

January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year!

I hope you all managed to have some quality time over the Christmas period, with some opportunities to relax with family and friends, despite the inevitable colds and other illnesses prevalent.

It has been an excellent start to the New Year so far, and it has been a pleasure talking to students during assemblies and social times, listening to their individual aims and ambitions for 2024. Many have been able to articulate how the Positive Attitude to Learning (PA2L) Policy has had an impact on them and how they intend to gain the positive points necessary for their reward at the end of this half term. I have also enjoyed visiting lessons and witnessing high levels of engagement and pride in students' work. We are not complacent, however, and are well aware that there will always be more to do!

PA2L (Positive Attitude to Learning)

Thank you to all parents who are actively engaging with their child/children's behaviour via their ARCK Record. We are seeing lots more parents signing ARCK Records on a weekly basis which is fantastic to see. As a reminder, please make sure you are checking these regularly to see how your child/children are getting on in school on a day-by-day basis. There is now also a key included in the ARCK Record on page 13 to explain what each phase 3 behaviour code means. These are also included in the full PA2L policy available on our website.

Over the last half term there have been some really positive trends with student behaviour and the number of rewards being given out to students. We had a significantly increased number of students who were able to access our Christmas rewards movies, with 986 attending in the last week of term which - over 70 more than the similar October events. We have seen a massive increase in the number of positive recognition stamps being gained by students. There were over 260,000 stamps awarded to students across half term 2.

We are also seeing a reduction in the number of students receiving detentions on a week-by-week basis as students are obtaining fewer negative comments. This is a pattern that needs to continue. More and more students who do end up getting a detention are making the right choice and attending these as required. There are now very few students choosing to escalate a short 30 minute detention to a 60 minute Headship detention on Fridays. Please speak with your child/children if this is applicable to them, as the escalation of sanctions is easily avoided.

As we move into the new term, a brief reminder about **uniform and jewellery expectations** which needs to be right every day to avoid unnecessary negative comments being issued. **All the key information is in the student ARCK Records** but in brief the main issues to resolve are students choosing to break our jewellery rules by wearing hoop earrings or pendants rather than studs, nose rings rather than studs and students who wear bracelets and rings. This is easily fixed and we thank you in advance for supporting our high standards of appearance for our students.

Mock Exams

The vast majority of Year 11 students conducted themselves very well during their mock exam season. Now that result has been collated analysed, identified students have been allocated a mentor, who will be discussing exam and revision techniques in the next few weeks in order to ensure the best chance of success in the summer.

Home Learning

Teachers have been setting home learning via Class Charts and will continue to do so this half term. Please remind your child to check the app on a daily basis. If your child has misplaced their code, please ask them to see their form tutor who will provide them with their code. If you do not have your parent code, please email school and we can send it out to you . For details of how to set up your child on Class Charts –please click: [Slide 1 \(classcharts.com\)](#).

Learn Sheets for revision have also been placed on the website for your child to look through and revise from. Please do check with your child and try to help them to learn key facts from the learn sheets.

Attendance

It was very pleasing to see almost 500 students with 100% attendance at the end of the Autumn Term and receiving the full benefits of learning in lessons, rewards, personal development and enrichment experiences. Over 800 students also achieved the Christmas reward in our Advent Calendar Challenge, having had no more than a single day of absence over the last term. This term will be a fresh start for the attendance rewards at Easter and we will continue to set a minimum of 95% as the target. Please also remember the importance of punctuality and arriving to school for the 8.35am start and again, thank you to those parents and carers who have supported us with this.

Welfare Support

We have a large and experienced welfare team who manage a number of provisions to ensure that BBEC students are happy and feel supported in the daily lives allowing them to achieve their full potential:

- **The Hub**

The Hub is a quiet and nurturing space that offers:

- A quiet environment for students during social times
- A drop-in service where students can have a chat with a member of the welfare team to address any worries
- Skilled helper sessions which provide one-to-one support for students (on a referral basis)
- Timetabled social and emotional literacy sessions (on a referral basis)

- **Tic-Tac**

Tic Tac is the Teenage Information and Counselling Service which offers:

- One-to-one and group counselling sessions (on a referral basis)
- Access to Youth Workers and external agencies such as Step2 (on a referral basis)

- **MHST (Mental Health Support Team)**

MHST is an NHS funded provision of NHS qualified mental health practitioners who work within BBEC and triage with external services such as GPs and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service). MHST is a referral only service which requires a consultation and parental consent.

Students are regularly reminded during Period 1 VIP (Values in Practice) sessions of how to self-refer to these services in school.

Staff and parents can also refer students. If you would like to speak to a member of the team regarding a concern please contact main reception who will provide details of the most relevant member of the team.



