



Dear Parents and Carers,

After such a successful first week with the students, and following very helpful feedback from some parents we felt that it would be helpful to write to all of our families and outline why we have the whole school routines in place that we do. The routines have come from other high performing schools in the country. In particular we have taken routines from: Wembley High Technology College, ranked 4th for progress in the 2019 performance tables Michaela Community school in Wembley, ranked 5th, Dixon's Trinity Academy ranked 11th, Magna Academy ranked 18th and Yate Academy (a GLT school) ranked 42nd. There are 3458 secondary schools in the country and so these really are the country's top schools.

Uniform

We hold our students to an extremely high standard of uniform because we know that it promotes belonging, it reduces bullying and it encourages students to take pride in themselves and the school. We won't ever make exceptions on uniform because this would not be inclusive, in fact it would be the opposite, and would signal people out. **Whenever a student does not have a piece of uniform we will always endeavour to give or lend them the correct uniform.**

Equipment

We believe that in secondary school every child should take responsibility for their learning and that this is a learnt behaviour. We do an equipment check every morning to make sure no child is missing equipment and that everyone is ready for learning. This means no seconds are wasted in lessons looking for equipment. **If a child is missing equipment we will always do everything we can to give them equipment or lend it to them.** On Friday we gave every child that needed one a 30cm clear pencil case. This will support them when they do public examinations as they are a requirement. We ask parents to support by checking that they are in student's bags on Sunday night, ready for Monday morning.

Line Ups

Blaise High School has over 900 children on its roll including 40 children in its specialist resource base provision. There are 3 external doors from the building into the courtyards. It is unsafe for all the children to enter at the same time in an unregulated manner. It leads to poor behaviour at the start of lessons and wasted lesson time. A whistle goes which is the signal to go into line, and 3 minutes later a second whistle goes for silence. The children are all given positive messages before being walked into the building ready to start learning. This means that no lesson time is wasted.

SWAT warnings.

If we are to ensure that every child gets the most out of their time at Blaise High School we cannot afford to waste time on disruptive behaviour. It is not fair. Millions of children have their education stolen because of disruptive behaviour, great teachers leave the profession and vulnerable children with additional needs are unable to learn. Our classrooms are disruption free meaning everyone can learn, everyone is safe, and expert teachers can support the children who need it most.



Social Times and Eating Sat Down.

We recognise that social time is an important part of school, and also recognise that children need as much access to sport as possible. As such we have sports at every social time. We eat sat down because it is polite, it allows the children to talk to one another, and it reduces litter. As the school is a Public Finance Initiative (PFI) building we do not own all of the furniture in the building. This is as frustrating for me as it is for you. We are in the process of buying more furniture and in the interim will allow students to eat, sat on the benches, in the yellow corridor to increase capacity. We are also editing the RfL cards to include 'eating standing up' as a category, as opposed to 'anti - social behaviour' Incidentally, 'hands on behaviour' does not include shaking hands or hugging friends.

Walked out at the end of the day.

We have to ensure all children get off site safely, and are bid good afternoon and well done at the end of the day. It is a warm, calm, and kind way to finish the school day. We want to take every opportunity to say well done to our children.

1,2,3 Show Me! and Quality Audience

We have given every child a mini whiteboard, a pen (which we will replace when empty) and an eraser. Our teachers have been trained in using these. They are beneficial as it means that rather than just one child answering a question, everyone can answer straight away, and our teachers immediately know whether the children have 'got it' or not. This enables us to respond appropriately. Quality Audience is a means of ensuring everyone knows how to sit and pay attention when a teacher is speaking. It is polite and supports children to actively listen, thus retaining information more effectively. Both routines are accessible by every child in the school.

Inclusion

Our approach to inclusion is very simple. In the mainstream school we believe that every child has a right to access every part of the day. If they miss a part of the day it means that in reality they aren't getting the same experience as everyone else and we firmly believe that this is unfair. As such any adjustments required will always be focussed on supporting children to access the day, not to miss it. Our consistent approach to lesson structure, disruption free learning, and silence is inclusive for all children with additional needs.

The Mountain

Where we talk about students climbing their own personal mountain to the very best universities in the country we are talking about all qualifications at university. Be that a regular degree, a technical degree, or a degree apprenticeship allowing students to earn whilst studying. We remain aspirational for **all** children.

Again, if you would like to speak with me about any of this, please contact Ms Bristow on bristowj@blaisehighschool.co.uk. We continue to value everyone's support.

Nat Nabarro

