



September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break, with plenty of time to relax, unwind and spend quality time with friends and family.

The first week of term has been very positive indeed. Our new Year 7 students have settled in very well and it has been fantastic seeing all other students returning to school ready for the year ahead.

Ofsted

I am pleased to share the positive feedback that we received following our second monitoring inspection in July.

In the written report, which will be published this week, Ofsted credited school and trust leaders, as well as governors and trustees from Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust, for the detailed review of the school curriculum and how it is taught. The report states that, *“Improved curriculum documentation provides teachers with greater clarity about what content needs to be taught and when. As a result, pupils learn important knowledge in a more logical sequence.”*

The Inspector also praised the impact of staff development through research informed training to enable this curriculum to be taught effectively.

Of particular note was the significantly improved climate for learning, with the report citing that, *“Pupils’ behaviour and attitudes in lessons.....provide a climate where learning can happen without significant disruption.”*

The Lead HMI added, *“The attendance of pupils is showing improvement”* and *“The reductions in the number of disadvantaged pupils who are persistently absent, and pupils who are late to school, are particularly positive.”*

As we start the school year, all staff have returned refreshed and committed to continue the school improvement journey with this external confirmation that leaders know where further improvements are needed. I am delighted that our hard work and determination to make whole school improvements has been recognised, but we are not complacent, and whilst this report is a positive stepping stone for us in our school improvement journey, we are committed to building on these improvements to realise and secure the longer-term ambitions of our young people.

You can view the full report on the school website:

[Monitoring Inspection July 2024 \(buttershaw.net\)](https://www.buttershaw.net/monitoring-inspection-july-2024)

GCSE Results

It was a pleasure to see so many past year 11 students in August to issue them with their well-deserved and long-awaited exam results. There were some amazing individual achievements and, most importantly, the vast majority gained the grades necessary for the next stage of their journey.

I would like to thank all the staff involved, especially Ms Fletcher and Mrs Thornton, who worked tirelessly over the summer in preparation for their release.

We are looking forward to celebrating in person at our usual Presentation Evening on 17 October 2024, when other awards for current students will also be presented.



Uniform

Students are looking very smart around school and I would like to reiterate my thanks to parents and carers for ensuring that our new uniform policy is adhered to. I appreciate that this is quite a significant change and so far it has already made a difference, with easy identification of year groups and a reduction in uniform conflict, as well as the cost saving aspects of the change. Uniform information and expectations can be found on the school website at the following link: <https://www.buttershaw.net/uniform>.

PA2L Policy and use of ClassCharts

I would like to take this opportunity to remind students of our Positive Attitude to Learning (PA2L) Policy.

The policy is in place to recognise and reward students for behaving in line with our school values of Ambition, Resilience, Courtesy and Kindness.

All students have been issued with a new 'ARCK Record' student planner for the new half term, along with a plastic wallet to keep this dry whilst travelling to and from school. It is very important that you are regularly checking the ARCK Record to see how your child(ren) are getting on in school.

On pages 6-7 of the ARCK Record is the BBEC 'Home-School Agreement' which I would ask that all parents read to ensure that there is a clear understanding of our expectations for students, parents and staff. There is also information in the ARCK Record about school and PE uniform, jewellery, mobile phones and other banned items. When students arrive to school, their uniform will be checked and any banned items such as trainers, rings, bracelets, necklaces etc will be challenged, so please support us by ensuring that your child(ren) don't bring these items to school.

On pages 12-13 there is an overview of the rewards and behaviour policy which relates to the section in the ARCK Record where positive recognition stamps and negative comments are recorded. Please celebrate positives with your child(ren) and discuss any negative comments/detentions that have been recorded.

We have enhanced the use of **ClassCharts** this academic year and all parents/carers must download the ClassCharts parent app as soon as possible to enable you to keep track of all positive and negative incidents recorded, along with homeworks issued. The behaviour activity log in the app will detail every log made for your child(ren) and it is vitally important that all parents/carers have access to this from the start of the year.

Once the app is downloaded you will need an access code to log in and link your account with school. This code is included on the ClassCharts document that your child has already been given this week in form time, so please check their bags for this. Additionally, parents can email Mrs Karim on asifa.karim@bbec.bdat-academies.org and she will email your individual code directly back to you.

