



BRS Newsletter

Love - Respect - Hope - Kindness - Resilience

October 2021

Headteacher's Introduction



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been one of the smoothest starts to an academic year that I can remember with students returning to school keen and

happy to be back with their friends, eager to learn, looking to make the most of the extracurricular and enrichment opportunities available to them as part of the 'BRS Journey'.

The pastoral team welcomes all our students back to school and would like to make a very special welcome to our community and the new students who have joined us this year. It is very important that every student in school is known and cared for as an individual, and as such we have a pastoral team whose role is to support, challenge and care for each student. To enable this to happen every student is a member of a Form and it is the Form Tutors role to look after and care for each student as an individual on a daily basis. If you wish to communicate with your child's Form Tutor please make a note in their planner.

Students are also a member of a Year Group led by:

- Miss Harkin (Year 7)
- Mrs McDowall (Year 8)
- Miss Waters (Year 9)
- Miss Scott (Year 10)
- Miss Meredith (Year 11)

The Year Leaders are responsible for the care and progress of all students in their care. Year Leaders are supported by our Pastoral Support Workers: Mrs Rowe, Mrs Tarry and Mrs Smith.

The collaboration and relationship between students, parents and school is key to our success as a learning community. Communication is central to these relationships,

Upcoming Events

Tue 16 Nov	Parental Forum
Thu 25 Nov	Parental Workshop - Reading
Fri 3 Dec	Inset Day - School closed to Pupils
Thu 9 Dec	Yr 8 Parents Evening - Virtual
Fri 17 Dec	Early Christmas Finish at 12.50pm

which is why we welcome communication and feedback (both positive and as areas for development). If you do have feedback please use the school's feedback tab on our website. We look forward over the coming year to working with our students and parents to ensure that all students have every opportunity to flourish, grow in confidence and make the most of their individual gifts and talents.



Sutton Experience

I am very pleased that extra-curricular clubs are now back up and running, and that so many of our students are making the most of the opportunities. I am delighted that staff have been creative in their offer of clubs, with a vast range of extra-curricular opportunities for students to enjoy. There are all the traditional sports and music clubs available to students, but also Warhammer club, and Craft club to name but a few! I would encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities as this expands their horizons and allows them to meet new people with similar interests.



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Messages from our Year Leaders

Message from Head of Year 7



What a fantastic start for Year 7 so far. It has been an absolute privilege to see new students become part of our community this term. I would like to congratulate our new Year 7s on their outstanding beginning to their journey. The beginning to their

journey has had a back drop of uncertainty in a very strange world, but they have taken this in their stride and clearly joined together as a community to support each other. We believe consistent communication with parents and always being available to support students ensures a safe and happy environment for learning.

Message from Head of Year 8

Year 8 have made a flying start to the new year. We are finding the cohort to be organised and responsible and we have very much enjoyed the interactions we have had so far with our students. Indeed, it is hard to believe that the year group had such a difficult first year to navigate at Blessed Robert Sutton as they have returned coping so very well. We place enormous value on working closely with our parents and carers, forging good, positive relationships, as we, as well as yourselves, all do genuinely want the best for the young people in our care. In other news well done to Ashton Zahra-Ali for teaching some of the year group how to play chess and all the pupils who have taken the plunge and joined so many of our extra curricular activities.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish Adam well who is doing an amazing job on his road to recovery. The whole year group is behind you Adam and we love it on the occasions you can come into school. Adam is a wonderful and inspirational young man who is a role model to all.

We are looking forward to an equally exciting next half term and wish everyone a lovely break next week.

Message from Head of Year 9



As the nights draw in and the temperature begins to drop, it is great to see the positivity amongst Year 9 in what are very trying circumstances. At the beginning of the year, I spoke to the year group about the power of positivity and how individual acts of kindness,

big or small, can have a significant impact on the people around them. This has never been truer than at this precise moment in time. It is great to see students in school in a safe and Covid-secure environment, learning and reaping the rewards of what education brings. Staff in school are working tirelessly to make the student's experience in school as enriching as possible, living into being the words of John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Message from Head of Year 10

Year 10 have made an excellent start to the year, it's very pleasing to see such positivity from students toward studying for their GCSEs. It is very pleasing to see that many of our students in Year 10 are not only becoming excellent academic students, but also impressive young people.

Year 10 took an active role in organising #HelloYellow activities and raising awareness for mental health, including covering faces in glitter. As the end of half term approached, several Year 10 students put together and led a collective worship based on diversity, in front of all year groups. These particular students have shown courage and have been a true inspiration to all. As they continue their Year 10 journey, I hope our students take inspiration from the words of John 10:10 "I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full".



Message from Head of Year 11



During this first half term, our priorities in the Year 11 Pastoral Team have been twofold: ensuring our students feel confident, happy and cared for as they settle into Year 11 and beginning the important

conversation about next steps following their GCSEs. As we approach the end of this half term, we are proud to reflect on the successful start students have made with their considerable maturity and dedication to their studies in lessons and we are also very appreciative for all of your support which has laid the foundations for this.



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In regards to being part of the school community, it was lovely to see so many year 11 students volunteer to help with open evening. Special thanks to Alex Kurz who impressed so many prospective students with his confidence in giving public speeches he also spoke so eloquently about our school. Also Niamh Haughey whose talent in playing the piano was clear for everyone to see and hear. It has also been lovely to see so many of year 11 wanting to take part in the extracurricular activities in school, like the schools leadership programme.

Our Year 11 Journey: Next Steps We know that the next steps for every child will look very different and wish for all students to have the opportunity to explore their aspirations thoroughly this year. Over the course of this term, each student will be invited to attend a 30-minute one-to-one Careers Guidance meeting (with several having already taken place this half term) to discuss their aspirations with a professional and to ensure everything is in place to support them in reaching their goals.

