



BRS Newsletter

Love - Respect - Hope - Kindness - Resilience

Back to School Edition

Headteacher's



Key Dates for Next Term

Introduction

We hope you are enjoying the Summer holidays!

I wanted to thank you for your continued support. This school year has been our most successful yet – being one of only 3 schools in the country to move from Ofsted 'Requires Improvement' to 'Outstanding.' And also being one out of 3800 to be shortlisted for Secondary School of the Year! We look forward to building on these successes next year.

Ahead of our return to school, I wanted to remind you of the arrangements for the start of the next academic year.

Start dates for the new academic year:

- Year 7 will start on Tuesday 5th September 2023
- Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will return on Wednesday 6th September 2023

Please find attached the full term dates for the 2023/24 academic year, which can also be found on our website: [Term Dates - Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy - Burton upon Trent \(srscmat.co.uk\)](https://www.robertsutton.srscmat.co.uk)

Up-

05.09.23	Y7 ONLY in school today
06.09.23	All Year Groups in school today
08.09.23	School Photos—Y7 & Y11
14.09.23	Y10/11 English Trip—The Globe
20.09.23	LGB Meeting @ 18:00
21.09.23	SCHOOL CLOSURES at 12:25
21.09.23	Y6 Annual Open Evening @ 17:00
28.09.23	Y7 Welcome Disco
03.10.23	Y7 Meet the Form Tutors and Service of Blessings @ 18:00
04.10.23	Y11 Parents' Information Evening
11.10.23	Y11 Geography Trip—Birmingham
12.10.23	Y11 Geography Trip—Birmingham
12.10.23	Parental Forum @ 18:00—19:00
23.10.23	Y11 HSC Coursework Day
24.10.23	School Photos—Y7 & Y11
26.10.23	Y11 Food NEA1
26.10.23	Y8 Parents' Evening
27.10.23	Y11 Food NEA1
27.10.23	Quiz Night @ 19:00
27.10.23	Break up for Half Term—back to School on Monday 6th November



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Standards and Expectation reminders

At BRS, we strive to ensure our school uniform is reasonable and represents the best value for money for families. This includes:

- Keeping the number of branded items to a minimum (school badge and tie)
- Ensuring all other required uniform items are as widely available as possible (white shirts, black trousers or skirts and black shoes)

We have made slight alterations to our uniform expectations – these have been highlighted in bold for your information.

Blazer	Black blazer with school badge. Blazers must be worn at all times, unless permission has been given by a member of staff to remove it.
School Badge	Blazers purchased from our associated school shops do have an embroidered badge. Alternatively, you can purchase a badge from school to sew on to a black blazer purchased from elsewhere.
Shirt and Tie	Plain white shirt or blouse with collar, tucked into waistband of trousers/skirt - must be worn with a school tie knotted to the neck and also reaching the belly button. School Tie - Please note that we now have one school tie. Those students with the old school tie do not need to purchase the new one but only one type of tie will now be available to purchase.
Trousers/Skirts	Following parental feedback, from September students must wear plain black (loose fit) school trousers, these can be straight leg or cropped (Denim/jeans/tight fit/low slung or Lycra based trousers are not allowed). Plain black knee length, tailored, straight or pleated skirt (Lycra, tight fit skirts are not allowed)
Optional Jumper	Black V-neck jumper with school logo.



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Footwear	Smart black polishable shoes (no high heels, boots, fashion shoes, trainers, sandals or Converse type pumps).
Jewellery	A wristwatch. A light chain crucifix. A single stud earring. A set of plain stud earrings, one in each ear, worn in the lower ear lobe. No other piercings/ jewellery is permitted. Nose-ring or earring retainers are not permitted.
Outdoor Wear	Outdoor waterproof coats, capable of being worn over the blazer (Hoodies or tracksuit style tops are not permitted).
Belts	Plain black (without studs)
Hair/Make-up	Hair should be neat and tidy without decorative attachments. Extreme styles, unnatural hair colours, tramlines, shaved shapes in the hair or eye-brows are not permitted. If make-up is worn, it should be moderate and unobtrusive. False eyelashes, nail polish, false/acrylic nails are not permitted.
School Bags	These should be of a suitable size to accommodate A4 sized books, folders and sports equipment, e.g. rucksack, satchel, messenger bag. Small hand-bags are not appropriate as a school bag.
Socks/Tights	Black or charcoal school socks. Students should not wear white socks. Black or natural coloured tights (not patterned).
Mobile Phones & other Electronic Devices	There is no need to bring electronic devices into school. Mobile phones must be switched off (not just on silent) and remain in the student's bag whilst on the school site. If mobile phones are seen or heard they will be confiscated. If a student has a mobile phone, visible on the school site, it will be confiscated as per the Mobile Phone policy. The same applies to gaming devices, earphones, speakers and any other music device.



