

15th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of what has been a productive and enjoyable half term at BPS, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the progress we have made.

Over the past few weeks, our students have experienced educational trips, captivating lessons, and a wide range of extracurricular activities. As you are also aware, our Ofsted report was also published this term. The inspectors were extremely impressed with the positive culture at school and praised the students for responding to our high expectations. This recognition validates the hard work of our entire school community, including students, staff, and parents.

Learning Habit – Attendance and Punctuality

At BPS, we firmly believe that every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. We believe that regular attendance is vital for academic achievement and personal development. I am proud to share that our approach to promoting strong attendance habits was recently celebrated by Ofsted. The inspectors praised the school for being tenacious in our approach to improving students' attendance, recognising the significant impact it has on their overall well-being and educational outcomes.

As we move forward, I want to assure you that maintaining strong attendance habits will continue to be our number one priority. We will work tirelessly to support students and families in overcoming any challenges they may face in attending school regularly.

Countdown to Mocks - Year 11

The offer to our Year 11 students continues to be exceptional; this includes a comprehensive in-school intervention programme, Saturday school and February Half Term masterclasses. These have a clear purpose: to ensure our students are prepared for their mock examinations, and our message has been clear for some time now: We know that the students who are motivated to work the hardest in school and at home make the most progress.

The practice GCSE examinations begin on **Monday 26th February**, and continue until Friday 8th March. We expect full school attendance throughout the exam period, and students have received detailed revision packs to support them over the half-term and exam period.

Learning Habit – Homework

Our students have been provided with a 'Must Know' homework challenge to complete over half term, these are designed to reinforce essential knowledge and to stimulate an in depth research of each subject. It is crucial that students engage with this homework and return it after the break.

Reading

I also want to take a moment to emphasise the importance of encouraging your child's reading habits over the half-term. We at BPS are committed to developing a habit of reading, as it not only enhances literacy skills, but the research consistently shows that when students read regularly, they make more progress in all subjects, not just English.

As parents and carers, your support plays an important role in developing a love for reading in your child. I would ask you to take this opportunity to lead by example. Let your child see you reading regularly, whether it's a book, a newspaper or magazine, or an online article.

Learning Habit: Perfect Uniform

I understand that the half-term break may allow some students to explore their personal appearance choices. While this is appropriate, it is essential that they return on Monday 26th February, to meet our uniform and appearance policy. Your cooperation in reinforcing this message is greatly appreciated.

Mobile Phones

I would like to remind everyone of our school's no mobile phone policy. The strategy plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of our students and maximising learning time. Your ongoing support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Parents' Evening

It has been lovely to see so many supportive parents and carers, as well as our students, at the recent Year 8 to Year 11 Parents' Evenings. We hope you have gained an understanding of the extensive academic and pastoral support available for your child. We will look forward to hosting our Year 7 Parents' Evening on Thursday 29th February.

Start of Term arrangements – Monday 26th February 2024

Finally, I hope you have an enjoyable half term break and we thank you for your ongoing support. The new spring term starts at **8:35 am on Monday 26th February 2024.**

Best wishes,



Peter Mee
Head of School