



19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Summer Term and Information for September 2024

We have had such a busy summer term this year packed full of engaging learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. 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 13 in September.

You will know from the Home - School agreement that is sent home every year, that we place a strong emphasis on high expectations and working together to best support your child. The role of the tutor within this is significant and will continue to be so in Year 13. Sixth form tutor time will be structured differently next year with students timetabled for 2 tutor sessions and PSHE every week with individual mentoring built in. We are attaching a copy of the Home - School agreement to this letter and tutor details for further reference. Additionally, all information about tutor bases will be posted on the student google classroom

The first day back

The first day back at school for **Year 13** is **Thursday 5th 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.

Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory. There is strong evidence that tells us students who attend school regularly achieve better and are happier at school. Your support in ensuring students attend school is vital. More details regarding attendance will follow over the summer break.

Mobile phones

- Mobile phones are allowed in school for the acknowledged safety and contact reasons (before and after the school day only) - **contact during the school day for any urgent communication should be through the school office on 01234 342521**
- Mobile phones and headphones **MUST** be kept in a bag during the school day and not visible (this includes charging phones during lessons, phones out on the desks, or phones visible in pockets where they can distract students during lessons).
- Mobile phones must be switched off or on silent before the lesson starts and before entering the classroom (not on vibrate which can distract students during lessons)
- Students will not be allowed to listen to music during lesson time
- Mobile phones can be used (if required) during lunchtimes and break times. However, we strongly recommend that students engage in the school life around them and not their devices. We have plenty of extra-curricular activities on offer.

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.

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. 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

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.sch.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

Year 11 and Year 12/13 results days will take place in school. A Level/Level 3 results day is Thursday 15th August and GCSE/Level 2 results day is Thursday 22nd August. Further details will be 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 5 will be shared on google classrooms to support students in staying focused and making a strong start with the next year of their A Level/Level 3 studies. 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.

Finally, In preparation for next year, here is a [link](#) to the UCAS timeline. We are always keen for our students to develop themselves as individuals inside and outside of the classroom and encourage every student to make the most of the opportunities that are available to them, either by contributing to school life or accessing webinars and visits to help prepare themselves for life beyond sixth form.

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 Ms E Grylls
Principal Head of School

Year 13		
Head of 6th form: Mr E Evans Asst HoYs: Mr A Shakoor Asst HoYs: Mr A Smith		
Assembly day: Period in the week		
Tutor Group	Tutor's Name	Base
DAG	Mr Grosu	V9
SLH	Mrs Holland	H17
CF	Mrs Francis	R15
MGH	Mr Horton	V6
LB	Mrs Bradley	H14
VP	Mrs Payne	N7

Biddenham International School & Sports College
HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT
Ready - Respect - Reward

Biddenham School will:	As Parents/Carers - I/we will:	As a student I will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create and promote a respectful and inviting environment for students, staff and parents, free from prejudice and discrimination where difference is celebrated and valued. ▪ Not engage in any forms of prejudice or discriminatory behaviour towards students, staff and all members of the Biddenham school community in all areas of life. ▪ Make learning fulfilling and enjoyable for students of all abilities. ▪ Create a secure, caring and purposeful learning environment with high levels of understanding and achievement. ▪ Promote the personal, social, moral and intellectual development of each student. ▪ Provide high levels of encouragement and support to meet challenging targets and high expectations. ▪ Provide a rich and engaging curriculum with opportunities for varied extra-curricular activity. ▪ Provide detailed reports on progress and a prompt opportunity to discuss issues that may arise. ▪ Contact home promptly with both praise and concerns. ▪ Adhere to the school's Data Protection Policy and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and adhere to the school's policies and procedures in terms of <u>equality, diversity and inclusion.</u> ▪ Not engage in any forms of prejudice or discriminatory behaviour towards students, staff and all members of the Biddenham school community in all areas of life. ▪ Provide encouragement and support to my child in their work both at school and home. ▪ Encourage my child to show self-respect, respect for others and a commitment to active citizenship within our diverse and inclusive community. As a role model, adhere to the school's values. ▪ Ensure my child is in full uniform and equipped for school every day. ▪ Ensure my child brings PE kit to change into for PE lessons ▪ Support my child in following the Ready Respect Reward principles for behaviour, at all times in and out of school. ▪ Ensure regular attendance and punctuality (including explaining absences and requesting permission for planned absences). ▪ Inform school when there are problems which may affect learning and progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Take full advantage of the opportunities available at the school for learning and personal development. ▪ Not engage in any forms of prejudice or discriminatory behaviour towards students, staff and all members of the Biddenham school community in all areas of life. ▪ Actively contribute to our diverse and inclusive school community by following the behaviour principles of Ready Respect and Reward. ▪ Be polite, helpful and respectful to others. ▪ Bring a fully stocked pencil case and the equipment I need each day, including a fully charged chromebook. ▪ Attend every day and be early to school ▪ Be focused in my lessons and work hard at completing all classwork ▪ Complete all homework set and on time. ▪ Wear the correct uniform and maintain a tidy appearance. ▪ Contribute to maintaining a clean and tidy school environment. ▪ Make appropriate use of ICT and social media in line with the school's ICT Acceptable Use and Social Media policies, using my chromebook for learning purposes only.

acceptable use of [Social Media Policy](#).

Signed:



(E Grylls, Head of School)

Signed

.....(Tutor)

Date:

- Commit to provide a quiet and comfortable area for working at home.
- Commit to attend consultation meetings.
- Sign the student homework diary/planner each week and check the Google Classroom.
- Monitor my child's use of ICT and social media in relation to the school's [ICT Acceptable Use](#) and [Social Media](#) policies.

Signed:.....
(Parent/Carer)

Date:

Signed:.....
(Student)

Date: