



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3173 LMA

Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

End of Year Update

Throughout the final week of this academic year, we have spent some time reflecting as a school community upon the challenges we have faced, the progress we have made and looking ahead to what next year will bring.

Within all of the reflection discussions, a number of things became abundantly clear. Our students have faced a difficult twelve months but they have responded so well to the challenges that have presented: bubbles, COVID testing, remote learning and a winter lockdown. That is without even considering many of the other aspects of normal adolescent life. We are so proud of them and their response throughout the pandemic so now is time for them to relax, switch off and maybe even help at home!

Thank you to our staff

Although the journey has not been quite as smooth as any of us would have liked, returning as a full school community in September was something we very much enjoyed. Again, the list of tests goes on: remote learning, isolating students and staff, uncertainty about exams and curriculum content, planning for remote learning and in class teaching, Teacher Assessed Grades in lieu of GCSE examinations, testing in school and health and safety protocols and risk assessments. The list of additional challenges has been endless.

That being said, I have to say how proud I am to lead such a fantastic team of staff. Time and time again they have been stretched to their limit - last minute changes and responding to everything directed their way whilst also having their own personal and home situations to consider too. It is no surprise that they have done so as their sole aim is to provide the best for your son/daughter day in, day out.

Final week review

Students and staff have enjoyed a busy end to the year with an important PSHCE day which included Post 16 taster events, a sadly cancelled sports day (on the very, very rainy day), enrichment day, the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze assessment and concluding today with a rewards and reflection morning, followed by virtual assemblies. After such a challenging year, it has been lovely to see students engage in different activities and to finish the year with some big smiles.





BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

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Student Leadership Team

One of the most enjoyable times of the year is listening to the ideas and genuine passion for improving the school for other students from our Student Leadership Team applicants. The difficulty for us comes when trying to decide which of our amazing young people will form the team and, although this year has been no different, we are delighted to announce:

- Head Students: Alice Scarisbrick & Will Snape
- Deputy Head Students: Rachel Webster, Erin Thain, Ben Whitehead & Oliver Morgan.

A number of other senior roles have been allocated to students due to the skills and ideas they demonstrated during the interview. A huge congratulation to all of the students!

Uniform

Ahead of September, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the Uniform and Standards Policy. Thank you for your patience as the new uniform supplier got their website and provisions in order. We are very proud of the fact that our students wear their uniform with pride and attend school looking smart and ready to learn and all of this information is summarised on the website: <https://www.burscoughprioryacademy.org/parents/uniform>

A reminder of our expectations:

- White shirt with top button fastened and shirt tails tucked into trousers/skirt
- Grey school trousers with school logo or grey skirt with school badge (skirts should be knee length)
- Navy blazer with school badge
- School tie (different version for Year 11)
- Grey V-necked school jumper with purple trim (optional)
- Plain, grey socks in the same grey as the trouser or skirt
- If wearing a skirt, socks should be long but no higher than the knee (no patterns or bows) OR plain black tights (minimum 40 denier) can be worn
- Plain, black, smart, sturdy shoes

We would also appreciate your full support with regards to skirts, which should be strictly knee length. Please ensure that your child's skirt is of the correct length before they return to school in September. If you have any concerns about the length of skirt and the fit, we suggest you contact Monkhouse and/or make an appointment to see them.

With regard to school shoes, as a reminder, these should be black and sturdy. Shoes should be traditional and look like school shoes – ballet style pumps that slip on, trainers and those that are nearly, but not



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quite trainers (some kickers styles) are not suitable. Please do not spend money on shoes that you are unsure about – please contact school and we can check the suitability.

Needless to say, wherever possible for financial and reasons related to sustainability, where pre-loved uniform can be recycled or swapped, we would always encourage it. We do know that in Burscough, there is a thriving online marketplace where parents are trading items of uniform.

Most important and genuinely, we do not want anyone to ever worry about buying school uniform. If you do need any support with uniform costs, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school and we can talk about this in confidence.

