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KBO/JBI

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Dear Parents/Carers

A great first full week comes to a close at Blaise High School and what an excellent week it has been.

I've loved walking around, every day, watching our teachers in action delivering great lessons to our students. They have consistently shown our value of ambition in the challenging curriculum, high expectations of learning behaviour and relentless approach to making the new knowledge "stick". In particular, I have had the absolute pleasure of watching some of our new staff including Ms Swindell and Ms McCall. Their lessons were exceptional because students were not just engaged but thinking really hard and they ensured that all students were participating through their questioning.

Our Year 11 students have thrown themselves into their Period 6 Success Schedule this week. All departments have been buzzing with additional learning that will massively improve our student's chances of success in their GCSE examinations. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff and committed students for their combined efforts and brilliant teamwork. I'd also like to thank our parents and carers for ensuring that our students are fully supported in being able to take advantage of such a valuable resource. Next week we will add to this programme by launching Champion's Hour. This will run from 3pm to 4pm for Years 7-10 and from 4pm to 5pm for Year 11. It is a supervised study time where students can complete homework and revision in our wonderful library. We encourage all our students to take this opportunity to focus on their learning without distraction and will be rewarding those that regularly show the dedication to attend.

I really hope our student have been pleased with the launch of more opportunities at social times to be active. All week, in the playground, students have been able to use table tennis and basketball equipment as well as skipping ropes and hula hoops. We have loved seeing how much fun they've had and the opportunity it has brought about for them to collaborate and play together. We've also had our first week of after school and lunchtime clubs. These are run by our teachers who are dedicated to ensuring that there is an excellent character development offer for our students. I've shared the full timetable below so you can help to encourage your children to join as many clubs as possible. The attendance to sessions has been excellent and we look forward to future events and competitions where the skills developed can be put to the test.

Finally, this week we also launched self-quizzing. At Blaise High School, we all have a Growth Mind-Set. This means we believe our success is determined by hard work, resilience and a positive attitude to failure. Through this positive attitude to finding out what we can't do yet, we can rapidly learn how to take the next step to ensure we can do soon. Self-quizzing is key to this. Students have all been provided with a knowledge organiser that outlines all the knowledge



concepts they need to know for their curriculum. Using this and their planner students can identify concepts they haven't mastered yet and write quiz questions so they can practice that area to ensure their knowledge grows. Every student and staff member has taken part in training and practice sessions in this skill this week. From Monday, all students will be expected to complete 10 quiz questions in their planner nightly. We really look forward to seeing how successful they will be in this new element of their homework and the impact it will make to their overall progress.

To finish I'd like to remind you again of our extremely important dates. Our open evening will be held on Wednesday 25th September from 5:30pm until 8pm with my addresses taking place at 6pm and 7pm. Alongside this, the school will run open mornings so parents can see the school in action. The school will be open from 9:15am to 10:45am on October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. I really look forward to those days so prospective students and parents can see all our wonderful school has to offer.

Yours faithfully



Ms K Brown
Headteacher