

July 2016

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, Wednesday 20 July 2016. On this day, pupils will be dismissed from their afternoon session at 13:35. 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 Year 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 will be made later this term so that you, your child and the Tutor can have time to discuss these matters. 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.

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 outstanding.

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.

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. I will close with two quotes from letters I received, one from the parents of a Year 11 pupil who left in 2015 and the other from a pupil who left in 2016.

"We would like to take this opportunity to send our sincere thanks to all the staff for the fantastic level of education our children have received at the school. They have both been fully prepared and supported throughout their time with you; both in their academic subjects and also in their out of school interests. The most important element, however, of our experience as parents, has been the level of pastoral care. We went to work each day knowing that they were in the best of care and this also applied when they travelled with you on the school holidays they have both enjoyed."

"My time at Bury Church of England High School has been simply amazing. I have thoroughly enjoyed every single week, day and lesson I have had at our prestigious school, and I believe this is partially due to the unique atmosphere which this school has, making each and every student feel valued, respected and involved". "I also want to compliment your extraordinary team of staff – who stop at nothing to ensure students have the best learning experience possible".

This is what we do with your support. 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

Rev'd C Watson  
Headteacher