

1 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families have had a lovely summer and that your children are well rested and ready to start the new academic year! A reminder that only the new Year 7 and Year 10 Peer Mentors start back on Monday 4 September. The rest of the school are due back on Tuesday 5 September. Students should assemble in their tutor group lines on Tuesday at 8.45am on the upper (Years 10 and 11) and lower (Years 7-9) playgrounds. A full uniform check will take place so if there are any issues, please send a note in with your child. All uniform requirements can be found on the website here: [Uniform - Bradon Forest School](#)

During the summer, our Year 11 and Year 13 students received their examination results. I am delighted to report that despite the return to 2019 pre-pandemic grade allocations, Bradon Forest School achieved excellent GCSE results where the attainment figures were better than both the 2019 and 2022 figures with 76% of the year group achieving a Grade 4+ in both English and Maths. The year group should be congratulated on the commitment and resilience that they have displayed in the last year. I would also like to recognise and thank our dedicated teaching, pastoral and support staff for helping the students navigate Year 11 and ensuring that guidance and support were always available in the run up to, and during, the exams.

Safeguarding and the safety of your children remains a top priority for the school. In the next few weeks, we will be delivering key information to all students in assemblies regarding safeguarding support in schools and emergency procedures such as fire and lockdown. These key messages will be delivered with sensitivity so as to not heighten any anxiety. To clarify, the lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety procedure that is used when it is safer for everyone to remain in school rather than evacuate (e.g. in the event of a warning from the police of local air pollution). We will be conducting necessary fire and lockdown practices to ensure that staff and students are confident about procedures.

We have continued to update the site over the summer and a huge project to replace all the lighting and install LED lights in all areas has made significant progress. This work will continue over the next term at weekends and at half-term. As you will be aware LED lights are much more efficient and environmentally friendly and should provide the school with some long-term cost savings. The site team have also continued to roll out the programme of painting and updating classrooms, corridor areas, the kitchen and the main hall.



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

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In our Learning Support area – The Hub – a new Key Stage 4 computer room has been developed to enable our special educational needs students to study some of their GCSE courses in a bespoke space. As always, the site and IT teams have worked hard to continue to provide students with the best possible learning environments and I thank them for their dedication to the school.

Following reports in the news yesterday about school closures due to reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete, please be assured that this does not affect any of the Athelstan Trust schools. This information has been reported to the Department for Education (DfE) in line with their data collection process.

Our analysis of this year's exam results (coupled with evidence from previous years) clearly indicates that regular attendance (95% and above) at school and the accumulation of positive House Points are the biggest indicators of future 'good' exam results (where a student makes positive progress from their primary school starting point). Therefore, we will once again have attendance at the top of our school priorities and continue to work with families to support students who find attending school difficult.

Another key priority is to improve our use of rewards and activities that help children feel connected to school and positive about their place in the school community. We will therefore be increasing our use of ClassCharts to now log reward and behaviour points; this will also enable you to have an instant and constant overview of your child's achievements at school.

I very much look forward to welcoming your children back next week and working with you all again this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Haines', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs Sarah Haines
Headteacher