Bradley Stoke Community School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families had a wonderful summer. It has been an absolute pleasure having learners back in school this week and I have been really impressed with their positive approach to the start of term and how well they have conducted themselves in assemblies this week in both primary and secondary phase.

Thank you to all students who have taken the time to ask me about my summer and to talk to me about their first few days at school - it's a real highlight of my days to have these conversations and to find out about what's going well. I spoke to students in secondary phase about the importance of community and what it means to be part of our school community, especially after the distressing unrest that took place over the summer in the UK and continued difficulties in the news that will still be affecting some of our families. I stressed the importance of every student knowing and feeling that they belong - as Dave Baker wrote in his Parent/Carer update on the 2nd September.

The changes to the school day appear to be working well - we have been reminding students of the new timings and the tutor team have been working hard to develop a revised and improved tutorial programme to ensure the extra time is used effectively and the pastoral team will be using some of this time for interventions and support for students. We will be reviewing this across the year and taking student voice on what is working well and where we can make tweaks. We have also continued with allowing students to have lunch on the playground rather than the astro, which has given them more space and seems to be popular with most. Enrichment will begin the week commencing Monday 23rd September, and we'll be communicating with students about their sign-up options shortly.

Well done to our new Year 7s who have started their secondary phase education with us wearing their uniforms well and who have thrown themselves into BSCS life. We made quite a few changes to how we have supported their transition to secondary, which began last academic year with additional transition support. This week, they have been given maps and additional information on logins for the platforms we use for homework and having Year 7 in with just Year 11 and 12 on their first day has allowed for a much smoother start. Thank you to parents for using the leisure centre to park and pick up children - it has really helped keep the school car park a safer space for when our learners arrive and leave. Please be aware that there are stopping restrictions on the roundabout – this is really important to keep traffic flowing and for pedestrian safety.

Some parents may be aware there has been a change of catering provider for Olympus Academy Trust and we started to work with OCS this week. They will be taking student voice in the next few weeks and will also be working with staff within the Trust on ensuring sustainability and resourcing food from local suppliers as much as possible.

We spent a lot of time last year listening to students, parents and staff about what we can do differently this year to continue to improve. In light of that we have made some tweaks to the detention system and clarified some consequences of unacceptable behaviour that is detailed further below. There is no change to the actual policy. We reflected that at times schools can seem informal with our praise and formal with our consequences, and so we are continuing to build in more opportunities for us to reward

and celebrate students' successes for a range of reasons. Parents and carers may also be aware of the focus on attendance in the national press and changes to how schools legally need to respond to student absence - again, details of this are included in this letter.

And finally, please do look up our press releases from the GCSE and Post 16 Results Days where we were able to celebrate some fantastic successes with last year's Year 11 and 13 - we are so proud of how well they did and I'd like to recognise the hard work of everyone involved in helping them. We wish those students who have left us the best of luck in your next adventures, whether that be university, college, beginning an apprenticeship or taking a gap year. It's been a delight to welcome so many of last year's Year 11s into Post 16 where we have record numbers joining us and we are looking forward to our revamped Post 16 area - watch this space!

UPDATE FROM MRS WILLIAM-JONES, ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER
ON CHANGES TO THE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM

There are some changes and adaptations to our Behaviour system which we launched with students this week. We have asked staff to be more formal in their documentation of rewards to enable us to provide you with a more balanced perspective of your child's performance at school.

We launched our classroom expectations within our welcome assemblies earlier this week explaining how teachers are keen to reward students for getting it right.

Classroom Expectations

1. Start work and follow instructions straight away
2. Try your best - 100% of the time
3. Use appropriate classroom language and speak kindly at all times
4. Don't distract other students from learning
5. Bring the correct equipment to class

Rewards

To celebrate and recognise where students meet our school expectations of Be Kind, Be Ready and Be The Best You, all Rs awarded will now be linked to one of these categories.

We will be looking to extend our reward frequency and types over the coming weeks and will begin student voice related to this shortly in order to encourage both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation for all students. Building on the success of last year's events, we will be holding our first Breakfast with the Head towards the end of Term 1.

Well done to everyone who was awarded certificates at our end of year assembly in July!

What is New and What has changed?
C1s cover low level issues:

- not following classroom expectation
- uniform
- equipment including ingredients
- PE kit

5 or more C1s in a week will result in a 30 minutes Community Detention.

C2s in the School Community will result in a 30 minutes detention

- C2 - Mobile phone confiscation
- C2 - Failure to use your report properly
- C2 - Running in the corridors
- C2 - Behaviour in unstructured times such as: littering or poor corridor behaviour in corridors or the dining hall

C2s in the classroom will result in a 15 minutes teacher detention to allow teachers time to discuss the behaviour resulting in students being removed from a classroom.

- Students who have been given a C1 and continue not to follow the classroom expectations will be given a C2 and will go to the Buddy room.

- A 15 min Teacher Detention will be issued and students will have a restorative conversation with the teacher to ensure next lesson is more successful.

C3 will result in a 30 or 60 minutes detention, depending on the situation.
- C3 – Persistent issues in a lesson/subject
- C3 - Not turning up to a C2 teacher detention
- C3 - Conversational swearing
- C3 - Not behaving in a buddy room.
- C3 - Play fighting, pushing or throwing things across the room.

