



# BRS Newsletter

Love - Respect - Hope - Kindness - Resilience

October 2022

## Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot believe we are rapidly heading towards the end of our first half term of the new school year! We have had a tremendously successful start to the new school year – following on from our best GCSE exam results ever!

So far this half term we have hosted our annual Open Evening for prospective Year 7 families. The evening was a tremendous success, this was in most part due to the contributions of students and staff. I am extremely proud of the efforts of all the young people who gave up their time to be part of Open Evening, it honestly felt as if half the school was here. Where the children acted as guides, helped in classrooms, were part of the departments or assisted with parking and refreshments, they did so in a polite and courteous manner, which was frequently commented upon throughout the evening. Representing the school and interacting with our community is extremely worthwhile and helps young people further develop the skills and qualities that are essential alongside strong academic performance. Thank you.

We have also held our annual Service of Blessings for Year 7, alongside our first session for parents of Year 11 – preparing for GCSE success.

We look forward to seeing families again this week online at the Year 7 Progress Evening.



## Upcoming Events

20.10.22	Year 7 Parents' Evening (VIRTUAL)
21.10.22	Years 7 & 11 Group School Photos
02.11.22	Careers Fair
09.11.22	Parental Forum (in school), 6pm
14.11.22	Year 11 Mocks for English & Maths

## Local Governing Body Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a two Governors to join our Local Governing Body.

The school is at an exciting stage of its development as we build towards being an outstanding provider. As the school has evolved and developed over the last few years, one thing has become abundantly clear: the quality of the Local Governing Body is fundamental to our success.

The role of a Governor is to work with the leadership team and other Governors to develop our strategic vision, values and ethos. Governors monitor, challenge and support the Headteacher and leadership team, understanding the challenges and pressures on school and helping leaders navigate these issues with sensitivity, optimism and ambition. They act with integrity and honesty in all their dealings with the school. We are particularly looking for individuals with a commitment to the School's vision and values, and who are excited about improving outcomes for young people.



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## Message from Mr Davies-Tagg (Associate Assistant Head for Teaching & Learning)

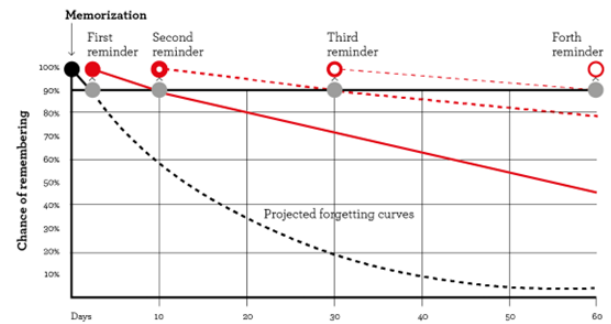
This half term we have been focussing on cementing best practice in relation to students knowing and remembering more. At Blessed Robert Sutton, students begin every lesson with a short retrieval activity. This can take a variety of forms from Flashbacks in Maths to Memory activities in Geography. Additionally, in Form time, on Challenge Tuesdays, students have had structured tutorials on retrieval practice (bringing information to mind to enhance and boost learning) and different techniques to make their learning stick into their long-term memory.

Years 7-9 will have received a Knowledge Organiser personalised to the Blessed Robert Sutton Curriculum Offer, and will receive additional copies each half term as they progress through our enriching curriculum. KS4 students will have received copies of Knowledge Organisers linked to their specific GCSE specifications from their subject teachers.

As the year progresses, we encourage students to be actively using their Knowledge Organisers from previous terms to ensure that the key knowledge that we teach is retained and is not forgotten. The following graph illustrates how spacing and repeating our revision can ensure that we are less likely to forget. As a result, if students are not set a homework activity by their class teacher, they should be actively engaging with a retrieval activity using their Knowledge Organiser to support their progress.

Knowledge Organisers for KS3 can be found electronically on the following link:

<https://www.robertsutton.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/homework/>



Additionally, in relation to Careers, Year 11 recently had a visit from Harper Adams University to discuss their post-16 pathways. Next half term we will be having a Careers Fair with a wide-range of visitors from local employers and higher education providers. In support of this event, if any parents or, former Blessed Robert Sutton students, would like to appear in a Careers Booklet on making further education choices, please contact Mrs McAulay: [jmcaulay@brs.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:jmcaulay@brs.srscmat.co.uk)

## School Attendance (Mrs Rowe)

Evidence has proven that the higher a student's attendance in school, the more they are likely to achieve. We, here at BRS, want the absolute best possible outcome for your child. We have already sent some letters home to parents with regards to school attendance.

We expect students to achieve 96% or higher each academic year. In order for you to support this, we would politely request that if your child has a routine medical/dental appointment, please ensure they can come to school either before the appointment, after the appointment or, if the appointment is in the middle of the day, your child attends both in the morning and the afternoon. This will ensure the minimal time lost in learning and means your child has less work to catch up with when they return.



