



Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems incredible that we are already at the end of another school year! Looking back at 2023-2024 I feel tremendous pride in the achievements of our students, staff and the whole school.

Having started the school year with a strong set of GCSE and A Level results, as well as welcoming just over 700 students back for a new year and the opportunities that lay ahead, over the past 11 months we have achieved a great deal! We have had our (much anticipated) Ofsted inspection, securing Good in all areas, including comments such as "Pupils are happy and appreciate the opportunities that the school gives them." and "Pupils are well prepared for their next stages in education and beyond." In the same year we have enjoyed four nights of the school production of Beauty and The Beast, residential trips for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, Performing Arts '80s night, a range of PTA events throughout the year and Activities Week to round off the year and too many sporting fixtures to mention. In and amongst all of this, our Year 7s have settled into the school beautifully, Year 9 have chosen their options, Years 10 and 12 have started their new exam courses and Years 11 and 13 (and some Year 10s & 12s) have sat summer exams. The life of a school is a busy one and I am always delighted to share this busy life with our students and our wider community.

Important Dates

As we go into the summer, there are some important dates coming up:

- Friday 26th July
 - Year 7 and 8 reports are being re-issued on MCAS as we have had a problem with Bromcom which runs MCAS, resulting in some missing information and incorrect attendance date.
 - Year 9 data will be issued.
- A Level Results (Y13 / 12): Thursday August 15th (8:00am-11:00am)
- GCSE Results (Y11 & Y10 home language students): Thursday August 22nd (9:30am-12:00am)
- First day of school for Year 7: Tuesday September 3rd (8:50am-3:20pm)
- Year 12 course registration: Tuesday September 3rd
- First day of school for all years: Wednesday September 4th (8:50am-3:20pm)
- Year 6 Open Evening: Wednesday 25th September (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- BC6F Open evening (for Years 10 & 11): Wednesday October 9th (6:00pm – 8:00pm)
- Half Term: Friday October 18th – Sunday November 3rd

Starting the new year off successfully

A new school year always provides a great opportunity to build on good habits, which for some this could be starting a new approach to new courses, or settling into different classes and taking on the challenge of working in a different way to suit the demands of GCSEs. This could also mean setting ambitious targets for

outcomes at Key Stage 3, or greater involvement in lessons or extra-curricular activities, or even going on a residential. Staff at Bramcote College work as hard as they can to support our students to expand their horizons.

In addition to a positive mindset for a new school year, getting the basics right is also important.

Starting the year in the correct uniform is essential. Throughout the past year I have sent out several reminders around uniform expectations and the summer provides ample opportunity to ensure the correct items are purchased. Expectations are outlined here:



Compulsory items – shirt, tie blazer

(blazer is ONLY optional in the last half term of the summer)
Coats can be worn over blazers but NEVER instead of blazers.

V necked knitted jumpers (plain or school logo only) can be worn under blazers NOT instead of blazers.

Trousers

While school trousers are worn well by the vast majority of students, I would like to remind a very small handful of students that leggings or joggers are not an alternative to trousers, especially as shirts are expected to be tucked in at all times.

Skirts

Skirts must be on or slightly above the knee. I appreciate that many parents do purchase skirts of suitable length, but these are being rolled up on arrival to school despite tutors/staff requesting that they be unrolled; persistent rollers will receive corrections. We have a large collection of suitable skirts at Student Support if your child's skirt is too short.

Footwear



ALL black, flat leather / leather effect (not canvas) shoes. **NO** coloured /

If your child has to wear trainers for medical reasons, a medical note is needed (including a time scale for wearing trainers) AND trainers must be ALL BLACK, including soles and logos.

PE Kit



Compulsory item:
WHP logoed PE
top

Optional items – ¾ zip jumper, WHP joggers, WHP football shorts, WHP Lycra leggings.
Alternative PE kit items: plain black sweatshirt (NOT hoodie), plain black joggers, plain black leggings. Logos must be smaller than a bank card on any of these alternative items.



PE kit does NOT include mini shorts or short football shorts, hoodies, or items with large brand names / logos on them. Students will receive a sanction if they choose to wear incorrect uniform. All black items.



Hair, nails, makeup and jewellery

My final reminder is around hair, nails and make up, which may have been adapted in the summer holidays but must be natural for the return to school in September. We do not allow students to dye their hair extreme/unnatural colours and we do not want to see natural beauty replaced by an excessive amount of makeup, false eye lashes, or acrylic or painted nails. There is a lot of pressure heaped on young people from their peers and social media around their appearance, so our approach 'frees' young people from these demands.

While students are allowed to wear a watch, they are not allowed to be 'smart' watches. In addition to this, students may wear one pair of stud earrings. Students are not allowed to wear multiple piercings, facial piercings, bracelets, rings or visible necklaces; all of these items will be confiscated. Students have been informed that confiscated jewellery will now be kept in our safe for 1 week before being returned (unless it is a first time confiscation).

None of these expectations are new, therefore, having asked students to follow school expectations once, sanctions will be applied if students do not comply.

Mobile phones

As more information comes out about the negative impact on children of becoming overly dependent on their phones and especially, social media, mobile phones should not be seen or heard in school at all. If students need to bring a phone to school it must be switched off, and in their bag. If phones are seen or heard, they will be confiscated, a 4pm detention will be issued, and a Parent / Carer may be asked to collect the phone. I would also especially like to appeal to you as Parents / Carers not to contact your child on their phone in school hours, as this will distract them from their work in school; if you need to contact you child, please do so through Reception.

Things to bring to school in September

We encourage our students to be prepared for school by bringing:

- A refillable water bottle
- A pencil case (including blue/black pens, pencil, rubber, rule, green pen an highlighter)
- Headphone which can plug into a laptop / computer
- A school bag (backpack) large enough to fit these items in, along with their A4 planner (folder)

Enjoying the summer

Although I have just focussed on being ready for September, it is important after such a hard-working term for students to have a good rest and a chance to relax over the summer as safely as possible. I would like to ask you as parents and carers to remind your children about staying safe by discussing the dangers of swimming in open water / river etc. or spending time in dangerous locations such as on / close to railway lines, or empty buildings. All of these are potentially dangerous places to be with or without adult supervision.

In addition to considering safety in these spaces outside the home, online safety is essential; knowing what is going on online can protect your child:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Nottinghamshire County Council have outlined Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) availability on their website:

https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food/what-is-the-holiday-activities-and-food-programme?_ga=2.40563810.1335159035.1721915299-1733892421.1721915054&_gl=1*a77ysu*_gcl_au*Njc1MDIyNzA4LjE3MjE5MTUyOTk.*_ga*MTczMzg5MjQyMS4xNzIxOTE1MDU0*_ga_QHE3HKNBEC*MTcyMTkxNTI5OS4xLjEuMTcyMTkxNTM1Mi43LjAuMA..

https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food?_ga=2.111409860.1335159035.1721915299-1733892421.1721915054&_gl=1*s72ric*_gcl_au*Njc1MDIyNzA4LjE3MjE5MTUyOTk.*_ga*MTczMzg5MjQyMS4xNzIxOTE1MDU0*_ga_QHE3HKNBEC*MTcyMTkxNTI5OS4xLjEuMTcyMTkxNTMxNi40My4wLjA.

In addition to this, I would also like to signpost some websites which can offer mental health and wellbeing support for young people too:

<https://giveusashout.org/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.beusupport.co.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support throughout the year. The relationship between home and school is vital in supporting the progress of your children throughout their education and it can shape their future in amazing ways.

Warm regards,

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

Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College