Bradley Stoke Community School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of Week 4, I would like to thank families for all the support in ensuring the term has started well. Students have started the year on a really positive note and we have been particularly impressed with many students' improvement this year with their attendance and attitude to learning and there has been almost 7% more students with a complete attendance streak this year compared to last and some notable improvements for some individuals with context making 100% attendance less achievable. There were also a lot of successes to celebrate at our GCSE and Post 16 Results Days in the summer, with our students achieving some record results.

All year groups have had assemblies establishing routines and expectations, and I spoke with students at secondary phase about their goals for the year, while sharing with them my success over the summer in completing another section of the Southwest Coast Path! This week's assembly from Mr Randall explored the Bradley Stoke Promise and the Enrichment offer and we are so excited to see as many students as possible at Enrichment Clubs this term… We have important assemblies coming up on keeping yourself safe; Road Safety for Year 7 and Eco-Schools (more to come later…) and I'm really pleased that we will continue with tutor led assemblies at secondary this year after the success of last year's.

Our new students have been a delight to welcome to the school – we are so pleased that almost 50 Year 12s have joined us from other schools and seem to have settled in really quickly to not only the step up from Year 11 but also adapting to a new school. Year 7 have been a pleasure to get to know and have amassed almost 3,000 Rs between them so far and Acorn class in Reception have started well and becoming used to the routines of primary school. Thank you to all the Year 7 parents and carers who made it into our Information Evening last week and to all those coming in next week to our Year 9 Information Evening about the Duke of Edinburgh award. Good luck to the 50+ Year 11s completing their Silver assessed expedition this weekend – I look forward to hearing all about it.

You'll hopefully know that we are a school that prioritises reading, for both pleasure and to support learning. Our wonderful team of cover supervisors have been busy sprucing up the library and adding new stock – do encourage your child to visit and if you're attending Open Evening on Tuesday 22nd September with a younger child, please do pop in. If you didn't see the news this week, there has been some significant research about the impact of reading on our health in later life: Reading for pleasure can improve wellbeing, Cambridge study finds - BBC News

We are delighted that after achieving the Eco Schools Green Flag – distinction - last summer, we have been accredited the 'good' accreditation by Modeshift Active Travel Ambassadors; the highest we could achieve in our first year. This was for our students' work to reduce the numbers of cars around the school site and supporting with bicycles and scooters for students who face disadvantages financially.

We are now looking forward to receiving our tree samplings in November after successfully applying to the Woodland Trust for a community tree pack.

Our Bradley Stoke Promise guarantees every student the chance to represent their school and be a role model; and we are delighted that our Student Council for Years 7-11 officially launches this term after a trial term last summer. Our council will be meeting with our catering company to provide student voice from across the school, and we are hoping they will also be meeting our MP, Claire Hazelgrove on her visit later this year.

The careers team are busy preparing for another year of events and opportunities after the success of us being awarded the national Quality in Careers Standard last March. Our first Business Breakfast is on Thursday 22nd October and if you're interested in finding out more about attending this or a future one, please get in touch with the school - it's a great chance to meet local, regional and national businesses as well as our wonderful students (and to grab a free breakfast!)

And finally… You may have seen a lot of construction traffic going into BSCS, not for the roadworks this time, but to work on our new 2G astro pitch. After 20 years of use, it was coming to its end, and we are really looking forward to its official opening ceremony in October. We are one of the few 2G pitches in the local area and if you'd be interested in hiring it, please do get in touch with our lettings team via the school reception.

We love celebrating the successes of our students – if you have something to share, please do let us know so we can say either a very public (or, if preferred, a very private) well done.

Kind regards

Mrs Sophie Francis
Headteacher