



TO CARE
TO LEARN
TO ACHIEVE

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning
Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

July 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are nearing the end of another year at Bedford during which time our students' achievements, as always, have made us very proud. Our musical comedy *Sister Act* hit centre stage on 3rd – 5th July. An amazing show which involved hundreds of students including many from our partner primary schools. They were all stars and we're proud of everyone involved. Huge thanks must go to our Expressive Arts team Mrs Madden, Mrs Stafford and Miss Mitchell for their tireless work.

We held a Diversity Day on Friday 5th July where we demonstrated our support for School Diversity Week the national celebration of LGBT+ equality in education and our Annual Race for Life 2019 is eagerly anticipated on the 12th July. Follow our Facebook page Bedford High School Live for all our news and announcements.

In this last newsletter of the year I am including some important information in readiness for our return in September.

Lunchtime arrangements and school finish time

This year we have had a 'split lunch' arrangement for two 35 minute sittings. We have undertaken a review of this arrangement with staff and students and the general consensus is that there is insufficient opportunity to engage in lunchtime clubs and activities. This is not only because the lunchtime is relatively short but also because when KS3 are on lunch KS4 are being taught and vice versa which means that not all staff are available to offer a lunchtime activity because they are teaching. Consequently, from September we will have one 45 minute lunch break for all students and staff. To gain this extra time, morning break will be 15 minutes long (currently 20 minutes) and the school day will end at 2.50pm (currently 2.45pm). There will be no change to lesson length and learning time. The shortened day for students on Wednesday week 2 will continue, with a 40 minute lunch on that day and a 1.50pm finish (currently 1.45pm). All school buses will accommodate this slightly later finish time on all days.

Cycling Contract

In addition to our Home School Agreement which will be given to all students at the start of next term and is a valued link between home and school we will be requesting that all cyclists sign a cycling contract to ensure that, together, we are doing all that we can to promote safe cycling and to minimise the associated risks with cycling to and from school.

Staff/Visitor Car Park

Parents and Guardians are increasingly using U Block staff and visitor car park to drop off children and park up and wait for children at the end of the day. Staff and students have raised concerns with me about this habit. From a safety perspective it is unsafe for our students to have to navigate moving cars as they arrive and leave school via the car park.

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In addition, accidents and near misses have happened involving parents reversing into the path of other cars. From a staff perspective it is difficult to park up in the morning as parents have taken up car park spaces, parked across spaces or are following behind so closely it is impossible to stop and manoeuvre into a space. At the end of the day staff who need to leave promptly or have meetings to attend find themselves blocked in. The school is also surrounded by double yellow lines for a reason. If your child is unable to walk to school or travel by other means and you must drop them off and pick them up then please do so away from the school site. I am trusting that you will be sympathetic to this request as we have no wish to engage in any confrontation with parents.

Knowledge Organisers

We will continue to provide students with Knowledge Organisers for each of their subjects. These will also be available on FROG on the 'Knowledge Organiser' site. **Students will need their own sturdy A4 storage file/folder which they will need to bring with them to school every day. Students are asked to please have this available from the first day back in September.**

Last Day Arrangements

There will be an early lunch and school will close for students at 1pm on Friday 19th July 2019 for the summer break. If the early finish is likely to cause a problem for you, we are able to arrange supervision of students until 2.45pm. Please advise your child's form tutor, in advance, should you require this supervision for your child.

The Y59 Yellow Bus will run at 1pm for students who use this service.

September Arrangements


Tuesday 3rd September 2019	
8.30am	<u>ONLY</u> YEAR 7 IN SCHOOL, please report to U Block Hall
Wednesday 4th September 2019	
8.30am	<u>All</u> Year groups 7 - 11 report to form rooms

See separate sheet of term dates for 2019/2020 for your convenience and ease of reference. NB please note the changed date of the early May Bank Holiday to Friday 8th May 2020 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming all of our students back in September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully


Mrs H. J. Phillips
Headteacher

Bedford High School

School Calendar 2019-2020: School Working Pattern

Autumn 2019	<i>Monday 2nd September 2019</i>	<i>INSET day for staff</i>
	Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	School opens for Year 7 only
	Wednesday 4 th September 2019	School opens for all year groups
	Friday 18 th October 2019	School closes at 2.50 pm for students
	Monday 21st October 2019 – Friday 25th October 2019: half term	
	Monday 28 th October 2019	School opens for staff & students
	<i>Monday 9th December 2019</i>	<i>INSET day for staff</i>
	Thursday 19 th December 2019	School closes at 1:50 pm for Christmas
	Friday 20th December 2019 – Friday 3rd January 2020: Christmas break	

Spring 2020	<i>Monday 6th January 2020</i>	<i>INSET day for staff</i>
	Tuesday 7 th January 2020	School opens for staff & students
	Friday 14 th February 2020	School closes at 2.50 pm for students
	Monday 17th February 2020 - Friday 21st February 2020: half term	
	Monday 24 th February 2020	School opens for staff & students
	Friday 3 rd April 2020	School closes at 2.50 pm for Easter
	Easter break commences Monday 6th April 2020 until Friday 17th April 2020	

Summer 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020	School opens for staff & students
	<i>Friday 8th May 2020: Bank Holiday</i>	<i>School closes for staff & students</i>
	Friday 22 nd May 2020	School closes at 2.50 pm for half term
	Monday 25th May 2020 – Friday 29th May 2020: half term break	
	Monday 1 st June 2020	School opens for staff & students
	Friday 17 th July 2020	School closes at 1:00 pm for Summer