It is important that students arrive at school with the equipment to allow them to access lessons and learning. Other subject specific resources will be required as directed but our expectation is that students always have:

- a sturdy, dark coloured school bag for school equipment – this should be big enough to fit an A4 folder in
- a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, whiteboard and whiteboard pen

September

We have spent recent weeks beginning to prepare for the return to school in September and we are hopeful this will bring a return to vertical tutoring without bubbles. Whilst there is more planning to be done, we will ensure all parents and students are fully aware of our plans and important information in preparation for the two days in September. We do anticipate resuming the traditional school day in September:

8.45 am	Start of school day, movement to tutor
8.50 am	Lesson 1
9.50 am	Lesson 2
10.50 am	Break
11.10 am	Lesson 3
12.10 pm	Lesson 4
1.10 pm	Lunch
1.45 pm	End of lunch warning bell
1.50 pm	Personal Tutor Time / Assembly
2.15 pm	Lesson 5
3.15 pm	End of School Day



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Important dates

Looking ahead, here are some key dates for early next academic year:

- **Monday 6 September:** Year 7 and 11 in school for 8.45am. Year 8, 9 & 10 Review Day appointments
- **Tuesday 7 September:** All students in school for 8.45am
- **Thursday 9 September:** Welcome Evening- Year 7 at 5.00pm, Year 8 at 6.00pm and Year 9 at 7.00pm
- **Tuesday 14 September:** Year 10 at 6.00pm, Year 11 at 7.00pm
- **Thursday 23 September:** Open Evening with students leaving site at 12.30pm.

Please also note an additional day has been added to the calendar as directed by the Department for Education for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This will be taken on Friday 26th November which will mean school is closed on this date.

Staffing Update

Looking ahead to September, like all schools we have some staff that are leaving Burscough Priory Academy to take up new and exciting roles elsewhere. First and foremost, a huge thank you to them all for their dedication to our school and most importantly the students.

This year, we bid farewell to Mr Day (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Day (Head of Science Faculty), Mr Barnes (Geography) and Mr Davies (Design Technology). We also say goodbye to Miss Peers in PE and in return welcome back Mrs Ashurst. In Science, Mrs Tonge returns as Head of Science Faculty and Dr Thompson leaves us for a new post. Miss Fellows will complete her maternity leave cover and move onto her new school. Every member of staff has been hardworking and dedicated, they have, most importantly, inspired students within their subject areas and have made a big difference within the school community.

It is exciting to let you know that we also have several new teachers starting at BPA in September and we are very lucky to have recruited excellent leaders and subject specialists to carry on the great work. We are delighted to welcome Dr Melis to the English department, Mr Dicker as a teacher of science, Mr Cathcart to Geography, Mrs Rohit to the Design Technology team, Mr Caraway as a teacher of Spanish and Mrs Walker to the History department. We will also welcome our new Deputy Headteacher, Mr Lyons. I am sure that as ever, they will be welcomed wholeheartedly into the team and it will soon feel like they have always been here.

To finish

As we move into the summer break, we appreciate that a little uncertainty remains about the months to come. Please be assured that the school, within the wider Trust, will continue to make plans in line with the latest health advice and guidance. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is paramount



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and will drive our planning. We anticipate a full return to school as outlined above and we will contact you late in the summer to confirm all of the plans ahead of the start of the new academic year.

Throughout lockdown, and the more recent periods of enforced isolation our families have supported their children's remote learning, whilst also trying to retain a semblance of order and normality. Over the last few weeks as case rates have increased in the Burscough area, the last thing we wanted to do was to send students home when their 'bubble burst'. For those of you who have shown your understanding, even gratitude, truly, thank you. I can honestly say that all of the staff team have worked tirelessly and the way the whole community has harnessed its resources and how it has supported everyone, especially those who need it most, has been humbling.

To finish, I would just like to reiterate my thanks for all of your support over the course of the year. To all of the Burscough Priory community; our students and parents and on behalf of everyone in the Endeavour Learning Trust, we wish you a lovely summer. We are excited for and look forward to September.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Head of School



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