



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3258 LMA

31 March 2022

Dear Parents,

End of Term Letter

As we come to the end of this term, we would like to give you an update about the end of term arrangements, our achievements and consider the start of the summer term.

Reflecting on the Term

Despite all of the challenges this term has presented, we have enjoyed a return to full time education in spring that we have not experienced for the last two years. We have had many successes and lots of the traditional, pre-Covid activities have returned to be a feature of life at school. Some of these have been shared on social media and include:

- Maths have marked national 'Pi' day with a series of activities for students in school
- English invited a touring group to perform Macbeth and Year 10 and 11 were lucky to have experienced a writing workshop in preparation for their Practice Examinations
- A return to 'Creatives' enrichment with the Creative Evening, a virtual visit from Dean Chisnall, alumni and West End performer and an excellent series of lunchtime concerts. We really do have some talented young people!
- The Year 7 students took part in the FAME careers event and showcased their extraordinary focus on careers and their aspirations
- A full extra-curricular activities programme has started: Eco Committee, Debate Club, LGBTQ+ group, Games Club, Music activities and Chess Club amongst others
- Regular participation in a range of sport and physical activities across West Lancashire and success in several tournaments in the district. Swimming Gala – several placed athletes and Joe in Year 10, broke a long-standing district record. 24 Year 7 students completed their Level 3 Bikeability course focused on safe cycling on and off road. BPA were the worthy winners of the district's problem solving and orienteering competition
- Two excellent PSHE days included education about staying safe online, first aid and a fantastic trip to the Anglican Cathedral and Mosque in Liverpool. We were delighted that both places of worship noted the excellent attitudes and the conduct of our students
- Parents' Evenings for Year 9, 10 and 11 which included the rescheduled Option Evening
- Red Nose Day raised £300 for the charities that they support, including those in Ukraine



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- We have started our journey to achieve the 'Rainbow Flag Award' which recognises a school's commitment to being a fully supportive and inclusive environment for people who form a part of or who are allies of the LGBTQ+ community

We were delighted to receive the names of the Year 6 students who selected BPA for their high school for September 2022 – the Class of 2027. For the first time in five years, we are 'oversubscribed,' more choices than places and testament to the school's improvement. Most important, we cannot wait to meet the newest members of the BPA team next term.

Year 11 have nearly completed their coursework in school and their final set of Practice Examinations. As we leave this term, their final full one in school, we would like to wish them all the very best of luck as they move towards the GCSE examinations starting on 16 May 2022. Of course, we urge them to work hard and revise in preparation for the exams, but we are also looking forward to a range of traditional valedictory activities in the weeks and months to come. You will receive more information about this after the Easter break.

Staffing Changes

Over the course of this term, Miss Bristow and Miss Sloan have left us temporarily to take their maternity leave. Miss Holden makes a welcome return to the Maths team and Mr Studdart joins us in History from another school in the Trust. This week will also see Mrs Walker complete her final week in school as she starts her maternity leave. We wish them all a happy and healthy period of leave; no doubt it will fly by and they will be soon set to re-join us.

Rewards and Awards

The end of term nominations have been completed by the staff team to recognise the engagement and learning of students right across the year groups and range of subjects. These nominations reflect both the period of working remotely and in person. Tomorrow, the prize nominees (of which there are a staggering 272), will receive their certificates in House assemblies and tutorial sessions. On Friday, parents will be informed by SchoolComms and over the course of the next working week, ClassCharts will be uploaded with achievement points for the winners. Needless to say, we are very proud of the excellent levels of engagement and excellence in subject areas that are consistently demonstrated in school and that we will recognise tomorrow.



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Uniform and Equipment

As we return after the break, we would like to remind everyone of our expectations related to uniform, the policy link can be found on [this page](#). A key feature of our policy is what we wear (uniform) and how we wear it (appearance). In summary, some key points of note are:

- Knee length skirts
- Knee length socks (charcoal grey) or black tights (no bows or patterns)
- Leather style and sturdy school shoes – **trainers and ballet style pumps are not permitted**
- Jumpers should be untucked
- One gold/silver stud earring in the lobe of the ear (no other jewellery)
- A non-smart watch
- Hair colour should be natural with no severe cuts or styles

If finances are an issue with regards to replacement items (uniform or equipment), then please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can support you with this.

After the Easter break we will write to you with the specific detail about the expectations for uniform and appearance for September. Monkhouse will continue to be a supplier of our uniform but discussions are taking place with other local companies about supplying our uniform as well. At this point we can tell you that we will be reducing the number of items that are branded and we will publish the detail as noted above. Please be aware that if you buy or have bought crested items recently, these will still be permitted in the updated policy. All of this is in line with the guidance from the DFE which states that the majority of the changes, according to the guidance, should be implemented by September 2022.

If your child has any items of uniform that are still in good condition but they have outgrown, then we would be delighted to accept donations in school which we will pass onto students who need them. Over the coming weeks we will begin plans to formalise a pre-loved/second hand arrangement for the school community in collaboration with the existing local and social networks that have done this so well for a while. If you would be interested in supporting this, please get in touch with us on enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org



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Support and Signposting – Personal Support and Mental Health





As we move into the Easter break, we would like to reiterate that there is a range of support available when we are and even when we are not in school. For your information, here is a summary of what students regularly see in school:


In School

- Personal Tutor
- Year PBM
- Email pdcsupport@burscoughprioryacademy.org
monitored during school hours
- House Progress Leader
- School Nurse/Counsellor
- Any other adult you feel comfortable talking to

Out of School

- A parent or another members of the family
- Friends
- Other groups that can help:





On the school website, following [this](#) link there are further help and signposts to reliable information and support. Click on the burgundy writing at the top of this page to search other sources of support.

Important Dates

Looking ahead to next half term, here are some of the key events, taken from the Summer calendar that may be relevant to your family:

- 25 April – Year 10 Practice Examinations
- 9 May – Year 10 Work Experience
- 5 May – Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 11 May – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- 25 May – Year 9 HPV Vaccinations
- 26 May – Year 10 Parents' Evening



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'Vape, eCig or Dispos'

Again, we continue to be concerned at the increase in students choosing to 'vape' right across the local area. Recent research has found that there has been an increase in lung injuries and death caused by vaping and while they do contain less toxins than regular cigarettes, they are still full of nicotine; which is highly addictive, raises your blood pressure and is being linked to chronic lung disease and asthma. As a school we have a responsibility to educate our young people on the dangers of vaping and in conjunction with parents, support our young people to make better choices. We would like to be very clear that any student caught with a vape in school will be treated in the same way as if they had any other smoking paraphernalia on them and this will result in a minimum sanction of a fixed term exclusion. We thank you for your support in making sure your children do not bring any prohibited items into school.

End of Term

This week is the end of a long spring term which, unlike the two years previous has been fully in person. To end the term, students will be in normal lessons, have a tutor session and then House Assembly. As published on the website, school will close for students at 12.30pm and the buses are booked. Lunches for students eligible for a free school meal will be available after the bell as a grab bag and these should be ordered in the kitchen or at a pre order station in the morning between 8.30 and 8.45am.

School reopens on Tuesday 19 April at 8.45am for all students (Monday is the Easter Bank Holiday). Students should be prepared in their full school uniform, with all of their equipment. Following the release of the latest Covid-19 related guidance from the Government and the DFE on 1 April, we will give you an update on our return to school.

On behalf of all of the staff, we would like to wish you all a safe, well rested and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Headteacher