



NNO/JBW  
1 September 2023

Dear Blaise Families,

I hope that everyone is well and has had a lovely summer break. I am really looking forward to seeing many of you over the coming months and to welcoming all of our children back, and our new Year 7s into school as they climb their own personal mountain to the very best universities in the country or careers of their choosing. Last year was an enormous success for the school, the children were fantastic, the staff worked exceptionally hard for the students and the results, in terms of progress made, were the best the school has ever had. I very much look forward to us all working together to build on this foundation next year.

### Exam Results

We are very very proud of the Year 11s who have just left us. Their exam results represent a significant improvement in terms of progress made, in the context of a national picture in which many schools have gone backwards. We are really proud of those children and they should be very proud of themselves. On average, every child achieved  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a grade better than they achieved in the previous year. In real terms this would mean that where a child previously achieved three grade 6s for example, this year they achieved two grade 6s and a grade 7. It is really inspiring to see this progress in the face of all the challenges these students faced. We look forward to building on this for many years as the school becomes one of the best schools in the country.

### Return to School

A reminder that our return to school is staggered this year, the details of which are in the table below. We will be using the gate on the pedestrian path that joins Station Road with Marissal Road as our main entrance. This gate is safer as it doesn't involve all of our students leaving immediately on to a busy road and thus reduces the chances of accidents.

The gate for breakfast is the gate on station road. All bicycles are to be walked across the site to our new bike hoops. Any student who rides their bike on the school site will not be permitted to bring their bike on to the site. Please do not send children on bikes without helmets. We also ask that for the benefit of local residents' parents don't wait on the double yellow lines on station road. Please also take note of the [adjusted finish time](#) that I wrote to you about last year. Students in Years 7 - 10 will leave school by 3:05pm each day.

<b>1st September</b>	INSET Day
<b>4th September</b>	INSET Day
<b>5th September</b>	Y7 First Day at School, including Resource Base. Gates will open for breakfast at 8am
<b>6th September</b>	Y11 Mainstream and Y9/10/11/Post 16 Resource Base return to School
<b>7th September</b>	All remaining mainstream students (8,9,10) return to school



## **Uniform and Equipment**

Please take a few minutes over the weekend to check that your child has everything required in terms of uniform and please check hairstyles / nails / piercings against the expectations on the website. A reminder that stripes in the hair, or eyebrow, or unnaturally coloured hair is not permitted. We can always support you with uniform if you contact us and will always do everything we can to resolve issues that may prevent children from being able to access lessons. Please note false nails and/or eyelashes are not permitted. Please contact Ms Giblin or your child's Head of Year if for whatever reason you have been unable to purchase the correct uniform. Please check the equipment list and please ensure children have all of their equipment ready for their first day. The equipment list is on the website but please contact us if you have any queries.

## **My Child At School**

Please ensure that you have access to the My Child At School app, in order to receive all updates from the school. You can sign up by downloading the 'My Child at School' app from the App store on Apple or Android. You can then create an account by responding to the email invite you will receive from the school on Monday 4th September and creating a new account. If you do not receive an email invite or have any other issues creating an account, please contact us. We are aware there was a known issue with the app that impacted older versions of the app last academic year. This has now been resolved by the My Child at School team.

## **Staffing changes**

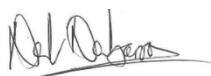
We are delighted to welcome a small number of new staff into the school. These staff have all been recruited to join us because they believe that there is no ceiling on the achievement of this school and your children and are all very excited to be part of Blaise High School. They are: Mr Edwards (History and Geography), Ms Sayer (Educational Welfare Officer), Ms Carter (Maths), Mr Goodway (Head of Music), Mr Davidson (Resource Base TA), Mr Barnes (Pastoral Support), Mr Prettyjohn (PE), Ms Major (PE) and Ms Douglas, who joins us from Park House School as a Deputy Head one day a week

A separate letter will be sent to Year 7 parents on Monday morning with more details about our new Year 7s first week - Base Camp Preparation Week. There will also be a letter for all parents regarding attendance from Ms Giblin.

I look forward to writing to you in the coming days and weeks with details of our Christmas show, our Academic Review Days, our curriculum newsletters and many more exciting developments.

This is going to be a fantastic year for our school and I very much look forward to sharing it with you. Please do get in touch if you have any questions at all in advance of the new year, and we very much look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully



**Mr N Nabarro**  
Headteacher

