



# Bramcote College

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the spring term draws to a close and the hard work that lies ahead in the summer term comes into focus I wanted to celebrate our achievements and prepare for what needs to be done.

Last week was filled with exceptionally proud moments as months of preparation reached its culmination in the four exceptional performances of *Beauty and the Beast*. The collection of talent and skills on show, from those on stage, to the lighting, sound, music, artwork, props, costume and make up, not to mention the incredible feat of organisation has completely overwhelmed me and filled me, and no doubt, many parents, carers, grandparents, and friends with tremendous pride about what we can achieve together. Plans are already in place for a performance of *Oliver* for 2025. Events like the show are times when memories are made, and children's lives are shaped, and future choices are inspired. In the summer term we look forward to doing more of this and engaging more of our students on trips to Kingswood and Wales, as well as D of E expeditions, university visits and careers events to name a few upcoming activities.

The other big event of the term just gone was our much-anticipated visit from Ofsted. Once again, the staff and students of Bramcote College filled me with pride and admiration as the inspectors did their job. While I was hoping to share details of the inspection report in this letter, we are still awaiting their final draft; as soon as this is confirmed I will be delighted to share the details of it with you.

Looking forward to the summer term, we are working hard with Year 11 and 13, as well as smaller groups of Year 10 and 12 in preparation for summer exams. At times like this, the most important thing to remember is embedded in our school motto, which is *Work Hard • Be Well • Do Well*, we encourage our students to take a balanced approach to revision, making sure that they do enough revision to be prepared for their exams, whilst making sure they set aside blocks of time to relax and enjoy themselves, as well as sleep and exercise. As we build up to the exams starting in the second week of May, Jo Cooper will be sending regular advice emails to Year 11 students and sharing them with parents and Faye Parker-Dennis will be supporting the BC6F students; please feel free to get in touch with either of them if you are worried about anything exam related. The final GCSE exam is on June 19<sup>th</sup> and the final A Level exam is on June 21<sup>st</sup>, however, the 'Contingency Day' is on June 28<sup>th</sup> so please don't book any trips away before that date.

The main dates to remember for the upcoming half term are the May Bank Holiday on May 6<sup>th</sup> and our 2pm early close on the last day of term which is on May 24<sup>th</sup>. School will return for the last term on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June with Years 7, 8 and 9 going out on residential trips throughout June and July, while Year 10s will enjoy our BC6F taster day, mock interviews and a range of activities designed to help them plan for their future. We will be rounding off the school year for Years 7 to 12 with our 'Futures' activities week, with more information to follow next term. The last day of the school year is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

As we move into the summer term and the weather warms up, I would like to remind you that skirts should be knee length; this could mean that skirts that were fine with thick tights, become too short to be really comfortable on the plastic chairs in our classrooms in the summer term without tights, making the Easter holidays an excellent opportunity to buy a new skirt. We will also monitor forecasts over the coming terms for any heatwaves and notify parents & carers and students via social media if we feel 'relaxed uniform' is appropriate (no blazers or ties required). It has recently been noticeable that a small number of students have been wearing Nike Air Force / Air Max trainers in place of school shoes. While these are undeniably fashionable and popular, these are trainers, which are not school shoes, and so should only be worn in PE. Our school uniform expectations are outlined on our website: <https://bramcote.college/parents/school-uniform>. We anticipate all our students returning to school after the Easter break with correct uniform. This includes ensuring that any Easter holiday false nails, eye lashes or unnatural hair colours have been removed. I would also like to remind you that students are only allowed ear piercings (one stud or sleeper in each ear); nose piercings are not allowed in school and students will be expected to remove them, regardless of when they were done. Students who do not follow school uniform expectations should expect a sanction. We believe that paying attention to details like this sets the tone for high expectations throughout school and will teach students valuable lessons about the expectations placed upon them when they go out into the professional adult world. While there has been a lot of media interest in mobile phones in school, we maintain our position that phones should not be seen or heard in school and will be confiscated if students are seen using them. Smart watches and wireless headphones fall into the same category as mobile phones, as they are Wi-Fi enabled and so, are not permitted in school. We do, however, ask students to bring in their own set of headphones which can be plugged into school laptops or computers to be used during lessons e.g. in language lessons.

With two thirds of the year already gone, we realise that the final full term is a busy time and I just want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of the achievements of all of our students to date and also how proud all the staff at Bramcote College are of the tremendous amount of work our Year 11 and 13 students have already put into being ready for the summer exams. This is a high pressure time for them, and we want them and any parents or carers of Year 11s and 13s to know that the BC community is behind them supporting them all the way to the June finish line and beyond!

Warm regards

Heidi Gale  
Headteacher  
Bramcote College