

6th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, we welcomed students back to school after what we hope was a wonderful summer break!

The new academic year is an opportunity to make a fresh start, and the long summer holiday has hopefully enabled students to return to school even more determined to meet our expectations and learning habits.

Staff have been working tirelessly over the summer holidays to ensure the school can provide the best education for the families of Birkenhead. The success of the last academic year now leaves us well placed to push on to improve the school experience for every student.

Parents' Information Evening

To ensure that you are fully informed about the year ahead, we have scheduled a number of Parents' Information Evenings for this half term. This will also be a good opportunity for you to visit the school to meet key staff. We need your help as we know that students perform at their best when their school studies are supported and encouraged at home. In order to give them the best chance of success, it is important that we are able to work directly with all our parents and carers. The event will focus on sharing important information for this academic year.

Year 8	Monday 11 th September	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Year 9	Wednesday 13 th September	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Year 10	Thursday 14 th September	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Year 11	Thursday 28 th September	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Year 7	Thursday 19 th October	4:30pm – 5:30pm

Home/School Agreement

We are working hard to ensure that parents and carers are fully involved in their child's education. To support this commitment, we have produced a home/school agreement to underline the expectations between parents and carers, students and the school. I have attached the school's home/school agreement with this letter.

Cohort of 2023

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that our cohort of 2023 made significant progress, with more students than previous cohorts gaining the grades to secure their preferred post 16 college and apprenticeship places. It's important to reflect that their schooling suffered due to multiple lockdowns, but we can now look back and take great pride in reflecting on wonderful examples of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience and Thoughtfulness. They go with our very best wishes, and we do hope they keep in touch to let us know how they are doing.

Open Evening – Wednesday 20th September

The school's annual Open Evening takes place on Wednesday 20 September from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Students in Years 7-8 will be dismissed at 2.05pm instead of 3.05pm on this day. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be able to access lunch at 1.30pm as normal and may leave school at this time. The school bus will be available at the usual time. Students who normally use this bus service may choose to wait in school until then if they wish.

Parking

Merseyside Police have asked to share that cars should not be parked on the zig-zag lines at the bus stop at the end of the school day. They have recently installed a 4G camera outside of school to monitor the school gates and surrounding area. If you collect your child by car, please consider doing so at an agreed location, a short walk away from school. This helps disperse the traffic at a time when almost 800 students are walking out of the building.

Please help us make the local area safer for all of our students, as well as members of the public.

Access to Toilets

In order to maximise learning time, students will be able to access toilets before school, during breaks and during lunchtime. However, only students with a valid medical pass will be permitted to use the toilet during school transitions and lesson time. Please contact your child's leader if you need to update us in this regard.

Year 7

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 families to Birkenhead Park School. As you are already aware, the Birkenhead Park School Learning Habits provide a framework to ensure our core values (Positivity, Ambition, Resilience, Thoughtful) are embedded within our daily practice. Every student is expected to uphold these values.

Our Learning Habits are:

Perfect Uniform

As you are aware, school's drive to raise standards continues, and we have high but not unreasonable expectations. We reserve the right to send students home at the start of the day without further notice if they are not meeting our uniform expectations and we do not feel that all reasonable efforts have been made to resolve the issue. In these exceptional circumstances, your child would be sent home to resolve the issue, and we would welcome them back to school as soon as possible so they could continue their learning once the issue had been resolved.

We really appreciate the support that we have had from parents and carers at the start of the new academic year. Thank you for working with us.

Full school uniform is expected to be worn by all students every day.

- A black blazer with a red trim and the school badge
- A white shirt/blouse
- School clip-on tie; no other type is permitted
- Black school trousers or black skirt - girls' trousers must be tailored
- **Plain black shoes**
- A school jumper or black cardigan may be worn, provided they are fine knit.
- Plain black or white socks and black tights
- School lanyard and timetable

For reference, the following are **NOT acceptable**:

- Bodycon skirt
- Trainers
- Walking/softshell trousers
- Tracksuit bottoms
- False nails (including coloured or French polish)
- Painted nails/ Shellac/ gel – only clear or natural nail polish is permitted
- False eyelashes
- Fake tan or spray tan that does not look natural
- Facial piercings
- Extreme hair colours (only natural looking colours are permitted)
- Extreme hair styles
- Jewellery – (including rings, bracelets, bangles)

Learning Habit – Equipment

Students are required to have the following items:

- Pencil case, Black or blue pen, Red pen, Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Highlighter

Learning Habit - Punctuality and Attendance

There is a clear link between attendance and student outcomes at GCSE. The school's expectation is that students attend 100% of the time. There is no reason for children who attend Birkenhead Park School to attend less than their peers at other schools across the country. Your child will compete against these other students to gain the best GCSEs possible, and the surest way to undermine your own child's success is to allow them to take time off.

The new school year is the perfect opportunity to work with us to break any old habits and establish positive routines to support 100% attendance.

May I also remind you that we have a free breakfast club starting 8 a.m. and tutor time starts at **8.35 a.m.** All students are expected to be on site by this time.

Finally, it has been a very busy, full, and tiring day for students, but it has been lovely to see their smiles, positive interactions, and excitement. We are really glad to welcome them back to our BPS community.

Best wishes,



Peter Mee
Head of School