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We are also in the process of changing our Attendance Policy in line with the government guidelines around holiday absence. From the start of this academic year, any holiday absence of one full day, or more, will incur a penalty fine issued by Staffordshire County Council. This fine is currently set at £60 per adult with responsibility for getting a student to school and applies to each child. So if a family takes 2 students out of school for a day or more holiday, the fine would be £240. Of course, this is not something that we wish to put parents/carers through, so we would encourage all parents/carers to ensure holidays are taken outside of term time wherever possible.

Staffordshire term dates are available at:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/termdates.aspx> and you can see all dates up to the end of the academic year in 2025.

We do reward excellent attendance. Our current figures at the close of 14th October were:

Year 7	96.4%
Year 8	95.4%
Year 9	94.5%
Year 10	94%
Year 11	94.9%
Whole School	95.1%

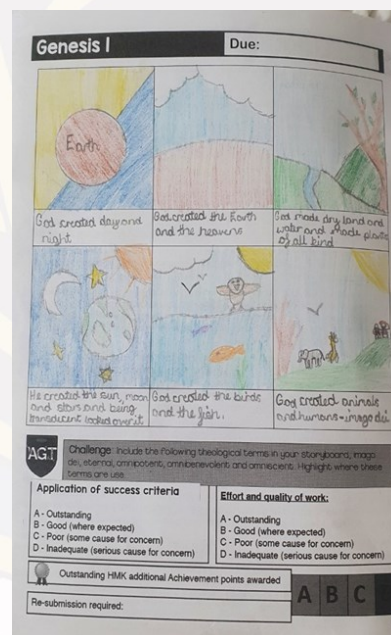
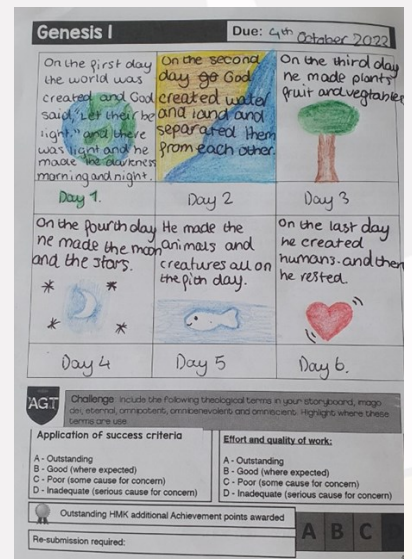
I would like to thank all our families for their support with this and ensuring their child has had a fantastic start to this school year.

I wish you all a safe and healthy half term.



## Message from the RE Department

The students have impressed the R.E. department so much this half term. Our KS3 students have produced some excellent work in their new Homework booklets which have been a great success, particularly Year 7 who have been looking at the days of creation.



A big shout out to Megan and Enya in Year 7 for producing some amazing storyboards of the creation story last week.

Our KS4 students have been working incredibly hard on their exam practice and tackling some challenging evaluation questions.

It was lovely to see our enthusiastic students support with Open evening and showcase the amazing work that is currently going on in R.E. here at BRS.



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## Staff Profiles

**Mrs J Langston**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher



I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I am Mrs Jenny Langston and I have had the pleasure of teaching at BRS for 5 years now, leading a fantastic department. I am the Food and Nutrition teacher here at Robert Sutton and Curriculum Leader for Design and Technology, Food, Textiles and Computer Science.

I had the amazing opportunity of taking on the role of Associate Assistant Headteacher, a role which I have been in for 2 years now. My role involves overseeing the Digital Literacy programme and Lexia which is part of our KS3 curriculum and also used for interventions to support literacy in school. Reading is an extremely important part of our daily routine and is embedded throughout the curriculum.

Catholic life at Robert Sutton is at the heart of my role, at the centre of all we do and is very important to me. Ensuring all students have Christ at the centre in all that they do and supporting students to live life to the full, ensuring they use the gift and talents God has given to them. Mass is celebrated every Wednesday afternoon in school for Form classes and throughout the year I will be leading on various events to support a range of charities close to our hearts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do to support our school.



## **Mrs J McAulay** Careers Adviser - Message for our new Year 7 students



I am Mrs McAulay your Careers Adviser and part of the Pastoral Support Welfare Team in school. I am currently based in the Careers and Aspirations hub at the left of the Sports Hall. During Year 7 you will be introduced to lots of new and interesting things. Try and find out what you are good at! Languages, Drama, Music, Art, Design, Maths, English, Science, Computer Science, Cooking, Geography, History, RE and PE.

Give everything a try as it is important to have a variety of different skills and talents for your future.



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You will be asked to choose your favourite subjects at the end of Year 9 and we are all here to support with those decisions. I hope to invite speakers into school to inspire you.

