



TO CARE
TO LEARN
TO ACHIEVE

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning

Headteacher: Mr P McCaffery

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope that you are well as we approach the end of the first half term of the academic year. I am delighted with how well our students have settled in and how hard they are working overall.

I am also very pleased with the attendance to our Year 11 Strive programme and very grateful to our staff, who generously provide these after school sessions for our students in further preparation for next summer's GCSE examinations.

Good news

In addition to our Platinum Artsmark status, we are extremely proud to have achieved the Quality in Careers education accreditation. This is in recognition of the strength of the careers programme we offer at Bedford. This term we have also received Gold School Games Mark award for our commitment to developing opportunities for all students to take part in physical activity outside of the curriculum.

Earlier this month, our leadership team visited lessons to award over 100 Integrity and Independence badges to those students who demonstrated these qualities in their learning routines and for the high standard of work seen in books. Just under 90,000 achievement points have been issued to students in the first 6 weeks of school with many students reaching bronze level (100 points) or silver level (200 points) in our achievement league tables. The race is now on to see which students reach gold level!

A reminder that Class Charts is our main platform for messaging and positive/negative points. Please make sure you have your log-in so that you can see and praise your child's efforts. You can obtain your login by emailing Techsupport@bedford.wigan.sch.uk and put 'Class Charts' as the subject heading.

Digital Detox

In my summer newsletter I outlined why smartphones are not allowed in school due to the detrimental effect they have on learning. As we approach the half term holiday many children may see this as an opportunity (or in some cases a default) to spend many hours on their devices. I would strongly advise that you monitor and restrict the time your child spends on their smartphones. There is increasing evidence that unrestricted access to the internet - and the use of social media in particular - is contributing to a rise in mental health problems such as anxiety and depression

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Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



in young people. For further information on this topic I would encourage you to watch the Netflix documentary 'Social Dilemma'.

'Punctuality is the first step towards success' - Nishtunishaa

In preparing students for life after school it is important that they understand the value of being punctual. In employment, being regularly late to work will adversely affect both work colleagues and customers. It is always a useful exercise for parents to explain the importance of good punctuality in your own current / previous place of work. In school, lateness to school and lateness to lessons disrupts teaching and the learning of others.

In the world of work, there are consequences for employees who are repeatedly late. This could involve pay being docked, disciplinary action and ultimately even losing their job. In school, there are also consequences for poor punctuality. From the 30th October, any student that is late to school without good reason, or is deliberately late to lessons (without a note from a teacher) will be required to complete some punctuality awareness work instead of their normal timetabled lesson and will lose some of their social time during break, lunch or through after school detention. Further details can be found in our school behaviour policy on the school website. I must point out that the vast majority of our students are regularly punctual to school and lessons and it's important that all children follow these expectations.

Dates for your diaries for next half term

When	What
Monday 30 th October	School reopens
Monday 6 th November	Year 11 Mock exams commence
Tuesday 28 th November	Enrichment Day
Friday 1 st December	INSET day (students not in school)
Monday 11 th December	Christmas Shows commence
Thursday 14 th December	Year 11 Parents Evening
Friday 22 nd December	Final day of term (12pm finish)

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Have a great half term break!

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul McCaffery

Headteacher