Bradley Stoke Community School

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29th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy start to term and I'd like to open with a very big well done to Year 11 for their attitude and behaviour through the Year 11 mocks this term. It was great to see so many here at Post 16 Open Evening and to know how many are hoping to stay on with us in Year 12 - we look forward to sharing students' mock results with them later this term and to Year 11 Parent/ Carers' Evening. Year 11 are currently writing their CVs at the moment using our online platform Unifrog to help them and preparing for mock interviews by employers on 29th January. Further details are on Year 11 PSHE Google Classroom pages.

Congratulations as well to Year 10 on completing their mock CRS exam last week. Teaching staff will feedback to students over the coming weeks.

Post 16 have also been busy with a Post 16 morning last week and Year 13 are preparing for their mocks next term.

Festive Season and Fundraising
We are blessed to have a diverse school community and although there will be many families who don't celebrate Christmas, I hope the longer holiday provides all our families with time to be together and reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2025. There are a number of festive events detailed below for you.

This time of year makes me reflect on those who are no longer with us, and on how we can support those in the community who may need some extra help. We are currently reviewing our fundraising for the year and are looking into joining the Schools' Lottery - watch this space for more information.

We will be having a **festive jumpers/non-school uniform day** on Thursday 12th December and will be also collecting food bank donations on the same day. I was so impressed with BSCS students' generosity last year with this and look forward to sharing this year's donations in the new year.

Communications
Thank you to everyone who supports BSCS and for being such a wonderful group of parents/carers to work with. We know how important effective communications are, especially in a large organisation with almost 200 staff and over 1300 students, which can make it more challenging. Thank you to everyone who has feedback where we have got it right (or wrong) as we have been using this to improve what we send out and when. One recent amendment, for example, is the information we send home for Student Reviews, which we have updated using feedback from parents.

This is also a reminder that the Olympus Academy Trust website has details of the Trust Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct (Policies) and the BSCS website has a page on communications (Bradley Stoke Community School - Communication Overview) for who to contact when. We will endeavour to respond within 48 hours, but staff are not at their desks all day and we have many staff who are part time. For staff wellbeing, we do not expect staff to be on email in the evenings or weekends.

We will continue to work on this aspect of school life - as ever, please do let us know any feedback.

Staffing news
You may have seen the sad news from Dave Baker in his Parent Update that a member of BSCS staff, Mrs Sharon Leatherby, passed away earlier this term. Sharon was an integral part of the front office admin team in secondary. We have been supporting staff with this difficult news and her family are firmly in our thoughts.

OCS Catering
We are now into the 12th week of our new catering contractors and we have been impressed so far with the quality of the food provided and the engagement of the company at events such as Open Evenings. Please do feed back your thoughts for us to share. There are conversations underway about what else we can do to minimise the environmental impact of products and I look forward to sharing more about this and the food on offer in the future.

Artificial Intelligence
Please find links to two websites that you might find useful.
Smoothwall | Education | Digital Safeguarding Solutions
Olympus Academy Trust - Olympus Online Safety Hub

Winter Music Showcase

We're really looking forward to the Winter Showcase next week - best of luck to students who are performing. If you've been meaning to get tickets, there are still some available on Arbor. Our Secondary Friends' will be selling refreshments before the event and during the interval.

Travelling to and from School
We are hearing from parents, staff and our neighbours in the community of ongoing issues with students travelling in cars being dropped off on the roundabout outside the gates to the primary and secondary schools. This is extremely dangerous. If your child if able to do so, please ask them to walk to school. Where parents need to drive children to school, please use the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre overflow car park. There is no on-site parking for parents and carers, except for those who have been issued with a parking permit.

It is becoming increasingly frustrating at the delays caused to other motorists with cars stopping on the roundabout and double yellow lines to allow children to exit vehicles. It is also dangerous to have children walking across live lanes of traffic.

School calendar and key dates

And finally, please do remember that our school calendar is available on the school website - which includes parent/carer evenings and key dates. We look forward to:

- Tuesday 3rd December: Year 13 Parents' Evening (remote)
- Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December @ 6:30pm: Winter Music Showcase (tickets available via Arbor)
- Friday 6th December @ 6:30pm: Primary Friends' Wreath Making Event
- Thursday 12th December: Festive Jumper/non-school uniform day and Christmas Lunch. Bookings are not required for Christmas Lunch but do please ensure that your child has sufficient

funds on their Arbor account.
We will also be collecting non-perishable items for our usual Foodbank donation. Items can be left in the main reception area. All donations to be received on Thursday 12th December.

- Thursday 12th December @ 3:30pm: Primary Friends' Christmas Grotto
- Monday 16th December: Year 11 Parents' Evening (remote)
- Tuesday 17th December @ 9:45 am: Late start for students
- Thursday 19th December: Breakfast with the Head
- Friday 20th December:
    - Normal school uniform
    - Post-16 celebrations (no lessons)
    - Whole school assembly
    - Staggered departure for secondary students from 12:20pm to 12:40pm. Primary children will be leaving at 12:30pm
- Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January: school holidays
- Monday 6th January: Start of Term 3

Kind regards,

Mrs Sophie Francis
Headteacher