



Headteacher : Mrs L MacLaren

Ref: 3368

10 February 2023

Dear Parent,

School Update

As we approach the end of the first part of the Spring term, we would like to give you an update on school life.

It has been a busy first term of 2023 with many highlights and none more so than the day-to-day standards and learning that are evident in school. We have shared lots of updates in a range of ways, especially online.

Thank you to all of the parents and students who attended the Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening last night. Reflecting on last night. As a headteacher, I have the opportunity to talk to students, their accompanying adult and our staff and it never fails to be inspiring. It is a very exciting time; this is the first real chance that students get to personalise their curriculum and direct their course of study. Our young people take this very seriously and consider all of the information with great diligence and maturity. Combine this with the support of their parents, it wholly reinforces why we do this job. Seeing interests and passions emerge is exciting and energising because at some point, someone or something inspired every single one of us. The deadline for the return of the form is Thursday 23 February, to the school office. After the holiday, you will receive an email so that you can give us your feedback on the evening and in school life in general.

This week we have been learning and thinking about Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health [Week] with the two inextricably linked. So much so that this week we have concentrated on the impact of online activity on self-esteem and mental health and this will be followed, after the break a further focus on children's mental health. This has focused on some key area: being technologically safe, the role of influencers (Andrew Tate in particular), misrepresentation and the norm related to filters and appearance and finally the impact of trolling. The internet is so vast and exciting with the presence of so many positive people and their content, equally there is damaging, unsafe content and untruths. We have challenged our students to think, fact check and if something doesn't look or feel right then it probably isn't. Because of the scale of this topic, we will return to it after the break.

Uniform

Overall, we continue to be very proud of our students, their uniform and appearance. The uniform of some students does not meet the [policy](#), the key points for address are outlined here:

- Coats – plain and dark colour. Some parents have asked us to review this for the start of the next academic year which we will, in the meantime this remains our policy
- Skirt length – unrolled and to the knee at the start of the year
- Socks – knee length and pulled up to the knee
- Tights – black and 70 denier minimum
- Make up – discreet
- Jewellery – one plain stud and non-smart watch



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Earlier today we have sent some parents an email about the uniform and/or appearance of their child. Your support to address this in time for our return to school is crucial. As a reminder, we do have a sizable amount of preloved uniform in school and if you do need any support with this, please get in touch with us.

Staffing

This week we are delighted to have welcomed Miss Bristow back to school and Miss Sloan and Mrs Walker will follow in the next term, returning from their respective maternity leave. As a result, at the end of this term we say goodbye and thank you to Miss Bench and Mr Studdart who were appointed to cover the leave as they move on to pastures new.

As you already know, Miss Pagliarulo has returned to post in the PDC earlier in the term – thank you for your welcome and support as she works tirelessly with our students in Year 8 & 9.

Earlier this term we have said goodbye to Mr Sheard from the PE department and Mr Bartlett in Design Technology, both of whom have moved on to new roles. Again, on behalf of all of our staff and students, we wish them the very best of luck and thank them for their hard work at BPA.

Attached to this letter, you will also find a letter from Mrs Gwinnett, CEO of the Endeavour Learning Trust about her role in the coming months. We would ask you to take some time to read this.

28 February 2023 – Proposed date for industrial action by the NEU

Every school in the country, not least in our Trust, is in a completely unique position with regard to provision on strike days. The plan for the next date will be specific to the circumstances that we will review and risk assess on Thursday 23 February. We will confirm our decision to you, in writing, on Friday 24 February. At this stage there is no assumption that the arrangements will be the same as those we made earlier in this month.

Thank you for your understanding and your respectful communication about the arrangements that we make – your support continues to be invaluable.

Full School Photograph – Year 7-11

With our parents, we are exploring the appetite for a full school photograph, to be completed by Tempest. There is no charge for the photograph if we meet an order baseline, it would cost approximately £30.00 per copy. Please express your interest by completing this simple form which will take seconds. We will revisit this and confirm the decision next term. <https://forms.gle/FU5bv5vvVBVGsNXC7>

Ofsted – November 2022

At the start of the term, it was with pride and delight that we were able to inform you that we were judged to be a 'Good' school by Ofsted. The 'Good' judgements extended right across the four areas of the inspection - the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and



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management. A copy of the report can be found [here](#) on the school website along with the other related correspondence and it is also live on [Ofsted's website](#). Whether in person, on the telephone or in writing, thank you for all of your warm words and support. They have reinforced our ambition and determination to serve this community and all of our amazing young people.

And finally ...

Vouchers for students who are eligible for free school meals have been distributed for the holiday period and sent directly to parents. If you have not received them or have any questions, please contact us on enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

On behalf of all of the staff here at Burscough Priory Academy and right across our Trust, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. We look forward to seeing all students return to school on **Monday 20 February 2023 at 8.45am.**

E Pluribus Unum.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Headteacher





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Letter from Mrs Gwinnett, CEO of the Endeavour Learning Trust

Dear Parent,

In 2011, having been a teacher since 1988 and subsequently moving into middle and senior leadership, I was privileged to be appointed the Headteacher at Tarleton Academy.

This marked a shift in my career, and the start of an adventure that led to me becoming the CEO of Endeavour Learning Trust. I am incredibly proud of the Trust that we have created and the wonderful people I have the pleasure to work with in our schools and overarching teams. I am honoured to be part of the Endeavour family, making a difference to the lives of our children and young people and the communities we serve, on a daily basis.

We are now at an exciting stage in our Trust, having worked hard to establish firm foundations and thriving schools, to be ready for our next phase of growth.

Following some deep reflection and re-evaluation, I have decided that now is the right time for me and for the Trust, for me to step away and make way for a new CEO. This will include some partial retirement on my part, but also inevitably some wider support and mentoring of others across the region, with a view to sharing the knowledge and experience I have developed.

As such, our Trust Board are now embarking upon the recruitment of a new CEO, with the aim of a September 2023 start. I am happy to support this process, including induction and transition into the Autumn term, if needed.

I have every confidence in the leaders and staff across the Trust, to ensure that this period of change will be stable and that we will continue to be highly effective. The strength and depth of the Trust is to be found in the people who make up the whole, and together, the Trust will continue to thrive.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment and I look forward to working with you through the remainder of my time as the CEO of the Endeavour Learning Trust.

Yours faithfully,

L Gwinnett

Mrs Gwinnett
CEO Endeavour Learning Trust