



NNO/JBI
10 February 2023

Dear Blaise Families,

I am delighted to write to you as we mark the halfway point of this academic year. The first half of this year has been truly exceptional, with the children of Blaise High School demonstrating every day that they are absolutely capable of climbing their own personal mountains to the very best Universities in the country or careers of their choosing.

This half term in particular it has been fantastic to see the students engaging in enrichment activities and we very much look forward to writing to you with our enrichment offer for Unit 3 in due course. We have also seen students continue to make exceptional progress through the curriculum in their lessons and continue to develop their character as they demonstrate the Blaise values in their day to day actions in school. Next half term, we will begin a series of regular letters to parents outlining what is being studied in each subject area, in order to support parents in working with their children on school work. This half term we have also seen some disruption due to the Industrial Action taken by teachers, however, as always, our students responded impeccably to this disruption to their routine.

Next half term, we look forward to launching our new House System, ready to start in Unit 3. We recognise that qualifications and results will open doors for our children to access the very best universities in the country or careers of their choosing. However, we also understand that in order for our children to make the most of these opportunities they must develop the strength of character required to take on the obstacles that will face them on their climb up their mountain. Working towards academic achievements and developing character takes hard work and dedication from our children and it's important that we have fun too.

Students and staff will be assigned to one of three houses for Unit 3 onwards. All green points, including RfL signatures and golden tickets will count towards a child's personal total, resulting in Rewards Experiences and towards their House total, resulting in becoming House Champions! Alongside green points students will gain House points by competing in a number of competitions, carefully selected by our Student Leaders, through the academic year. Events for this academic year will include: inter house sports, a spelling bee and sports day.

Our student leadership team is proposing 2 sets of names based on our mountain theme. Please select which set of names you would like to make our Blaise High School House names by completing a Google Form [here](#).

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Next half term, we also look forward to Y11's final set of mock exams before their final exams. The mocks begin on the 20th February and we look forward to seeing everyone in school for them. The Y11s are a fantastic year group and I have no doubt that they will produce the best results this school has ever seen. We also look forward to the next set of knowledge organiser assessments for the other year groups. In addition to this, Year 9 will be given the opportunity to make their choices for their GCSE courses. Mr Harvey will be writing to Year 9 parents in due course regarding this. The choices that we offer are enabling choices. If students take any combination of choices, any future courses, careers, or destinations will be open to them, providing they achieve the right results.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask for the support of the entire community in the attendance and punctuality of the children in school. The single biggest factor in determining a child's success at school is their attendance. It is essential that children are at school every day. Secondly, with regards to punctuality, the ongoing roadworks on station road are an enormous inconvenience to the whole community and I met with the local councillor today to discuss this. Please allow for additional time on your journey to school to avoid lateness. With this in mind, Ms Giblin, Ms Edwards and the pastoral team are collating community voices on school attendance and ask that everyone takes five minutes of their time to complete this [survey](#).

I would also like to update you regarding an important staffing change at the school. For personal reasons, Mr Killigrew will not be returning after the break. I would ask that this decision is respected and would like to reassure everyone that we are currently recruiting for his replacement. I thank Mr Killigrew for all of his work in the improvement of this school and the community and know that those members of the community with whom he worked closely will echo this.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and pleasant half term and look forward to seeing everyone on the 20th February before 8:35am.

Please find a video summary of this letter [here](#).

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Nabarro
Headteacher