Attendance

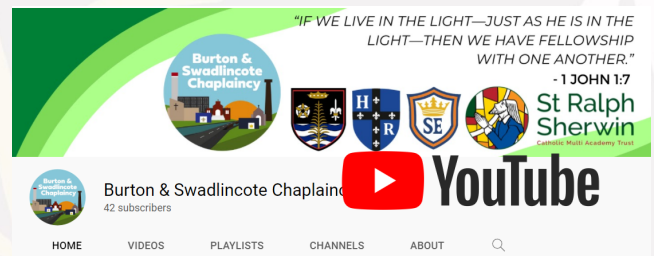
As we reach the half-way point of the first half-term, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the issue of attendance. Over the last few weeks I am pleased to see that attendance is improving and that students are becoming more resilient toward colds and feeling under the weather. It goes without saying that attendance at school is crucial to students' success. In order to give students the best chance of success, it is imperative that they try to miss little to no school days throughout the course of a year. Recent studies have shown that absence from school has a significant impact on their success and can have a long-term impact through to their GCSEs. A recent study has shown that of those students that have 100% attendance, 79% of them achieve 5+ good GCSEs. At 95%, this figure falls to 69%. At 90%, this falls even further to 53%, and by 85% attendance, this figure for success becomes 36%. When considering that 5% attendance is around 7 days absence, it really is important that students are in school every day. To put this into further context, if your child has lower than 95% attendance, it means they are attending school less than the average child across the country. We will do what we can to support the excellent attendance of students, and whilst some absence is genuinely unavoidable, we ask that any routine appointments are made outside of school hours, and that students are encouraged to come into school if they feel under the weather.

Collective Worship

During Acts of Collective Worship, we have focused on stories of resilience and making the most of opportunities that await students.

Curriculum Updates

What are students studying? The curriculum at BRS has been carefully constructed to provide opportunities for students to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally, alongside maximising achievement in a broad and rich suite of qualifications that combine the academic rigour of traditional qualifications alongside vocational learning. Please visit the school's website for a detailed overview of our curriculum and the specific details of what students are studying across the curriculum.



BRS Chaplaincy YouTube Channel

BRS Chaplaincy YouTube channel has material connected to whole school worship and Collective Worship. There are also moments of Reflection from the school Chaplain and items reflecting our School Values. You can search for Burton & Swadlincote Chaplaincy on Youtube.

Character Sessions

These sessions will happen once a fortnight to cover the statutory content needed to help our young people be successful on their BRS Journey and beyond



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Launch of Lexia

This half term has seen the launch of our new literacy programme which supports our ongoing focus on reading and literacy. This year all KS3 students will have 1 lesson per fortnight using Lexia.

'Lexia Power Literacy' is a computer based programme which will support and build on our English curriculum, focusing on three areas essential to becoming a proficient reader – word study, grammar and comprehension. We hope you share our excitement about this programme!



Wellbeing

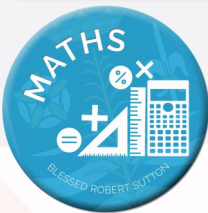
We have now launch our Wellbeing and Support Hub which all pupils are able to take full advantage of. During lunch times we have a range of activities linked to wellbeing as well as interventions and support running to support pupils' emotional wellbeing.



As part of our ongoing support of pupils well-being, we have introduced 'universal well-being talks'. These talks are ran once a term for all year groups and give pupils an opportunity to discuss their well-being with a member of the support and admin team all whom have had level one counselling training. So far we have completed year 10 and 11, and this week have begun year 9. Year 7 and 8 will take place after half term.

If any concerns are raised during these well-being talks, staff can refer into our internal well-being support intervention cycles which offer 6 week well-being programs including low level CBT, emotional well-being sessions, practical mentoring etc.

Subject in focus - Maths



This half term has been a very busy one for our pupils and as usual they have done all kinds of amazing things. Some of our pupils have embarked on a further maths course which very few students in the country get entered for. Our talented mathematicians are Maritta Binu (year 10), Ali Jenkins

(Year 10), Alana alex, (year 10), Viktorija Jackson (year 10) and Evangelene Puthussery (year 8). Evangelene is one of the youngest students in the uk to embark on such a venture.

Murder Mystery Production

At the end of September Robert sutton presented a murder mystery production. This started as a small club in lockdown with just a few students taking part in a reading activity. In true Robert Sutton style it grew into a full scale production which left the audience wondering who indeed had been the murderer. Thanks to a very talented cast and dedicated back stage crew a brilliant couple of evenings were had by all. Heirs and Disgraces was a tricky murderous play set in war time England. The amazing cast were Rezija Gabranova, Lily Cox, Jozef Worth, Maia Clarke, Toby Bowley, Alicia Hancock, Dominika Obniska, Mia Taylor and a special mention to Alex Kurz who demanded they released him from A and E (Burton) to play the lead with two broken fingers. We also had 4 fantastic hosts and public speakers Bella Young, Alfie Savage, Paige Firkbank and Lucy Mayes. Other performers that made the show so special were Robert Greenwood, Brooke Dillon, Sophie Robey, Elle Taylor, Alexis Bode, Evan Shipley, and Freddie Ellis-Hyde. Our dedicated and organised back stage crew were Charlotte Freeman, Ruby Carpenter, Oscar Ebberly, Rack Ross, Billy Meek and Izzy Franklin.



We raised a total of



£2102.29

For Cancer Research UK
completing the
Race for Life 2021



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