



Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of what has been a really busy half-term, I thought that this would be a good opportunity to catch you up with all that we have been doing at BBEC and one of our school improvement priorities for this year.

Staff and students have really appreciated having the school running as normal with teachers in their own classrooms and students able to make the most of all the fantastic specialist facilities across the school. Year 7 have settled in really well and have now worked out where their classrooms are and we've all got into used to our two-week timetable and Gold and Silver weeks. Teaching and learning has really got back on track and it feels like a real school again!

Like other schools we are again being affected by both staff and student absences due to COVID. Work is set on Teams for students to complete if they are feeling well enough. Please make sure you let us know about the reason for any absence by phoning school promptly.

Last year we launched the BBEC values of:



These are becoming embedded in all aspects of school life and it is wonderful to see how many of these values students embody day after day by working hard in lessons and by being polite and caring. They really are a credit to you. We rewarded students who showed our values on Friday 15 October (World Values Day), there were so many of them!

This year one of our school improvement priorities is to ensure that all members of the BBEC family can feel that they can be happy and successful at BBEC whoever they are. This important inclusion message is summed up in our new school motto, '**We all belong at BBEC**'. Over the summer we updated our signage around school and this priority is reflected in two large boards in the atrium.

**We all belong  
at BBEC**



The work to become a truly inclusive school has been explained to students in assemblies, we have made it clear that prejudice such as homophobia, racism, sexism etc will not be tolerated and will always be followed up. We are working in departments to ensure that our curriculum includes examples and stories from a diverse range of contributors, we are celebrating the contributions of people of colour during **Black History Month** and our charity work this half-term supports this theme too. We have already supported '#helloyellow', a young minds mental health charity, 'Macmillan Cancer Support' and this week we will be '**Showing racism the Red Card**'.



Students and staff are asked to wear red items to decorate their uniform, **red** ribbons, **red** socks, **red** hat, **red** belt, **red** gloves, **red** shoes. You get the idea! We will be asking for **coin contributions** to support this important charity and we will be giving out **red** cards to show that the BBEC family **does not** support racism in any form. We hope that you will encourage your child(ren) to take part in our 'Show Racism the Red Card' day which will be **Thursday 21 October**.

Some other things that have been happening in BBEC:

#### **BBEC student parliament:**

All students took part in democratic elections and 75 prefects taken from all year groups will form 3 departments: **1. Wellbeing, 2. Community and 3. Diversity and Inclusion**. We interviewed for our Head Prefects last Friday. Our amazing prefect inauguration ceremony will happen next week at **City Hall** and will be opened by **Dr Ruby Bhatti (OBE)**, Chair of Governors and Bradford's Deputy Lord Mayor. Mr Taylor has done a brilliant job to get this prestigious event organised.

#### **Other democracy in action events**

Students from all years interviewed our local **MP Judith Cummings** to find out about her role as an MP and her views on democracy. This interview was broadcast to other students during VIP (Values in Practice) lessons.

A number of students from all year groups will be joining students from other BDAT schools next week as part of a **Pandemic Recovery Initiative**. This week they have researched the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of students and young people. They have done this by talking to key staff members and the students in their forms. They will be taking this information to a pandemic recovery summit and hope to eventually use their findings to help to improve provision to support young people in Bradford.

#### **West End Drama Workshop:**

Year 7 students who did a brilliant job of competing their induction work over the summer holiday were rewarded by taking part in a drama workshop run by a West End actor and organised by Mr Dalby. Great fun was had by all!

#### **Year 11**

We ran our GCSE launch meeting this week for Year 11 students. Mock exams start in earnest on the 2 November, although MFL speaking exams are already taking place. These will really help to prepare Year 11 students for the real exams in the summer and will show just what they've managed to learn so far. Mock timetables will be published next week.

Year 11 students will be going to the Alhambra theatre this week to see **'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell**. This play forms part of the GCSE specification. Going to see the play at the theatre really helps students to remember the characters, the plot and recognise the quotes they have learned. A few tickets are still available if any year 11 students haven't got theirs yet.

#### **Annual Prize Giving at Bradford Cathedral**

Teachers and tutor teams are busy nominating students who have shown our values over the last year (or over the last 6 weeks for Year 7). Nominees and their parents will be invited to attend our prize-giving in Bradford's beautiful cathedral on the evening of **November 11**.

So, you can see just how busy it has been, and we've only been back 6 weeks. We will be able to show you more of these and other events in our school magazine, BBEC Buzz, next half-term.



AMBITION



RESILIENCE



COURTESY

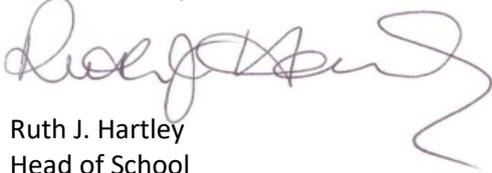


KINDNESS

Next Friday is a training day and so students are not required in school. This means students break up for the half-term break at **3pm on Thursday 21 October**, we return on **Monday 1 November**. Can I please take this opportunity to remind you that students should arrive promptly each day between **8.15am and 8.30am**.

I hope that you all have a restful break and that the Yorkshire weather is kind to us. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Ruth J. Hartley  
Head of School



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