



25th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for all of your support this half-term. We have had a very busy and productive eight weeks!

Welcoming our new students, staff and parents

Our Year 7 students have settled in very well, and over 80 of them are finishing off the half-term with a 2 night residential at Walesby Forest with their tutors. In addition, we have welcomed a number of other students into Year 8 - 10. Our new staff have also settled into school life very well – we have all found the school community very welcoming and friendly.

Working hard towards exam success in Key Stage 4 and beyond

Our Year 10 students have made an excellent start to their Key Stage 4 courses. Year 11 students have taken mock exams in Science, English Language and Maths and are using their results to improve their grades further. The main mock exam period starts on Monday 19th November; students have been given a copy of the exam timetable and can access information about what they need to do to prepare from M:\7. Exam Revision\Y11 Mocks 2018 on the school system. We look forward to meeting parents of Year 11 students at Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 15th November.

Year 11 students have also been looking at post-16 providers and routes in their Citizenship lessons and I know many students have been visiting 6th forms and colleges and starting to consider their plans for next year and beyond. Any student applying to Bramcote College 6th Form (BC6F) will be offered a one to one discussion to support them in choosing the most appropriate Key Stage 5 courses. All Year 11 students will be offered a Career Interview with our Careers Guidance provider, Ideas4Careers.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Since the start of term students have been involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition, German exchange visit, Madrid trip and Year 7 Walesby Forest residential. Students are busy rehearsing for our whole school production of Romeo and Juliet and the Swing Band, Orchestra, Choir and other music ensembles are preparing for our Christmas concert. Most year groups have had sports fixtures, and lots of students have taken part in our weekly extra-curricular programme, in addition to the activities and groups that many of them are involved with out of school.

Our Year 8 students are now signing up for the Hagg Farm residential later in the year, and we have had a record number of Year 9 students apply for our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Our D of E Team are working hard to accommodate as many students as possible without diluting the quality of the experience. We will be contacting Year 9 students and parents as soon as possible to update you on our plans. It would be helpful if Year 9 students who have applied can start thinking about their skill, volunteering and physical activities as these need to be completed prior to the expedition.

Student Leadership

Many of our students have really contributed to leading aspects of our school this term. This includes our Senior Students, led by Lead Students Anna Robertson and Patrick Slater, as well as our School Council representatives. Other students are volunteering as Year 9 and 10 Maths Mentors, BBC School News Reporters, or being trained as Sports Leaders. Congratulations to William Mee who has been elected as Broxtowe Youth Mayor and Faraz Hussain as Deputy Youth Mayor. Our students have done a wonderful job of showing prospective parents and students what our school is all about, both by volunteering at Open Evening and welcoming the many visitors who have toured the school over the past few weeks. The feedback has been extremely positive, and it is always our students' enthusiasm and engagement that impresses visitors the most.

Involving Parents

I have been both delighted and humbled by the number of parents who are so committed to supporting us as a school. We are very lucky to have a great team leading the PTA who would love to have new volunteers to support the events they have planned for the second half of this term. Please contact them directly via the PTA Facebook group or leave a message with the school office.

I am looking forward to seeing lots of parents at our Parents Forum today at 6.30pm. A parent who regularly attends says "I have found it to be a really useful way of getting to know what is going on at school. The meetings are very informal and attendees are encouraged to comment and contribute if they wish. Please come along and see for yourself how you can contribute to the school community and get an inside perspective on the inner workings of a great school."

In addition, I would like to gather feedback from as many parents and carers as possible. We will be emailing a link to a Parent Survey over the next few weeks and would very much appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this.

Please ensure that you have access to Go4Schools to see information about your son or daughter's progress, and our MyEd app to receive messages and documents from school. I would encourage everyone to follow the school on Facebook and twitter and sign up for the weekly Trust newsletter to ensure you keep up to date with school news.

Thank you very much for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter is on time, in full uniform and ready to learn. Our expectations are kept up to date on our website. Please could you ensure that your son/daughter is fully equipped for school – equipment is listed in the uniform section of the website.

Linking to the Community

The newly established Alderman White Local Governing Body met for the first time in October. The Governing Body includes Ruth Brittle (Chair), Clare Goodyear (Vice-Chair), Sue Vasey, Sue Headland, Adrian Pugh. Mr J Haigh and Mrs T Sneddon are Staff Governors. Jillian Swain and Fay Allen have now been appointed and will join the next Governing Body Meeting.

We have been developing a link with local charity Operation Orphan and plan to develop this link further with some assemblies to find out more about the charity's Keep a Child Warm trip to Moldova. We will be continuing to collect any good condition used winter coats, gloves, hats to donate to Operation Orphan so please do bring anything that has been outgrown to reception. Find out more about this local charity at www.operation-orphan.org.

We hope to develop a link with the Notts FA to encourage 14-16 year olds to become qualified mini-soccer referees. There are courses running during October half term which still had places available at time of going to print. This is a great way to develop leadership skills, contribute to the community – and earn some money! www.nottinghamshirefa.com/referees/development-and-courses/the-fa-mini-soccer-referees-course

I hope that you have a very relaxing and enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to seeing our students when we return on Monday 5th November for another very busy and exciting half-term.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Mellors
Head of School

Key Dates for Autumn 2 (Please see our calendar on the school website for a more detailed and updated calendar.)

Monday 5th November: Return to school

Wednesday 7th November: PTA Pamper and Prosecco Night 7pm

Thursday 8th November 6pm: Bramcote College 6th Form Open Evening

Thursday 15th November: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Monday 19th – Thursday 29th November: Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 21st November: Year 7 Meet the tutor Evening from 4pm

Wednesday 28th November: Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 29th November: Girls Year 7-8 Football Tournament

Thursday 29th November – Sunday 2nd December: Trip to Cologne Christmas Market

Friday 7th December 6pm: PTA Christmas Fayre

Monday 10th December 1.30pm: PTA Christmas Afternoon Tea and Entertainment

Thursday 13 – Saturday 15th December: School Production of Romeo and Juliet

Tuesday 18th December 7pm: Christmas Concert

Friday 21st December: Last day of term

Monday 7th January 2019: First day of Spring term