C4 will result in Reset and a detention. They may also include parent meetings and school swaps.
- C4 - If more than one student is sharing a toilet cubicle
- C4 - Refusing to go to the buddy room
- C4 - Refusal to leave the classroom
- C4 - Sexist/Racist or Homophobic language
- C4 - Swearing directly at a member of staff.
- C4 - Repeated failure to follow school rules

There are now 4 Categories of Detentions
1) **Teacher Detention (C2) - 15 minutes - same day** to enable staff to have a restorative conversation with students
2) **Community detentions (C2/C3) -** 30 or 60 minutes - run by Heads of Year
3) **Curriculum detentions (C2/C3) -** 30 or 60 minutes - run by Heads of Subject
4) **Leadership Detentions (C4) -** 60 minutes - run by Leadership Team every Friday

Lateness to school
- Students must arrive for school by 8.20am.
- A member of the Leadership Team is on the front door every morning and any student who arrives after this time will be recorded in the late-to-school book from 8:20 am onwards.
- Arriving late arrival to school will result in a **30 minutes Community detention.**

We understand that there will be instances where students have a legitimate reason for being late – please phone the school if this is the case.

Lateness to lessons
- Students who arrive late (after 3 minutes) will be marked as late on the class register in Arbor.
- 3 x late arrivals (over 3 minutes) to lessons in one week will result in a **30 minutes Community detention.**

We hope that this update to the behaviour system will provide clarity for students, staff and parents alike, as well as encouraging our students to be prepared for their learning and fully engaged at all times. The vast majority of our students get it right every day and we thank parents and carers for your continued support.

We have to update the settings on Arbor at the start of each academic year and although we hope we have got everything correct, if you do spot something that doesn't look right, do let us know in case we have missed something and we will check as quickly as we can.

Finally, please see here a letter from Avon & Somerset Constabulary regarding the illegal use of e-scooters.

End of Behaviour Update

UPDATE FROM MRS GALLAGHER, SAFEGUARDING LEAD ON ATTENDANCE

At Bradley Stoke Community School we firmly believe that regular school attendance is essential for the educational progress and overall wellbeing of our students. We hope that this letter helps you to keep in mind the key aspects of our attendance policy, which you can find on our website. This policy has recently been updated following the Department for Education updating statutory guidance to schools, which came into force on 18th August 2024.

We want to work together with parents and carers to remove any barriers to being in school.

Why regular attendance matters

Consistent school attendance allows your child to:

- Fully engage in learning and make academic progress
- Develop critical social skills by interacting with their friends and teachers
- Grow in confidence in a supportive and nurturing school environment
- Build a sense of routine and responsibility, essential for future success

Attendance support

We understand that some students may face challenges that impact their attendance. Our school's attendance team is here to provide support and guidance to students and families in such situations. If you encounter any difficulties related to attendance, please do reach out to your child's tutor, head of year, or our attendance lead Jacqui Gallagher, who can be contacted by email: Jacqui.gallagher@olympustrust.co.uk, or via the main school number: 01454 868840

Acceptable reasons for absence

We recognise that there are circumstances where a student's absence can't be avoided. Acceptable reasons for being absent from school include:

- **Illness**: when your child is unwell, either physically or mentally, and unable to attend school
- **Medical appointments**: if your child has a medical appointment that cannot be scheduled outside school hours, please notify us in advance and provide relevant documentation (e.g. an appointment card)
- **Religious observance**: we respect the diverse cultural and religious backgrounds of our students. If your child needs to be absent for religious observance, please submit a request and the Headteacher will review it
- **Exceptional circumstances**: in exceptional situations, such as family emergencies or unforeseen events, please contact the school immediately to discuss the absence

How to report unplanned absences

In the event of an unplanned absence, we ask that you follow these steps:

1. **Contact the school:** on the day of the absence, please call the school office before the start of the school day (8.20am secondary, 8.40am primary, and before 9am for Post 16) to inform us about your child's absence.
2. **Provide a reason for absence:** please provide a brief explanation for the absence, such as illness or family emergency, to help us maintain accurate records

Term-time holidays

Term-time holidays are not permitted during the school year. Absences due to term-time holidays are disruptive to learning and lead to missed opportunities in the classroom.

However, we recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances that require a term-time holiday. In such rare cases, please submit a formal request to the headteacher well in advance. The headteacher will carefully consider each request and, if deemed appropriate and in the best interest of the child, may grant permission for the term-time holiday.

We emphasise that such instances will only be considered on a discretionary basis, and the decision will be made with the student's educational welfare as the utmost priority. We appreciate your co-operation and understanding regarding our approach to term-time holidays.

Sanctions for unauthorised absence
The headteacher may issue a fine (known as a fixed-penalty notice) for unauthorised absence. If issued with one, you'll need to pay this directly to the local authority – £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

The decision whether to issue a fine will take into account whether the national threshold has been met – namely 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks – as well as other factors.

Before a fine is issued, you may receive a notice to improve to give you a chance to engage with support.

Rewards for good attendance
We value and recognise good attendance at Bradley Stoke Community School. Students who maintain excellent attendance records throughout the academic year are eligible for special rewards and recognition.

This may include being awarded attendance certificates, celebrated in year group assemblies, invitation to breakfast with the headteacher and reward points.

Tutor group and year group attendance also counts towards inter-tutor house points.
Let's work together to celebrate and encourage regular attendance.

My question hasn't been answered here
Please get in touch with Jacqui Gallagher by email (Jacqui.gallagher@olympustrust.co.uk) with any further questions, and we'll be happy to discuss them with you.

Please see letter from the local authority.

Thank you for your co-operation in making sure your child receives the best possible educational experience.

End of Attendance Update

We usually start the first term with lovely weather, unfortunately, the summer seems to have ended quite abruptly! Students have been great at coping with the wet weather arrangements – fingers crossed it improves for a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sophie Francis
Headteacher