put on to welcome parents and carers into the school. A few highlights of this term have included trips to Colwick with Year 7 and London for History, Art and Photography students, the Performing Arts Christmas concert, D of E expeditions and an ever-growing range of sports fixtures. In addition to this, we have enjoyed the PTA Christmas market and look forward to our Business Studies students' Christmas Market at the end of this week. There really has been something for everyone this term!

With all the festivities and preparation for the Christmas break, we remain very mindful that the cost of living crisis is very real and we are trying to support our community in as many ways as possible. We continue to be a member of the National Schools Breakfast scheme, providing bagels in tutor time on a daily basis and offering weekend packs for students to collect from the canteen on a Friday at the end of school. As long as the scheme continues we will participate. In addition to this, we have aimed to tackle what the media call 'period poverty' with our 'Something for Susie' scheme, where students and parents / carers will be given a choice of sanitary items if they ask for something for Susie at reception. We are also into our second year of running our Uniform Swap Shop, with pre-loved uniform, PE kit, coats and some hardly worn shoes / trainers. In addition to this our 'glam squad' led by Mrs Crouch are planning a pre-loved Prom store, so much-admired dresses, suits, shoes and bags can make another Prom appearance. We do, of course, continue to offer support for new school uniform items, as well as trips and events when requested.

Mindful of the cost of living, and without wanting to sound un-festive, we have made the decision not to have a Christmas jumper day due to the financial and potential environmental cost of buying new jumpers. To get into the Christmas spirit, we are running several events in school, including the Business studies Christmas market and Performing Arts Christmas concert, which I've mentioned already. We will also have a reverse advent calendar next week, where students will be asked to bring donations for our Hope food Bank collection, the PTA are putting on their annual Christmas disco for Year 7 and 8 students and the canteen staff will be cooking Christmas lunch for all students who have ordered it. Please see below for details of the last week of term.

- **Friday 15th December** – Business Studies Christmas Market & Christmas Lunch (this is for students who have pre-ordered either a hot meal or sandwiches – no other food will be served on this day, so students who have not pre-ordered must bring their own packed lunch & snacks)
- **All week** – Christmas music at both lunch breaks in the hall and craft activities in the library
- **Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December** are normal school days (normal uniform is expected)
- **Wednesday 20th December**– Lesson 4 Year 7 & Year 8 Disco (non-school uniform day for Years 7 & 8 **only** – please bring a food bank donation) and a Year 10 and 11 football match and other Lesson 4 activities for Years 9 to be announced (Years 9, 10 and 11 to be in school uniform).
- **Thursday 21st December** – lots of festive activities, finishing 1:30pm (non-school uniform for all years)

Dates for your diary for next term:

- Return to school – **Thursday 4th January**
- End of term – **Friday 9th February**
- 2pm INSET – **Wednesday 31st January**
- Y9 Options Evening – **Thursday 25th January – 4:00-6:30pm**
- Y8 Parents' Evening – **Thursday 8th February – 4:00-6:30pm**
- Online Parent Forum – **Thursday 29th February**

In January we will also be sending out a Parents' Survey, which we would very much appreciate you taking the time to complete. We really value the insight this offers us and use it to guide us to make changes where they are needed. In January we are also hopeful that we will start to see activity on the new build, with updates being posted on the school website.

<https://bramcote.college/home/newbuild>

A new year always holds a range of unknown opportunities and challenges, from the new build to our upcoming production of Beauty and the Beast (tickets are now available through reception) and, of course, the summer exams and new students joining us in September, to name just a few things that 2024 will bring. We aim to meet this tremendous variety in a supportive, determined, and enthusiastic way, building our students' confidence and preparing them for the next step in their lives.

All that remains is for me to wish you an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and to say I look forward to seeing you and your children in 2024!

Warm regards,



Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College