



April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to what Spring has to offer.

Please find below some reminders and important information for this half term.

### **PA2L Success**

Despite the last half term being the shortest of the year, the students continued to show fantastic ambition and resilience by receiving over 180,000 positives, averaging 36,000 a week, which is the most of any half term so far!

As part of our commitment to rewarding the many pupils who continue to get it right at BBEC, we had over 650 students accessing a Rewards Breakfast, treating themselves to sandwiches, waffles, toast and hot chocolate or tea. We also had FIVE students who each received a brand-new mountain bike! These were chosen at random from a large group of students who had 95%+ attendance and fewer than 20 behaviour points. We will be offering more bikes this term, using the same criteria.

It is also great to see that we are also seeing significantly fewer students forgetting or losing their ARCK Record. This is a critically important document, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that they should be looking at this daily to see how your child(ren) has got on in school that day. Please praise them for their positive stamps collected and discuss any negative Phase 3 comments, Phase 4 lesson removals and Phase 5/6 detentions issued to avoid these being repeated.

### **Communication**

If you need to communicate with your child during the school day, please do so by phoning or emailing the main reception. Please do not contact your child directly on their mobile phone. We have an increasing number of students using their phones to contact parents and carers which causes unnecessary disruption and confrontation.

Mobile phones now include many additional functions such as an integrated camera, video recording capability, instant messaging and social media access. These functions can pose a risk to the maintenance of good discipline, the focus on learning and, crucially, the effective safeguarding of students in schools, including the risk of sophisticated bullying via social media platforms.

Any student mobile phone, electronic device, earphones or headphones that are visible inside the school grounds between 8.30am and 3pm will be confiscated, placed in an envelope and stored in student reception until the end of that day. For repeated or serious breaches, parents/carers may be contacted to come and collect the phone or device.

Likewise, if you need to speak to a particular member of staff, please contact reception to request an appointment to do so. It is very rare that a named person will be available 'on demand' during a busy school day.

### ***Year 9 to Year 10 Pathways***

Year 9 students are currently going through the process of making guided curriculum choices for their studies next year. They have received their individual booklets, taken part in an assembly geared towards helping them choose subjects for next year and participated in taster sessions. Students are advised to talk to their parents/carers and staff so that they make wise, sensible choices which will help them realise their future goals and ambitions.

### ***Exam build up & Year 11 arrangements***

Year 11 have returned with a positive and determined attitude for their final few weeks before their GCSE and BTEC final exams. Exams in practical subjects start next week, and written exams start in earnest on 2 May.

Important information will follow next week about arrangements for exams, exam rules and regulations around attendance, punctuality and conduct, and opportunities for final revision and exam preparation.

The Year 11 prom takes place on 27 June, an event we are all looking forward to!

### ***Prefects***

Mrs Mellor steps into her new role of Achievement Leader for PSHCE and will collaborate closely with the esteemed Student Parliament, fostering an environment in which student voices are heard and actively shape the direction of school initiatives and positive change within the school community. The opportunity to participate in Student Parliament approaches as voting for the next cohort of prefects will be held during the final half term. Further details and instructions on how to apply and vote will be given shortly. Application and involvement in this process is crucial as we collectively strive to shape the future leadership of our school.

### ***Summer Production – Grease is the Word!***

Rehearsals are well under way for our summer production of Grease. The performances will be 9 July 7pm, and 10 July 4pm and 7pm. The cast are really excited to be performing this show and we are looking forward to seeing lots of parents/carers in the audience. Tickets will be going on sale nearer the time so please look out for more information on the school website and social media.

### ***Extra-Curricular Achievements***

As ever, our sports teams have enjoyed considerable success in recent competitions, with our Basketball teams this year winning every single game! The year 10 and 11 teams have won their leagues, with the year 7, 8 and 9 teams playing their finals next week.

Our basketball club has gone from strength to strength with over 20 students attending the morning club at 7:30am and over 30 students attending after school on Fridays. Our thanks must go to Mr Ward for his steadfast commitment and encouragement with these teams.

