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Headteacher: Katherine Brown

Dear parents, carers and wider community,

It is with the greatest excitement that I write my first weekly newsletter of the 2020-21 academic year. It has been a fantastic to be back on site with all our students and staff. I have been incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm and spirit of all.

I firstly want to thank all our staff, students and parents for their commitment to our new adapted way of working. The school has been calm, safe and respectful throughout. There have been very high expectations for all related to safety, hygiene and maintaining bubbles but everyone has risen to the challenge. Our new year group bubbles have really helped to foster a sense of community within each year group and students have thoroughly enjoyed being reunited with their peers once more.

Secondly, I want to welcome the newest members of our community. Our year sevens have settled in so quickly and have been an absolute pleasure. After two inductions days last week they've become experts in knowing their way around, understanding our lesson routines and ensuring their showing our school values of ambition, inclusion, collaboration and growth mind-set every day. In particular I want to recognise how polite the new year group are. They're always greeting staff warmly and never forget to say please and thank you. In particular I want to give praise to Nathaniel Digma in 7DAC for taking the time to thank the school chefs each day for his lunch.

I'd like to remind all parents about some key changes for this year that you should already be aware of from previous communication. Firstly, as part of adapted working we are no longer able to accept cash on site. Students who wish to top up their Parent Pay account to use for school lunches can no longer use the cash drop system. Instead, parents must ensure that money is topped up online. Secondly, we are extending our homework programme this year for all year groups. This means students in every year will have weekly online homework in English, Maths and Science. This week students across the school have all learned about how those platforms work and been given their logins. If you would like additional support to help your please use this link on our website to learn more:

<https://www.blaisehighschool.co.uk/parents/info/homework>

Looking forward, I want to remind year 11 parents that Senior Champions Hour (4pm to 5pm), Winning Starts (8am to 8:30am) and Working Lunch (1:05pm to 1:45pm) is available every day to support our students with their studies. These sessions are all led by our Middle and Senior Leaders and students can complete homework and revision. We provide snacks and resources and always celebrate those who are dedicated enough to attend. This additional time makes a world of difference to student progress and I know our Year 11 are really ambitious and want to take that extra time to ensure their success.

To finish I'd like to tell you about an extremely important date. Our open evening will be held on Wednesday 30th September online. We believe that an online event is the safest way to ensure our community finds out about our school. The event will begin at 6pm and will include a live presentation from the Headteacher, a discussion panel including key staff and students and a fantastic virtual tour of our school. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the end. Those interested will need to sign up in advance to receive a link, more details of this will be circulated shortly. I really look forward to having prospective students and parents seeing all our wonderful school has to offer.

I wish you all a fantastic weekend.

Kind Regard,

Miss Brown
Headteacher

Our values of Ambition, Inclusion and Collaboration ensure students are equipped with a Growth Mind-Set and can meet our mission of Social Justice.