AMBITION

RESILIENCE

COURTESY

KINDNESS

Student Parliament

Last half-term, our prefects have gone from strength to strength since being inaugurated in November! Here is some of the work that they have done as representatives of our student body:

- Assisting in the planning and helped out at the Winter Wonderland/Senior Citizens' Christmas meal events (see below for more details on this!)
- They have formed an eco-group, led by Mr Taylor, who will work on helping the environment both in school and beyond.
- Students attended the Emotional Wellbeing Summit led by Bradford Council where groups from across the city got together to discuss mental health and what can be done to look after the wellbeing of the people of Bradford.
- We have continued our work with the Bradford Citizens charity and a group of students attended a Delegates Assembly. Ahead of this, prefects gathered student voice across BBEC on the cost-of-living crisis, anti-racism and mental health. They then presented BBEC student voice to the Delegates Assembly, demonstrating democracy in action!

This half-term, prefects will be working on our continued celebration of the LGBTQ+ community ahead of LGBTQ+ History Month by creating posters and an assembly. They will work with our Mental Health Support Team on becoming Wellbeing Champions across BBEC, looking at ways to support and look after student wellbeing within school.

They will also continue to demonstrate democracy in action at BBEC by gathering student voice across the school around the positive impact of our PA2L behaviour policy and supporting improvements in student attendance. They will then present their findings to our Senior Leadership Team, using their voice as student representatives. This mirrors our UK democratic system which is particularly important to highlight in the year of a General Election!

Minimum Entitlement

The Minimum Entitlement provisions continue in the Spring Term and many of these are set out in the calendar below, starting with the Year 8 STEM Event, Year 7 going to BDAT Be There at St Georges Hall and then moving on quickly to the planning for Horizons Day after half-term. Our extra-curricular clubs programme for spring will also be launched and we are proud to report that 563 students currently at BBEC have been involved with these clubs. We want this number to be much higher, so parents/carers please encourage your child to try a new activity.

[Extra-curricular Activities Spring 2024](#)

We are also very pleased that Autumn saw some other keynote events including the Bradford Cathedral Awards Evening and the launch of Duke of Edinburgh with Year 9. Our LDC students also enjoyed a performance of Pantomime at the Alhambra just before Xmas.

Careers at BBEC also goes from strength to strength having had our successful Year 10 and Year 11 Aspirations Evening in November and the launch of Unifrog to Year 11, and in 2024 launched to all other Year groups.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff who make all these activities such a valuable experience for our students.

Community Events

We held two highly successful events leading up to Christmas, with the intention of increasing our links with the local community. The first was our second year of "Winter Wonderland", which surpassed our expectations.

Festive food and drink were enjoyed by all, our canteen served hot chocolate and marshmallows, mulled punch and gingerbread, whilst our Hospitality and Catering department served up batches of seasonal 'Winter Warmer' soup.



Guests danced the evening away to the sounds of Christmas classics and families took part in a range of interactive activities such as wreath-making where they were shown tips and tricks to make the perfect, handmade, and fresh Christmas wreath. Some guests tried their hand at making their own felt stockings whilst learning a few basic stitching techniques whilst others had a go at making Christmas cards. Lots of our younger guests were loving having their faces painted too! All who attended on the night were also able to access the BBEC Food bank donations.

BBEC are extremely proud to have invited our local businesses into school on the event; 'The Little Soap Hut' had a wide range of wax melts, candles, soaps and bath products on offer, 'My Lahore' served up some delicious desserts whilst the Sandale trust hosted a stall. We would like to thank all of these businesses for their support of our event, and we look forward to welcoming them back at the next one.

We then held our annual Festive dinner for our 'more senior' residents, which also included a quiz, a raffle and of course, Bingo!

Prefects worked hard on planning for this event and did a fantastic job of serving and looking after our guests. Students were praised for demonstrating our school values of kindness and courtesy and we are already looking forward to next year as this is now a well-established event in the BBEC calendar!

Dates for diaries

8-12 January	Year 7 Exam Week
8-12 January	Year 8 Revision Week
11 January	Year 9 Parents' Evening
15-19 January	Year 8 Exam Week
16 January	Year 8 STEM Roadshow presented by BAE Systems, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force
17 January	Year 10 Parents' Evening
30 January	Year 7 BDAT Be There Show at St George's Hall 11am-3pm
31 January	Year 8 Positive Choices Day 1
1 February	Year 8 Positive Choices Day 2
1 February	Year 11 Mock Exam Revision Launch Evening
6 February	Year 11 Fine Art & Photography Gallery Trip
7 February	Year 7 Parents' Evening
9 February	Break up for half-term
19 February	Beginning of term - school open to all students

Once again, thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming Parents' Evenings or other event.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Taylor
Headteacher