



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

20th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Summer Term and Information for September 2023

We have had such a busy summer term this year packed full of engaging learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Our [Biddenham Bulletin](#) goes some way in giving a flavour of the range of extra-curricular opportunities, trips and visits that our students have participated in. Over the last few weeks we have had transition days for our new year 7s and 12s, Year 11 and 13 Leavers' assemblies and proms, a fun packed Day of Sport and celebration assemblies for all year groups. We are immensely pleased with the progress that students have made and hope that they and you are proud of their achievements. We also wanted to write to you with some reminders and details about the start of term for Year 11 in September.

The first day back

The first day back at school for year 11 is **Thursday 7th September**. Students should go directly to their **tutor bases at 7.55am**. Please see the end of the letter for details about tutor group bases and this [link](#) for timings of the school day.

Travel to school

We promote healthy lifestyles and encourage students to walk or cycle to school. Please remind students to cycle carefully, wear reflective clothing and a cycle helmet. For safety tips follow this [link](#). If you bring a child to school by car please drive carefully and use the drop off/pick up points marked on the drive.

Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory. There is strong evidence that tells us students who attend school regularly achieve better. Your support in ensuring students attend school is vital.

Cashless system (ParentPay)

All of our food outlets will be open fully in the new term and we will be continuing with our cashless system for food and all other school purchases including trips and visits. You will have already received information about our new cashless system for payments. If you have not already set up an account or will be new to the school in September you will receive your unique ParentPay Account activation letters shortly. If you would like to know more about this service please click on the Parentpay tab on our website <https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/>

If you have any queries please contact us on parentpay@mybiddenham.com

Uniform

All students are expected to wear full school uniform as shown on this [link](#). [Uniform](#) can be purchased online www.swischoolwear.co.uk. If you require preloved uniform items please contact enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk and we will be happy to help. Our basic school uniform items of plain black full length trousers, plain black skirt, plain white shirt/blouse, black or navy blue shalwar kamiz/jalbaab can be purchased relatively cheaply from any high street or supermarket clothes retailer.

If students have [Dance on their timetable](#), then on those days they should attend school in PE kit.

Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AZ

Tel: 01234 342521

Fax: 01234 334530

Email: enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Website: biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Equipment

In order to prepare for the new term, the following is a list of suggested equipment:

It is very important that you have the following equipment with you while at school.

PENS and Pencil (blue or black and green biro)	PENCIL CASE	RULER	RUBBER
			
SHARPENER	COLOUR PENS/PENCILS	SCISSORS	GLUE STICK
			
PROTRACTOR SET	SCHOOL BAG	COMPASS	SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR
			
HEADPHONES (for Chromebook)	READING BOOK (these can be borrowed from the school library)	SHIN PADS (in addition to PE kit)	CHROMEBOOK AND CHARGER (provided by school)
			

Family support over summer

- [Free school meals vouchers](#). Bedford Borough Council are providing vouchers over the summer for all families eligible for income related free school meals. Voucher codes are sent directly by email to eligible families.
- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#). Eligible families should have received an E-voucher by email that can be used to book into a variety of activities over the summer holiday.
- A number of companies are doing free or very reasonable meals for children over the summer break. There is a link [here](#) to the full list of companies.
- In need of well-being support please see our [school website](#) or email help@biddenham.beds.such.uk

Student wellbeing

Summer holidays can be difficult for some young people. This is often due to a change of routine/structure, a change in social interactions and less cognitive stimulation. A range of summer self care activities are recommended here by our colleagues at [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#), [Shout](#) and more locally Bedford Borough Council have produced [‘How you feel matters’](#)

Results Days

A Level/Level 3 results day is Thursday 17th August and GCSE/Level 2 results day is Thursday 24th August. [Further details](#) have been shared directly with students and parents

The use of chromebooks and google classrooms has continued to be a great asset this year in facilitating in school and home learning. Summer holiday projects and study/revision resources for Key Stage 4 will be shared on google classrooms to support students in staying focused and making a strong start with the final year of GCSE studies in September. Also, remember that as parents you can get subject and homework information through google classroom updates and track attendance and behaviour through signing up to classcharts. Here is a [link](#) to the website for more information.

We are really excited to open our new ICT & Computing block, a new food outlet and the extension to our canteen; excellent new facilities for our expanding school. Next year we want to promote a love for reading for pleasure and to aspire to high levels of achievement. We really want to encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities, taking advantage of the **free clubs** at lunchtime and after school.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mr Ed Evans for his fantastic work supporting the year group since Year 7. He is moving on to join the sixth form team, so not leaving us fortunately, but he will be missed. We welcome Mr Gareth Massey to Biddenham in September as Head of Year 11.

We are, as ever, extremely grateful for all the support we receive from our school community and are incredibly proud of our students and staff. We hope that you will have some time to relax and unwind with loved ones, over the summer break. See you in September!

Warm regards



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School

Year 11		
HoY: Mr G Massey Asst HoYs: Mr O Forde Asst HoYs: Ms S Hussain		
Assembly day: Thursday		
Tutor Group	Tutor's Name	Base
11KRW/CDB	Mr Walker and Mrs Burton	T16
11PBN	Mr Naidoo	T14
11EBR	Miss Rupasinghe	R2
11CD/MA	Miss Drake and Mrs Anwar	T12
11WF	Mr Finney	T17
11CWH	Mr Hard	R3
11PTJ	Mr Johnson	D3
11HW/LB	Miss Wiltshire and Mrs Bradley	R1