



4 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

The new Spring Term is an opportunity to make a fresh start and the New Year has hopefully enabled students to attend school with renewed positivity and ambition. 2023 at BPS will be a New Year with even higher expectations, relentless school routines and visible consistencies in everything we do.

### **Learning Habit - Update**

We have now embedded the learning habits of perfect uniform, positive behaviour and attendance/punctuality. The vast majority of our students attend school on time, every day, in full uniform wearing the correct shoes and bag with full equipment.

### **Learning Habit - Homework**

Our learning habit of homework is enforced this week. Students are expected to complete all homework assigned to them each night. Students have five different homeworks; revision from knowledge organisers, low stakes quizzes, vocabulary revision, reading tasks and exam style questions. Alongside this, students should be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes each night. Learning powerful knowledge in this way means that they are well set up to recall it in lessons and in any tests or exams. We know that our students tell us that they don't know how to revise. Teaching this early on gives them the techniques to succeed.

### **BPS 'I Know' Programme Year 11 students**

I am delighted to share that we will be launching 'The BPS 'I Know' programme which will empower Year 11 students to develop their independent learning and the knowledge to revise effectively. All students will take part in the programme and will develop from Bronze, Silver to Gold. It is a ten week programme that will support students in revising right up to their GCSE's and see students rewarded for their participation and hard work each week. It is brand new and we are very excited about how it will support the students to improve their academic performance.

### **DofE - Duke of Edinburgh Award Year 9**

In continuing to have even higher expectations and providing new opportunities to the students who attend BPS, I'm pleased to share that we will be launching the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) at Bronze to students in Year 9. The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, have fun with friends, develop leadership skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned award. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks from Mrs Critchlow and Mr Artell.

### KS3 Grouping by current Academic Performance

As you are already aware, from **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** we will be grouping students by their current academic performance. Grouping students in this way allows for skilled teachers to work with your child to allow them to make as much progress as possible during their time in school.

Students will be assessed on a regular basis, if their performance improves due to their hard work, they will have the opportunity to move to another teaching group.

### Attendance

As you already know, I unapologetically write about attendance in every letter as it remains a crucial target area for us. I want to remind everyone that our school target is 100% and that anything below this is not an acceptable level of attendance. Thank you to all of the families who have engaged positively with our efforts to support the attendance of each and every student in the school. It was amazing to see so many families receive hampers and vouchers before Christmas.

### Year 7 – 11 Parents' Evening

I am delighted to share the date for your child's Parents' Evening, for each year group more detailed arrangements will be sent to you in the coming weeks. The timings of each event will be 4:00pm – 6:30pm.

Year	Date
11	Thursday 12 January
7	Thursday 19 January
8	Thursday 2 February
9	Thursday 16 Feb*
10	Thursday 2 March

\*Year 9 Parents' Evening. There will be a Year 9 Options presentation at 3:30pm, 4:30pm & 5:15pm

We reinforce our values of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience, and Thoughtfulness in every interaction and we keep looking for every opportunity to improve the life chances of the children who attend Birkenhead Park School. We are relentless with learning habits and our high standards every day.

Finally, the staff are looking forward to welcoming the students back and thank you for your ongoing support. If there is any further information you require, please contact your child's Year Leader and we will be happy to help.

With Best Wishes



Mr Peter Mee  
Head of School