

5th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all. In advance of school starting back on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**, I wanted to welcome everyone back to the Spring Term! We are really excited about what 2024 holds for all students and have made lots of plans to ensure we can continue to provide the opportunities that your son/daughter deserves to be successful in life.

Last term it was such a joy to see how much more independent and confident the students have become with students holding themselves to the high expectations of the school. If you have not had a chance to read our end of term newsletter "In the Know", can I urge you to have a read of this on our website ([In The Know – Bournville School](#)), as it shows how much the students achieved over the last half term. This has been achieved because the students, through their cooperation and resilience, have embraced the values of the school (Excellence, Dedication, Ambition, Integrity, Tradition) ensuring they strive for excellence in everything they do. We look forward to seeing all the students continue with this as they return next week ready to learn.

When we return next week, our focus will continue to ensure we achieve this excellence in everything they do. We will be revisiting, through assemblies and practice perfect, the high expectations we have of every student to **LEARN i.e.**

- Look smart at all times (uniform).
- Equipment and homework brought in every day.
- Attend and arrive on time every day to school and to all lessons.
- Remain focused and on task in all lessons.
- Never drop your standards and stick to the rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Can I thank you in advance for ensuring your child is ready for their new year start by ensuring their uniform is in line with the school policy which can be seen on our website here: [Bournville School Uniform – Bournville School](#).

Our school improvement priorities continue with a focus on the use of questioning to stretch students by always practicing with them retrieval of old knowledge, building on this with new knowledge/skills, students answering stretching questions, practicing answers, and then amending their answers on the teacher's feedback, so they are progressing at all times. This is a continuous process that builds up over time leading to the success your son/daughter deserves.

Homework is a crucial aspect of ensuring students commit knowledge and skills to their long-term memory so they know more, remember more, and can do more. Homework allows students to practice in the quiet of their own space, at their own pace. We therefore expect every student to complete their homework. Please stress to your son/daughter if the homework is not right, not to worry, it helps the teachers see what they may need to reteach so they can plan future teaching to fill in gaps. We expect them to give it their best effort!

For our year 11's we are now preparing for the final leg before they sit their first public exams. Can I remind all year 11 parents of the communication sent out before Christmas around the following:

- a) From **9th January 2024** every year 11 will have a compulsory **period 6 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, which starts at 2.40pm and ends at 3.40pm**. The completion of the first Year 11 Mocks exams has provided us with invaluable data on what information needs to be retaught. This reteaching will occur through targeted interventions during this period 6 on these days particularly in English, Maths and Science.

- b) **Year 11 Parents information evening- 18th January 2024 at 6.00 pm.** We want you to accompany your son/daughter on this evening. This is an opportunity for us all to show your son/daughter our collective support and for parents to be able to share good luck messages. Please continue to keep sending us in your messages to a.mills@bournville.fmat.co.uk. It has been so touching to read how proud you are of your child. We look forward to seeing you all on this evening – there will be hot chocolate and some nibbles! Please continue to confirm your attendance by emailing post@bournville.fmat.co.uk.

Finally, this brings me to one of the most critical factors in us working together to ensure that your son/daughter achieves the success they deserve – **Attendance and punctuality. Every minute in school and lessons counts**, and days/lessons missed add up quickly. For example,

Every minute counts - examples			
Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent over an academic year	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed over one academic year
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

We therefore thank you for your continued support in ensuring your son/daughter attends school, on time every day. We want to work with you on this and ask if you would like to discuss your son's/daughter's attendance/ punctuality and look at ways we can work together to improve their attendance/punctuality towards 100%, please contact the respective year group leader (see [Parent Information – Bournville School](#) on our website for details of who this may be).

Punctuality to school and to lessons is equally important as every minute counts. We ask you to ensure your child is in school by **8.20 am** every day so they are ready and in lessons by 8.30 am start. We must instil in our students the habit of being early, planning their bedtime and morning routine in such a way that they factor in time to account for any unforeseen delays that ensure they are always on time. If your son/daughter has problem with sleeping you may find the following website useful: ([Sleep : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)).

If the coming of a new year teaches us anything it is that time goes so fast, and we owe it to our children to ensure they don't miss out on the opportunities they have access to now. We must ensure they make the most of this time!

In summary we have a busy term planned, time is of the essence and thank you for continued support as we help your child become the best version of themselves.

Best wishes

Maiee Rooney

Miss M Rooney
Principal