



# Bramcote College

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of 2024 and 2025 will soon be with us! This first term has certainly been a full one, with 150 Year 7s settling in with us, as well as new and returning Year 12s in our 6<sup>th</sup> Form. We have celebrated our 2024 summer exam results, with headline figures including:

## GCSEs

- Progress 8 is +0.01
- 49.2% achieved grade 5 or above in Maths and English
- 16% achieved grade 7 or above in Maths and English
- 59% of grades achieved were grades 5 to 9
- 24% of grades achieved were grades 7 to 9

## A Levels

- 21% of grades achieved were A\* or A
- 55% of grades achieved were A\* to B
- 74% of grades achieved were A\* to C
- 90% of students went on to their first-choice destination (University / Apprenticeship)

## Enrichment

While we continue to build on these results for summer 2025, we also recognise that the school experience is so much more than these measurable outcomes, so we have enjoyed enriching students' experience of school with expeditions for Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, Photography and Art visiting the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, History and Health & Social Care going to the Thackray Museum of Medicine (Leeds), not to mention numerous University visits, Sports fixtures and the first of 3 annual Geography trips. With lots coming up in the new year, including residential trips to Paris, Lisbon and Cern in Geneva, not to mention the production of Oliver, enrichment was the theme of our recent Parents Forum. This gave us a valuable chance to discuss trips and the weekly enrichment activities with Parents and Carers; going forward, our intention is to share via an email at the start or end of each half term a list of weekly and one off events that will be coming up over the coming term; this is in addition to students being reminded in our weekly Tutor Notices (I have attached a copy of this term's after school activities).

## PTA Events

Having recently thrown our energies into raising just over £1,000 for Children in Need, we have a number of events coming up in the next few weeks run by our amazing PTA who raised £1,960 last year for various projects in the school and this year are focusing on raising money for more outside seating in response to a request from the School Council.

**Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Chocolate Tombola** at Lunch 1 and Lunch 2 – 3 tickets for £1 with any tickets ending in a 0 or 5 winning a prize. Any donations of chocolate are welcome at main reception!

**Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> – The PTA Christmas Market** 6-8pm – this is a great chance to come and start your Christmas shopping, with over 20 stalls representing local arts, crafts and bakery specialists. There are a few games to keep younger children occupied while Parents and Carers are shopping, and hot and cold food and drinks to keep you going.

## School Events

Following straight on from the PTA Christmas Market, our **GCSE Business Studies** students are running their **Christmas Market for our students on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>** during the school day. Students will have an allocated lesson to come down and will also be able to visit during their lunch time.

The following week is a normal week and then we reach the last week of term, with various events:

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – The Performing Arts Christmas Music Evening** – the evening starts at 7pm and while there is no ticket price, donations towards the cost of running the school band are welcomed. Bring any snacks / non-alcoholic beverages you may want.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – school Christmas Dinner** – next week students will have to make their final choices about this, choosing either a hot Christmas dinner, sandwiches from the canteen or bringing in a packed lunch. The Christmas dinner will cost £2.70 (so FSM will cover it) and includes a pudding; there are meat and vegetarian options, and we are working on vegan.

(For information I have also attached a copy of the recent menu and meal deal selection from Aspens – this can be found on the school website at <https://bramcote.college/parents/school-meals>)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7 / 8 Christmas Disco during Lesson 4** (school finishes at the normal time) with music from Mix Master Howe and general fun arranged by Mrs Crouch, the PTA are going to be selling drinks, sweets and popcorn and Mrs Brechin is going to run quiet crafting in the 'Chill Out Zone' in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Common Room. Years 7 and 8 are able to come into school in non-school uniform on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>.

There is no charge for non-uniform and the disco, however **students from all year groups are asked to bring a foodbank donation on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December is also the last day of term for BC6F students** – their College day will finish at 3:20 as usual but there is no need for them to be in on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>.

While there will still be fun for older years during this week, however, own clothes will have to wait until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> when all years can wear non-uniform on the last day of term.

The **last day of term, 20<sup>th</sup> December**, will look a little different to a normal Friday, with school finishing early at 1:00pm, once students have had a chance to have lunch.

We will be **back in school with students on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025**, with the big event for the first half of the Spring term being **Year 9 Options evening on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Phones and Transport to and from school**

Turning thoughts towards Christmas and the New Year, when some children will be lucky enough to have been given a new phone for Christmas, I want to remind Parents and Carers, as well as students, that phone should not be seen or heard on the school premises. This means that I must ask the few Parents or Carers who do, to stop communicating with their children during the day.

Student Support and Main Reception are staffed all day long; this means that if you feel the need to contact your child, or if your child needs to get in touch with home, Reception and Student Support are on standby to make that happen. By-passing this system causes all sorts of problems, with students being hyper vigilant around their phones, rather than concentrating on the work they are doing, or children texting or phoning home about a problem that school should have a chance to resolve.

We recently encouraged our students to attempt a digital detox as a part of the Young Minds World mental Health Day; the uptake amongst Year 7s and 11s was really strong, with Year 7s clearly using their devices less than older students and the Year 11s seeing the distractions and problems that can arise from over dependence on their phones. The Young Minds charity encourages a growing detachment from mobile devices because so much research is now coming out about the negative impact especially caused by overdependence on mobile phones. Research suggests that over dependence on phones has not only led to ever growing levels of cyber bullying outside school hours, but it has also isolated children who mainly communicate by text and it has led to a lack of independence and even reports of increased levels of anxiety and a sense of fear about being in the outside world without a phone. So, my plea is to encourage your children to be independent in school by using the school systems. It has always been made clear that our policy on phones in school is that they should not be seen or heard, making use in school likely to result in the phone being confiscated. Although this rule doesn't apply to BC6F students, Year 12 and 13 students are asked to keep their mobile phone use to the Common Room and not walk around the school building or site using them. Adult visitors on site are asked not to use mobile phones for safeguarding reasons.

I am continuing to be genuinely concerned about traffic outside of the school on Moor Lane and the safety of all our young people and other pedestrians, including those of primary age with their parents and carers. Moor Lane is a busy road and congestion before, and after school is at an all-time high. We recently had a child clipped by a car making a three-point turn. I appreciate that this message may fall on deaf ears, but I would urge all parents to be mindful of others especially when the weather has been so poor. Staff are on the gate every night and at times we take to managing the traffic on the road – please be polite to staff who are trying their best to keep children safe. If you are doing a drop off or pick up, please consider doing those a little further away from Moor Lane, to ease congestion. Please note too that access to the school drive and reception is only available to parents with Drive Permits on display. Cars are not permitted to leave site between 3:20 and 3:30 pm. I have spoken to some residents recently about the traffic situation including parents and carers parking across drives and letting engines run idle. The Trust will be raising all these concerns with the local authority.

If your child cycles to school, we will be checking that they are wearing helmets and a permit. Wearing a helmet and having working lights are two conditions of the permit to bring a bike to school. Please support with this.

### **Snow days**

I am thankful that the forecast, at least for the next few weeks, is not predicting snow! You will be aware that last week, we communicated out to parents via email and updated Facebook. Office staff are not in school when we make the call about snow, so phones will not be answered. We will always endeavour to open school but as you might appreciate, clearing a large site to make it safe for everyone and ensuring that we have staff to teach classes and support learning are our biggest priorities. Please note that we will always attempt to make a decision by 7:30 am and get communication out as soon as possible. Feedback from most parents was that a delayed start was sensible.

All that is left now is to wish you a restful and happy Christmas break and refreshing new year.

Warm regards,

Heidi Gale  
Headteacher  
Bramcote College