

9th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this message finds you well. In light of last week's events, we wanted to express our heartfelt thanks to you for your kind words of encouragement and messages of support. They have brought immense comfort to us as a staff body. Once more, we extend our heartfelt admiration to our students who navigated the situation with composure and grace. We were and are incredibly proud of their conduct.

As we navigate through the busy exam period and prepare for the final stretch of the school year, we wanted to take a moment to share some key information and updates.

Key Information Updates

GCSE exams: As GCSE exams are now in full swing, please be aware that there have been some operational changes within the school to facilitate these important assessments. This may include a few classroom changes, which we will communicate to students through tutor time and other channels. There will also be adjustments to the timings of lunches to allow for prompt starts to GCSE exams.

Year 10 mock exams: A reminder that Year 10 mock exams will be taking place in the main exam hall during the week beginning 17th June. We kindly ask that you encourage your Year 10 child to dedicate time to revise in preparation for these assessments. The outcomes of them will be shared with you in the form of a report in July.

Year 7 – 9 assessments: In addition to the exams, all teachers are preparing students for assessments in half-term 6. The outcomes of these assessments will be shared with you as parents/carers in an ADP3 report in July.

Revision support: For guidance and support, students can access and use the knowledge organisers available on the school website. Please follow the link:

<https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/knowledge-organisers-2/>

Attendance and punctuality: Attendance and punctuality are vital for student success. Regular attendance ensures that students are actively engaged in their learning, allowing them to make the most of the educational opportunities we offer. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school and arrives on time (8.25am) every day.

Expectations: We kindly request your assistance in ensuring your child attends school *punctually*, in the correct *uniform*, and with all necessary *equipment* to facilitate their learning effectively. Further information regarding our expectations and support resources can be accessed on the school website. <https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/uniform/>

Entrance to school: As many of you will have seen, we have made some changes to the reception area. We would also like to stress the importance of *all* learners entering the site through the student entrance, not reception (not including wheelchair users). This allows us to continue to safeguarding our staff and your children.



Recent / upcoming school activities:

- **Kingswood trip:** We would also like to extend a massive thank you and congratulations to the staff and students who attended the recent Kingswood trip over the bank holiday weekend. The feedback we've received from students has been overwhelmingly positive, and we commend everyone involved for their enthusiasm and spirit of adventure.
- **Poetry competition:** Students are invited to participate in a poetry competition centered on the theme of inspiration. Entrants are encouraged to write about someone who inspires them, be it anyone at all. Additional details can be obtained from Mr. Devoe. Winning poems will earn publication in a dedicated book, alongside other exciting prizes. The submission deadline is Friday, May 24th.
- **Year 11 fundraising and prom preparation:** Our Year 11 students have been actively fundraising for their upcoming prom, demonstrating their dedication and enthusiasm for this memorable event. They recently held a series of successful bake sales and we commend their efforts in contributing towards making their prom a memorable occasion.
- **School Council meetings:** This week, our school council meetings will continue, covering various areas including environment, arts, health and well-being, and justice. We encourage students to actively participate and contribute to these discussions, as their input is invaluable in shaping our school community.
- **Extra-curricular activities:** Extra-curricular activities will continue to enrich the learning experience of our students and Year 11 revision sessions during Period 7 will provide crucial support for their upcoming examinations. Further information can be found on the school website: <https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/extra-curricular-2/>
- **Good news stories:** As a school, we are eager to promote the outstanding achievements that may not always be covered in these parent bulletins. We kindly request that you take a moment to explore our school website for additional examples of both individual and collective successes: <https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/latest-news-2/>

As always, we would like to thank you once again for your continued support and co-operation. Together, we can help our students achieve their full potential and thrive both academically and personally.

Warm regards,



Victoria Hall
Headteacher