All Students will be invited to attend our Annual Careers Fair in the Main Hall on Wednesday 2nd November.

Some places you can start your research:

- YouTube
- NHS careers website
- The National Careers Service Website
- icould.com – Have a go and do the buzz quiz

Come and see me in school if ever you want to chat or ask a question about your future or to discuss your career ideas.

My email address is [jmcaulay@brs.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:jmcaulay@brs.srscmat.co.uk)

Remember to always check on Firefly for careers information.



## Hannah Ward Partnership Manager & School Games Organiser

Hello, my name is Hannah Ward and I am the new Partnership Manager and School Games Organiser for East Staffordshire. We manage 64 schools across East Staffordshire ensuring their PE and school sport provision is aligned with the National Curriculum. Our main focus is to organise school sport competitions, events and initiatives so ALL young people have the opportunity to participate in sport and PE. One of the best parts of our role is delivering the Young Ambassadors programme within BRS and working with the amazing young people at our school.



Recreationally I represent Derby County Football Club Women as a player and Club Captain. I have played for Derby County for 17 years, making 275 senior appearances and captaining the side for 5 years.



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## Messages from the Year Leaders



### Mrs Meredith

Well Year 7 you have made it through your first half term at Robert Sutton. I am so proud of you all! I am hoping that all the nerves are now going, and you feel like you are one of the BRS family. On Thursday 13th October you had your school disco which Miss Scott kindly organised for you. We also have a trip to the panto planned too. So, there are lots of things to look forward too. As you have now begun your journey here at BRS, I am sure that you have all made lots of new friends and attended lots of the clubs that we have on offer at school. If not, why not try one next half term? As we approach the winter term, it is important to remember that the days will get colder quicker, so please ensure that you have a warm coat and get those hats and gloves ready.

We have had lots of success in Year 7 this term. Keari abseiled down Derby Cathedral and raised money for charity which is amazing!, so make sure you all say well done to her for completing that daunting task.

Well done Year 7 for starting your secondary school life in such a positive and mature manner! Have a lovely break and remember to stay safe.

### Mrs Harkin

It has been a fantastic start for our lovely Year 8.

They have settled in so well and are enthusiastic about participating in Acts of Worship and wanting to support our new Year 7 to settle in. Their uniforms are immaculate and a credit to their family and school. Behaviour is exemplary as always.

We are looking forward to our Reward Trip in December and a busy term ahead—hopefully, full of rewards and lots of opportunities.



### Mrs McDowall

It is hard to believe it is already October. Many Year 9 students have had a great start to the year and are already showing huge potential with all their various talents. We have the Remembrance production coming up and a massive well done to Sophie, Jak, Max, Ashton, Ellie, Sonny, George, Sonnie (Y9) and the rest of the cast for putting on an extremely challenging performance.

We wish Evangelene luck as she starts her A Level Maths course (and she is only in Year 9!!).

It is always a pleasure when we see students being kind to other students in the school. When I have asked the year group what they think is the best quality in a person, they always say kindness. The following students have been spotted being lovely, kind individuals: Lilly, Harriett, Kate, Lewis, Jack, Chloe, Harley, and Georgie. I am sure this is just a snippet but thank you to our students who go above and beyond to help others out and make the world a better place.

### Miss Waters

What a great start Year 10 have made coming back to school. It is so lovely to see everyone back and excited to be learning. This is the start of a hard, but positive journey as you begin your GCSE's. Remember that teachers are here to help and support with your learning and revision. Sometimes school can become overwhelming during these next two years, so please make sure you are reaching out for support if you need it. Now Year 10, let's get Roll Call perfect again, keep our amazing attendance up and have lots to celebrate in the next half term. As always, please do contact me with any questions or concerns.



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## Miss Scott

Year 11 have had a brilliant first half-term. They have returned to school with a positive mindset ready for their final year at Blessed Robert Sutton, which is lovely to see.

When they return after the half-term break Year 11 will have mock examinations in their core subjects and will have assessments in their other subjects. Students should be ensuring that they are starting revision for these now, to give an accurate representation of their progress and to take the pressure off themselves too.

Dare I speak about the end of Year 11... however, a number of leaders within Year 11 have gathered together and set up a Prom Committee and have started to explore ways to raise money. They successfully organised and delivered a Disco for our Year 7 and Year 8 students on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. All students involved were exceptional and an absolute credit to the school.

I wish all of our students and their families a lovely half-term.

## Congratulations to ...

Evangelene for getting an A\* in Further Maths in Year 8.

Further Maths is a qualification above GCSE!!!!



Keari in Year 7 abseiled down Derby Cathedral and has, so far, raised £590 towards Rainbow's Children's Hospice in Loughborough. Keari is already planning what she can do next year!!!

Mrs Miller and ...



Mrs Bird

for completing the Great North Run!!!



**Remember to follow BRS on our social media pages!!!!**



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