

July 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the end of the Trinity term, I thought it would be helpful to highlight a few matters that we would like you to be aware of as the summer holidays approach.

Firstly, as in previous years, the Governors have agreed that school will finish slightly earlier on the last day, Friday 21 July 2017. On this day, pupils will be dismissed from their afternoon session at 13:30. Please can you ensure that your child has the ability to be able to make their way home safely at this time or make arrangements for them until you are able to receive them at home.

Secondly, as in previous years, we will begin the new school year with a Review Day for Years 8 to 11. The day will provide an opportunity for you to meet your child's Form Tutor. This is a time for you to review your child's progress, agree key targets for the year ahead and to inform the Tutor of any matters that you feel we need to be aware of as a school. Your appointment has been made this term so that you, your child and the Tutor can have time to discuss these matters. If you are unsure of the time of your appointment, contact the School Office on 0161 797 6236. We would encourage you to make the time to attend this review meeting with your child but, if this is not possible, we still expect your child to attend. This is their school day for that first day and their presence is required, whether you can accompany them or not. I trust that you will find the Review Day useful, particularly if your child's Form Tutor has changed. The Pastoral Team will also be available on that day along with the school's Medical Support Officer should you wish to talk to them. Again, you may find this particularly useful if your child has changed their Head of Year.

Over the summer holidays, there will be opportunities for your children to engage in activities which may have implications for their return to school in September. I enclose a copy of the schools Uniform Code and the Headteacher's Disciplinary Policy. In particular I would draw your attention to the requirement for no body art, extreme hairstyles and that we do not allow for piercings to be covered with plasters. No items are to be worn in piercings such as studs, earrings etc. If you wish your child to have their ears, or any other part of their anatomy, pierced, please do this at the start of the summer holiday so that there is sufficient time for piercings to heal prior to their return to school. Should they return to school with studs or plasters, they will be required to remove them. We do not wish to be put in this position as it can be upsetting for the child so please plan ahead if you are thinking of allowing your child to have piercings this summer.

On a similar theme, recently we contacted you about the need to ensure your child has school shoes. This is to protect their feet in what is a very busy workplace for them, as well as to train them to present themselves appropriately in the workplace. Please take the opportunity of the Summer holidays to check what footwear is appropriate for school, outlined on the Uniform Code, so that your child has suitable footwear when they return to school in September.

We believe in giving our pupils the space to enjoy their childhood and not to put them under pressure to grow up too quickly. Part of this involves helping them to understand the transition from misbehaviour as a child to good conduct as a young man or woman. We always endeavour to implement our sanctions fairly, taking the specific circumstances of any incident into account. Our decisions are based on enabling justice to be done, offering mercy and forgiveness as appropriate and seeking to educate pupils with the skills to avoid making mistakes in the future. This approach has seen a significant reduction in inappropriate behaviour in school and you have told us in the parent/carer survey that the way we deal with such behaviour is excellent.

In this, we value your support and would ask that, should you get a communication from your child about an incident, that you contact us to discuss the matter so that we can provide you with the full picture before you come to any conclusions, as this enables us to work together to provide your child with the best education around good conduct.

We expect uniform to be worn to a high standard so that it communicates on the outside, the quality of the young person wearing it. Girls should all have shirts with appropriate collars to wear ties, and should be wearing the school tie along with the boys. We have introduced a special Year 11, Senior Pupil Tie which can be purchased from the school by pupils currently in Year 10. This tie is only available to Year 11 pupils and any profits from their sale go directly to the School Council so they can use them on pupil determined projects to develop school further. The detailed uniform guidance is enclosed with this letter to guide you as you make uniform purchases in preparation for the new academic year. Beware shops that claim "suitable for school" and check items against our uniform guidance. We would not want you to spend money on items, thinking they could be used for school, only to find that they are not acceptable.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the service of Mr John Allen MBE, Mr T Dorey and Mr I Jackson who have all served the school for more than 25 years each. Mr Allen will be stepping down from our Governing Body and as Chair of Governors at the end of this term. Mr Dorey, who has ably led our PE Department to success after success and Mr Jackson who has served most recently as my Senior Deputy Head, will both be taking a well-earned retirement. We pray for God's blessing on them all, along with those other staff who are leaving us, Miss Leng, Mrs Lowe and Miss Thomas-Wilson.

It only remains for me to thank you for your support over this academic year and to wish you God's blessing for the remainder of the term and the summer to come.

Over this academic year we had the pleasure of welcoming many visitors to our school. There was a theme with all our visitors that was very pleasing. Each one commented on the excellent conduct of our school community. The Halle musicians who worked with our Music Department were struck by the conduct and standard of our musicians, and also by the way that our pupils went out of their way to encourage primary school children. A Finnish Youth Worker was extremely impressed by the conduct of our pupils around school and that some would attend a prayer meeting at the start of the day voluntarily. She saw this as evidence that it was acceptable to be spiritual within our school community, and that it was valued by

the community. A couple of our new intake parents stated that they were teachers in other schools and had never seen such a good induction evening, with the pupils who presented to, and guided parents, standing out as most helpful. Finally, the exhibitor from Worldshare, (our partner who facilitates some of our international work) who had never visited us before was astounded that a school such as ours could exist. She said that she had never seen a school that so reflected its Christian ethos in such a positive manner. So much so that she wanted to send her children to us if we had been closer to Doncaster! All of these communicate the high standard of conduct that together we instil into our children and for which Bury CE High School is rightly known.

This is what we accomplish when we work together for the good of the children in our school community. Thank you to all of you for the trust you place in us at Bury CE High School. As you can see, we seek to rise to meet that trust in Christ's name.

Yours in Christ

Revd C Watson  
Headteacher