



Blaise High School
Station Road
Henbury
Bristol
BS10 7QH

NNO/JBW
4 September 2024

Dear Blaise Families,

I am delighted to welcome everyone back to school for a new academic year. I hope that everyone has had a lovely summer full of family time, rest and relaxation. We are really excited to welcome the children back to us on their journeys up their own personal mountains to the very best universities in the country or careers of their choosing. I have a number of improvements to update you all on for the year ahead.

The Site

Significant work has gone into the school site over the summer. We want the children to leave us as happy, confident, articulate and bright young people ready to make a difference in the community and the world. As such it is important that the school has the facilities to enable this. This is a constant process and we will continue to build and develop the site over the years. Over the summer we have redecorated and partly refurbished all of the bathrooms. These are being totally refurbished over this academic year. This is thanks to feedback from both parents and students and we will do a big piece of work on students taking care of the bathrooms this year. We have also installed a completely new astro turf pitch. This is an excellent facility to have and one we have to take care of. Unfortunately, there has historically been an issue with children from the community using the pitch outside of hours and trespassing on site. Where we have previously turned a blind eye to this, we can no longer do so given the extent of the cost of the new astro. As such, we will always call the police if this happens, and if the trespassers are found to be students of the school we will sanction them in school. We all have to take pride in our school. Please do attend one of our open events to have a look at the improvements we continue to make to the site.

Results

We are very proud of the results achieved by the outgoing Year 11 students. Attainment (how well children do) has gone up in nearly every subject and nearly every measure. Whatever we think of the system, exam results are the currency that children need in order to have choice over the rest of their lives. The better they do the more choices they have. This is at the heart of what we want for our children; agency over the direction of their lives. It is of particular note that the 90 children who had over 90% attendance; that is children who missed **less** than one day every two weeks achieved results that would put them in the **top 3%** of the entire country. We know that where children attend regularly they do very well here, as well as children who attend the most expensive fee paying schools in the country. Please ensure that your children attend school regularly and on time.

Attendance

Mrs Giblin has written to you regarding the new attendance legislation that has been brought in by the government. I would like to be clear that these are national laws and not ones that are unique to our school. They are designed to combat the crisis in school attendance that we are seeing across the country. As you can see with regards to the exam results, where children attend school regularly here, they do very, very well. We want this for every single child.

Continued

Nat Nabarro, Headteacher

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The new laws include larger and more frequent fines for families where children have poor attendance. We urge all families to work with us on improving school attendance and are really grateful to those families who do. It is important to highlight that if the new laws were in place last year we would have issued attendance fines to 219 parents.

We do not want to do this, but have no choice if we have to. This is why I am urging all parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and on time, as the vast majority of families do. Not only does this mean that children will achieve better, have greater freedom in the rest of their lives, gain rewards in school but also parents will not be fined or risk prosecution and a criminal record. Attendance matters and moments count, we want to see your children every day so we can work with them, help them and educate them to be bright, informed, polite citizens of the community and the world.

Uniform

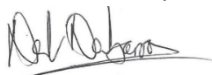
As ever, a new year often means new uniforms for children and families. Please do remember to contact Mr Bransfield in Mountain Rescue if you would like to utilise our uniform swap shop, or talk to your child's Head of Year if you need support with school uniform. Please do make sure that children are in correct uniform on their first day and that hairstyles, nails, jewellery and make up are in line with the school procedures detailed [here](#), alongside the equipment requirements.

I am very privileged to be the Headteacher of this school. It is a fantastic school, full of wonderful young people in a strong community. It is in a community that deserves one of the country's very best schools and it is a school staffed by committed, skilled and dedicated professionals. Given the horrifying events of the summer it is more important than ever that our school is filled with hope, positivity and diversity. We welcome and celebrate the diversity of our community and will communicate this sense of hope and celebration with our children throughout the year. Last year was a brilliant year for our school, in which for the first time in many years the school was graded 'good' in every category by Ofsted. The year was characterised by Sports Day and International Culture Day which were days filled with joy, happiness and laughter around the school. I am very much looking forward to those days alongside the school performances, enrichment, workplace visits, mock interviews, our Year 7 BBQ, Academic Review days and much much more this year.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Nabarro
Headteacher

Nat Nabarro, Headteacher

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