The girls' football teams also continue to dominate Bradford Competitions with the under 16s winning the Bradford league and the Bradford City 5-a-side tournament, under 14s winning the Bradford league and the under 13s winning the Utilita Cup. A small number of competitions are still to play, for which I am sure the girls will be in contention.

Now is also the time to turn our interest to summer activities, with particular consideration for BBEC sports day and BDAT Sport Spectacular. Any budding athletes who wish to represent the school at athletics need to see their PE teacher over the next few weeks. For day two of the Sports Spectacular, we are looking for students who would like to represent the school in a number of different activities. We are particularly interested if they have played badminton or would like to try their hand at curling!

In December, BBEC's chess team were provisionally placed third in the first half of the West Yorkshire Schools Chess Championship, which was an incredible performance from our three young teams. The final half of the competition takes place on 26 April at St Bede's and St Joseph's and we wish them every success. Chess Club is every Friday in



B111 between 3pm and 4.15pm and is one of many extracurricular clubs in which students can participate each week.

In March, we took seven Year 10 students to a Bridge tournament at Loughborough Grammar School. On only our second visit, we were placed higher than last year in the overall rankings. This was a commendable achievement as we were playing against some highly acclaimed schools (such as Eton College) with long standing traditions and success in competitive Bridge. Our students were exceptional ambassadors for BBEC.

### **Careers Week**

This is a crucial time for our year 11 students. Exams are looming, and students will be looking to achieve the requisite results to gain entry to their chosen college or training. The majority of students have already made solid plans for the next academic year. However, we may still have some students who are unsure as to which pathway they would like to pursue. If you feel that your child requires any additional help (for example, to apply for college or training), then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Theakston on the following email address: [adam.theakston@bbec.bdat-academies.org](mailto:adam.theakston@bbec.bdat-academies.org).

Work experience will change for Year 10 students this summer. All students will now have "World of Work" experiences, which will replace the traditional one-week work experience. This will enable many more of our students to gain experience of different workplaces. We begin on 21 June with an event at Bradford College. On this day students will be able to experience two areas of employment and at the same time gain an insight into college, which will be the next step for the majority of our students upon leaving school.

### **Dates for diaries**

15-19 April	Yr9 Revision Week
17 April	Prefect London trip (by invitation only)
17 April	Yr11 GCSE exams begin
22-26 April	Yr9 Exam Week
29 April – 3 May	Yr7 Revision Week
6 May	School Closed for May Day Bank Holiday
7-10 May	Yr7 Exam Week / Yr10 Speaking Exams
17 May	Yr9 Reports to parents
<b>24 May</b>	<b>School breaks up for half-term</b>
<b>3 June</b>	<b>School open for all year groups</b>
3-7 June	Yr8 Revision Week
4 June	Yr7 Attendance Reward Trips
5 June	Yr8 Attendance Reward Trips
6 June	Yr9 Attendance Reward Trips
6 June	Yr7 Reports to parents
7 June	Yr10 Attendance Reward Trips
10-13 June	Yr10 Geography Field Trips
10-14 June	Yr8 Exam Week
17-27 June	Yr10 Exam Week
17-20 June	Yr9 Geography Goit Stock Field Trip
27 June	Yr11 Prom
28 June	School closed to all students
1-5 July	Yr10 World of Work Week
1 July	Art & Technology Showcase 3pm-5pm
3 July	Yr6 Transition Day
8 July	Yr8 Reports to Parents
9 July	Grease production matinee for primary schools 12pm
9 July	Grease summer production 7pm
10 July	Grease summer production 4pm and 7pm
11-12 July	Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Expedition



15-17 July Yr8 Residential  
16 July Yr10 Reports to Parents  
17 July BDAT Sports Day @ BVG  
18 July BBEC Legends meal – by invitation  
19 July Close for Summer Holidays

Once again, thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Taylor  
Headteacher