Bradley Stoke Community School

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8th July 2026

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that another academic year is almost ending and that you are about to join Year 13! 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 13 FIRST DAY OF TERM

Term one for Year 13 will begin on Friday 4th September and students should arrive in school from 11:15 am for a welcome back assembly starting at 11:20 am in the Main Hall. Lessons will begin during Period 4 after lunch (12:55 pm).

REVIEWS, MOCK EXAMS AND PARENT/CARER EVENING

Below are the dates for the parent carer evening, mock exams and an approximate date of when reports will be published via Arbor.

Report 1 – Late November/Early December 2026
Mock Exams – Monday 18th January 2027 – Friday 29th January 2027
Report 2 – February 2027
Parent/ Carer evening – Tuesday 1st December 2026 (virtual)

ACADEMIC MENTORING

Due to the growth of Post 16 numbers at BSCS, we are fortunate to have more academic mentors joining the team in September. This might mean a change to who a student's Academic Mentor will be for next year. We are just finalising plans ready for September, but Academic Mentors will email home at the start of next year introducing themselves once again so that you are able to continue to build relationships with key people.

P16 PSHEE PROGRAMME

Personal, Social Health and Economic Education is an important and necessary part of all learners' education. At BSCS Post 16, we run our PSHE provision during 'drop down morning/days' so that we can reach out to local organisations and ask them to help run sessions for the students and bring it to real life. Further communication will be sent at the start of term in September to confirm these dates. As a reminder, it is an expectation that all students attend these days.

UCAS

We hope students will find next week's Futures Week helpful in getting them to think about what life after Post-16 might look like. Students have been visited by UWE and Swansea University. Not all students will opt to go to university, so for our apprenticeship pathway students, we have had visits from the MOD, the Apprenticeship Programme, and some alumni students who are now completing degree apprenticeships.

Many students will be applying to UCAS next academic year. Students can submit undergraduate applications from Wednesday 2nd September. Generally, universities start considering applications as soon as they arrive and so we encourage students to start working on applications as early as possible.
Many students have already attended university open days. Absence for open days will be approved. You can find out more details about when individual universities have open days by following this link Search | Open days and events | "university open days" | UCAS

We will also run a UCAS drop-in service during Term 1 and more details will follow next term.

MOBILE PHONES, LANYARDS AND CAR PARKING
We would like to remind students and families of important expectations regarding Sixth Form conduct and safety. All students must wear their school ID badge at all times while on site. This helps us maintain a safe and secure environment and ensures that students can be easily identified by staff.

As you may have heard in the media, there have recently been changes to the guidance and expectations around mobile phone use in schools. In line with these expectations, Sixth Form students may only use mobile phones in designated Post-16 areas. This includes the Sixth Form study areas and other approved Sixth Form spaces. Mobile phones should not be visible or in use elsewhere on the school site during the school day.

Lastly, a reminder for any students driving, or planning to drive, that the car parking at the front of the school building is purely for staff and visitors. Post-16 students should not be parking in these spaces, whatever the circumstances, even if there are available spaces, as we have many staff who work part time hours or need to leave the site temporarily for meetings etc.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child ahead of the new term.

AND FINALLY…
As we look ahead to next year, I wanted to let you know that I will be moving into a full-time role within the Olympus central team for the next academic year and will, therefore, not be based at Bradley Stoke Community School as Head of Post-16. Students will be left in the very capable hands of Sophie Large, who will take on the role of Head of Post-16, and the wider Post--16 team remains unchanged. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this year group and will continue to stay connected to BSCS through my Trust role, but day to day leadership of Post-16 will sit with Sophie from September.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming year. Please do get in touch if you have any further questions. We know, however, that the summer holiday can be long and difficult for some families and so please see the end of this letter for some links and resources from South Gloucestershire to support you and your family. We wish you a restful and peaceful summer holiday and look forward to working with students and families alike in 2026/2027.

Kind regards,

S McCombe

Sadie McCombe
Assistant Headteacher: Head of Post 16

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.