



8 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have had a relaxing summer break and you managed to catch up with friends and family as the restrictions have eased. It was wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 to the BBEC family yesterday. They looked fantastic in their BBEC uniform; all arrived on time and had the right equipment. Thank you for helping to get them ready for learning - I know it's a big job at the end of the summer! Year 7 starting coincided with this mini heatwave, and so I am aware that some students were very warm yesterday. Rest assured that students are allowed to take off their blazers in lessons and will be encouraged to drink lots of water. I understand that the heatwave will be over by tomorrow and then we all will be much more comfortable.

Yesterday in our first Year 7 assembly we introduced Year 7 to our BBEC family values. These are central to all we do. Through our values, we encourage our students to be successful in their work and to become caring and polite citizens both of BBEC and the world. You will be hearing much more about these as the year progresses.

Ambition - **We** set ourselves challenging goals

Resilience - **We** give it a go

Courtesy - **We** are polite to everyone

Kindness - **We** show we care about those around us.

Starting back

We are really looking forward to a more normal school year and to be able to do all the fabulous extra-curricular clubs, productions and trips that BBEC is famous for as well as great teaching and learning. I have included a few reminders about students starting back so that we continue with the fantastic start they have made. This includes recent changes to COVID regulations and a reminder of some of our rules.

Key changes from last year:

- **School day:** The normal school day starts at **8.15am**, gates will be **closed at 8.30 am**. Lateness is discourteous and disrupts learning. All students must be on time.
- **Entrances:** All students should enter the school by the **Student Entrance** on Reevy Road West. They should enter the school site by the main student gates or the side entrance by the bus stop. Please note that there is **no vehicle access for parents on the main drive** unless they have a child with a disability. Cars on the drive makes the site unsafe for



AMBITION



RESILIENCE



COURTESY



KINDNESS

pedestrians. Please drop off or pick up away from the school site to avoid congestion on the road.

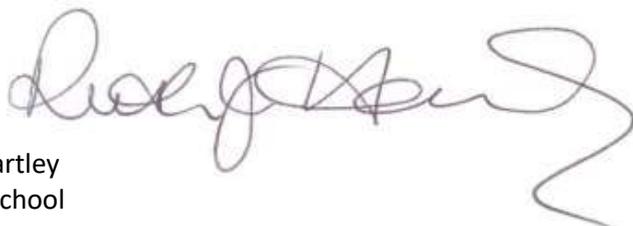
- **Timetables:** From the end of this week Year 7 students will follow their timetable and attend lessons in their form groups. Over the next few days, we will be asking all Year 7 students to complete short progress tests, a reading test and a literacy assessment to help us find out more about their current ability, skills and talents. We will then look at this information and will reorganise teaching groups from the third week of term. We do this to ensure that students are supported the best way we can to enable them to make maximum progress.
- **Government rules:** The government has changed the guidance around managing COVID in schools and we have developed a Risk Assessment which will reduce/mitigate the risk, whilst allowing the students to attend face to face lessons. The documents are on our website.
- **Year group bubbles:** Class bubbles will no longer be in use and students will move around the school to their lessons. Students will be taught in sets or form groups as normal.
- **Face coverings/masks:** Students and staff may still wear face coverings if they wish; they are no longer compulsory.
- **Social distancing:** We would encourage all students to stay socially distant where possible.
- **Testing:** We will continue to provide tests for students to take home.
- **Self-isolation:** Any student who has COVID symptoms must self-isolate and it is advised that they get a PCR test. The school will no longer be responsible for asking students who have been in close contact with a positive case to self-isolate; NHS Track and Trace will be overseeing this. Full NHS guidance can be found here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
- **Remote learning:** BBEC uses Microsoft Teams for remote learning and we will use this in the event of any disruption to face to face learning. Year 7 students will be learning about this as part of their induction. We will be contacting you soon to find out about your children's IT provision at home.
- **Assemblies:** Students can once again have assemblies as normal.
- **Ventilation:** BBEC has a sophisticated ventilation system in place and we will also continue to keep windows open to increase ventilation.
- **Hand-sanitising:** We will continue to provide hand-sanitiser and encourage all our students to wash their hands regularly.

We have been really pleased with the way that all our Year 7 students have started to settle in, make friends and participate in this week's events – the treasure hunt seems to have been a particular success! Please contact your child's form tutor or Miss White (Head of Year) if you have any queries.

BBEC continues to go from strength to strength and we hope that we can provide a fantastic all-round education for your child(ren).

I look forward to seeing you throughout the year and at the Year 7 settling in parents' evening at the end of September. Keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Ruth J. Hartley
Head of School