Raising Aspirations

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be providing all pupils with updated targets to aim for by the end of Year 11. Pupils will record their target grades in their ARCK records, highlighting the specific academic goals they are aiming to achieve. During lessons, teachers will expect high standards of work, and will be ambitious for all students to be successful. To support pupils in reaching their targets, research has also shown that family involvement is essential. Families can play a key role in encouraging their children to complete all homework, engage effectively in classwork, attend all lessons regularly, and participate in any required intervention session which may take place outside of normal lessons. Working together to support pupils means we can help your child to thrive academically and lay a solid foundation for their future academic and career pursuits.

Attendance

There have been a number of changes to the way Attendance and Punctuality are recorded and processed in school, as set out in law for all schools by the DfE. In summary:

- Absence fines will be charged to parents whose children have accrued five days of unauthorised absence. This has risen from £60 to £160, per parent, per child. If paid within 21 days, this will decrease to £80 per parent, per child. Bradford City Council will administer these fines. Unauthorised absences are recorded when a child is absent from school or arrives at school after 9.05am in the morning or leaves school before 1pm in the afternoon without sufficient reason.
- Only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any second notice will automatically be charged at £160.



- We have to consider a fine if a pupil reaches ten sessions (ten half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of ten school weeks. The threshold can be met with “any combination of unauthorised absence”. For example, four sessions in term time plus six instances of arriving late (U).
- We will have to give the council the name and address of sick pupils who we believe will miss ten consecutive or cumulative days.
- New attendance codes are now in effect.

Punctuality

- You have received a text with the updated ‘Late to school’ Policy. In summary:
- The atrium is now open from 8.05am to accommodate students and support them in making a strong, organised and punctual start to the school day.
- The student entrance will be closed from 8.40am. After this time, students will be classed as being ‘Late to school’ (LS).
- The ‘Late Gate’ runs via the main entrance from 8.40am until 9.05am. After this time, students will be classed as being ‘Very late to school’ (VLS).
- If a student arrives to school after 9.05am, they will receive a ‘U’ code (unauthorised absence). This will count toward their total within the ten-week rolling period, as mentioned above.

Dates for diaries

19 Sept 2024	Open Evening – school closes early at 2pm to allow school to prepare for the event which takes place between 6pm and 8pm
24 Sept 2024	Yr11 Interview Practice 9am-12.30pm
23-25 Sept 2024	Yr11 Hardwick Hall site visits 9am – 12pm
25 Sept 2024	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9, Yr10 – Leeds to Success Parents’ meetings 5.30pm-6.30pm invitation only
25 Sept 2024	Yr11 Leeds to Success Session 1 – invitation only
26 Sept 2024	Yr7 Meet the Tutor Evening
27 Sept 2024	MacMillan Coffee Morning
27 Sept 2024	Yr7/Yr8 West Yorkshire Bus Alliance Careers Panel
October	Black History Month
1 Oct 2024	Yr7 Prefect Voting
1 Oct 2024	Yr9/Yr10 City of Culture Launch Workshop
3 Oct 2024	Yr11 Progress Evening and Revision Event
4 Oct 2024	World Teachers Day
7-18 Oct 2024	Bradford Manufacturing Week
8 Oct 2024	Maths event – Ada Lovelace Day
8 Oct 2024	Yr11 Interview Practice 9am-12.30pm
10 Oct 2024	Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day
10 Oct 2024	Yr9 Linking Network Taking Action
16 Oct 2024	Yr11 Leeds to Success – Session 2 5.30pm-6.30pm
17 Oct 2024	Rewards Event @ Bradford Cathedral
21-23 Oct 2024	Yr9 Goit Stock Waterfall fieldtrip
w/c 21 Oct 2024	Yr11 Practical and MFL exams
23 Oct 2024	Yr8 Progress Evening
25 Oct 2024	School closed to students for October half-term
4 Nov 2024	School open to all students for half-term two

School holiday details for 2024-2025 can be found on our website: [SCHOOL DAY / HOLIDAY DATES | BBEC \(buttershaw.net\)](#)

Best wishes



Andrew Taylor
Headteacher

