Bradley Stoke Community School

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BSCS25-127c

8th July 2026

Dear Year 8 students, Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that another academic year is almost ending and that you are about to join Year 9! As we approach the end of the year, we thought it might be helpful to share some key dates and events for the next academic year.

YEAR 9 FIRST DAY OF TERM
For Year 9, Term 1 will begin on Friday 4th September and students will need to arrive in school from 8:10am ready to line up for tutor time at 8:20am. Tutor time, Periods 1 and 2 will involve a range of activities including looking at the 'year ahead', distribution of timetables and a 'Welcome Back' assembly. Lessons will begin after break with Period 3.

MEET THE TUTOR EVENING – TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER
We will be holding another in-person 'Meet the Tutor' evening to enable you to discuss your child's overall progress with their tutor and also how well they have settled into the new school year. Timings and appointment booking process information will follow early next academic year.

REVIEWS AND PARENT/CARER EVENING
Below are the dates for the parent/ carer evening and an approximate date of when reports will be published via Arbor.

Review 1 – Mid Term 3
Report 2 – Mid Term 6 (end of year assessments will be used to inform)
Key Stage 4 Pathways Evening – Thursday 28th January (in person)
Parents' Evening – Tuesday 9th February (virtual)

LEARNING GROUPS
Students will continue to work in Learning Groups for Foundation subjects (humanities, art and languages). Students will be taught in different groups for English, maths and science. All students who are moving learning groups have been spoken with and timetables will be updated on Arbor.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES
In Year 9, students commence GCSE Religious Studies – all students across the Olympus Trust take GCSE RS, and alongside gaining this qualification, it also provides students an excellent and earlier opportunity to understand what is required for their GCSEs. Our syllabus is Eduqas GCSE RS and we study Christianity and Buddhism within the course; you can see more information about the course here.

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS EVENING
Year 9 is the last year of Key Stage 3 and throughout the year we will support students to choose the subjects that they will study in Key Stage 4. An important part of this process is our Pathways Evening for students and parents/ carers which will take place on Thursday 28th January 2027. During the evening there will be a short presentation to support the decision-making process, and information stands for all subjects on offer.

ENRICHMENT
As part of the Bradley Stoke Promise, Year 9 will continue with Enrichment Days to provide wider learning opportunities for students' holistic development. After school enrichment options will be published in the first few weeks of start of Term 1 for students to sign up for and we will have two Enrichment Days prior to Enrichment Week. There will be a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh launch evening on Wednesday 23rd September at 6 pm.

Enrichment Day 1 – Tuesday 20th October 2026 (Places of Worship)
Enrichment Day 2 – Friday 12th March 2027 (Pen-Y-Fan / Bronze Duke of Edinburgh preparation)

Enrichment week will run from Monday 12th to Friday 16th July 2027, with the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award being completed from Monday - Wednesday. Due to the popularity of Bronze D of E, it will be the only residential option available to Year 9 during enrichment week.

UNIFORM
Our complete uniform guidance can be found here:
Bradley Stoke Community School - Secondary Uniform, Essential Equipment and General Information
As a reminder, however:

- Flared leggings are not permitted.
- All socks should be black, including any socks worn over tights. Fluffy socks should not be worn.
- Hair should be natural in colour, with no shaved patterns or dye.
- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum, i.e. watch, one simple plain earring stud per ear. Ear piercings must be in the normal piercing position on the lobe and are not acceptable in any other place on the ear, e.g. the upper ear.
- Rings and bracelets are not allowed (unless for religious reasons).
- No facial piercings are allowed to be worn in school - covered or uncovered.
- Religious headwear may be worn in black or teal only.
- A little modest makeup may be worn by learners in Years 9 to 11 (e.g. mascara and foundation).
- No nail varnish, false nails, false eyelashes or extensions are allowed. We respectfully request that any are removed before the start of the new academic year.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming year. Please do get in touch if you have any further questions. To help us plan effectively for the new academic year and to keep our records up to date, we would be grateful if you could notify us at the earliest opportunity if your child will be leaving the school for any reason.

We wish you a restful and peaceful summer holiday and look forward to working with students and families alike in 2026/2027.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sophie Francis
Headteacher

Young people's mental health

- **Off The Record:** Free, self-referral counselling service for young people age 11-15, who are experiencing low mood, depression, anxiety, phobias, self-harm, eating problems and/or anger. Young people can call, email or text, and services operate in Patchway, Kingswood and Yate. Also offer parent support groups and sessions. Can also see Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more information and up to date groups and activities.
  Tel: 0808 808 9120. Text: 07896 880011. Website: Home - OTR (otrbristol.org.uk) Email: hello@otrbristol.org.uk

- **Kooth:** Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people 11-18. Monday – Friday 12pm – 10pm, Saturday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm. On Kooth you can: Chat to our friendly counsellors; Read articles written by young people; Get support from the Kooth community; Write in a daily journal. Website: https://kooth.com/ Home - Kooth

- **Childline:** Free counselling via online webchat, and free support/advice available 24/7 via confidential helpline, and emails via the website. Tel: 0800 11 11. Website: www.childline.org.uk Childline | Childline

- **Young Minds** national charity offers confidential online and telephone information and support for anyone worried about the emotional, behaviour, or mental health of a child/young person up to 25 years of age, including ADHD, Autism and Aspergers. **Parents Helpline:** 0808 802 5544 Website: YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds

- **Young Minds Crisis Messenger Service** for free 24/7 support across the UK of you are experiencing a mental health crisis. Text YM to 85258.