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For further details around uniform and equipment expectations, please see - <https://www.robertsutton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/dress-code-and-equipment/>

Please ensure your child does not return to school after the summer break with any form of facial piercing – facial piercings are not allowed and students attending with facial piercings in the new academic year will be placed in internal exclusion. Children should also not return to school with any kind of nail polish or acrylic nails.

The only jewellery permitted is – wristwatch, light chain crucifix, single stud earring or a set of plain stud earrings, one in each ear, worn in the lower ear lobe. No other piercings/jewellery is permitted. Nose-ring or earring retainers are not permitted.

We appreciate that financially these are challenging times for many of our families. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please do not hesitate to contact us – office@brs.srscmat.co.uk

Cashless Catering (Mrs Mills)

New Year 7 parents will receive their ParentPay login details before the end of term. Fingerprints will be taken for all new students on the first day in school in September.

Thank you to all parents who have made the cashless catering system work so well, by ensuring your child's account has been kept in credit. Please remember to check their account before they return in September.

Medication (Mrs Mills)

If your child is on any medication, please make sure you send us a completed Medical Health Care Plan which can be found here: <https://www.robertsutton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/school-life/>

Attendance (Mrs Rowe)

We are excited to announce that school is raising its expectations on attendance to 100% , a significant increase from the previous 97%.

From September we will be implementing an additional function on Class Charts which allows parents to conveniently report absences through the Class Charts app—more information about how this can be done will be shared in September. All reported absences will receive a follow-up phone call to ensure the safety, wellbeing and support of our students.

To reinforce the importance of regular attendance, we will be making alterations to the attendance policy, authorising only up to 5 days of absence (cumulatively) without medical evidence.

Please note that holding fining, as mandated by the government, will continue. We want to emphasise that we will not be granting leave of absence retrospectively; a formal absence request form must be completed and approved by the Headteacher—leave will be granted for extenuating circumstances.

As part of our commitment to improving attendance, we have been assigned additional Education Welfare (EW) support, aimed at assisting persistently absent students and addressing those who are frequently late to school. The EWOs, who carry legal weight in matters of school attendance, play a crucial role in ensuring families receive the necessary support.

We urge all parents and students to understand the utmost importance of regular school attendance, in ensuring academic progress and success for all. Together, we can create a thriving educational community.

As we come to the end of this academic year, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students and parents who have consistently ensured timely school attendance throughout the last 12 months. Your commitment to regular attendance has undoubtedly contributed to the success and growth of your child.



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Key contacts in school -

Ahead of our return to school please find below details of the key contacts in school -



For any general queries -

General enquiries	office@brs.srscmat.co.uk
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For any queries about pupil pastoral care / pupil progress -

Head of Year 7 - Miss Waters	ewaters@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Head of Year 8 - Miss Meredith	kmeredith@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Head of Year 9 - Miss Harkin	pharkin@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Head of Year 10 - Mrs McDowall	amcdowall@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Head of Year 11 - Mrs Bannister	jbannister@brs.srscmat.co.uk



For any queries about attendance -

Attendance Lead - Mrs Rowe	srowe@brs.srscmat.co.uk
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For any queries about safeguarding or pupil wellbeing -

Safeguarding -	safeguarding@brs.srscmat.co.uk
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What to do if?

Problem	Who and where
Your son/daughter arrives at school late -	After 8.25am pupils should sign in at Reception and then go to Form Time.
Your son/daughter is being bullied -	Email your son/daughter's Form Tutor and/or safeguarding@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Your son/daughter has a dental/medical appointment -	Please send your son/daughter into school with a note for their tutor to sign or this can be written in your child's planner. A named adult will need to collect your child from Reception. Your child should sign out at reception and sign in when/if they return.
Your son/daughter has lost something -	All lost property is handed in to Reception. Remember all property should be marked with your child's name. Your son/daughter should ask at reception if they can look through lost property.
Your son/daughter doesn't understand a homework task -	All homework instructions will be posted onto Class Charts. If your child does not understand their homework please tell your son/daughter to see their subject teacher or their Form tutor.
Your son/daughter has forgotten to bring something to school -	Your child should explain to their subject teacher at the start of the lesson.
Your son/daughter gets something confiscated -	Your son/daughter's Year Leader will advise them when it can be collected and what the conditions are.
Your son/daughter doesn't feel well -	They should tell their teacher, who may send them to see a First Aider. This will be recorded onto your child's Class Charts.
Your son/daughter is going to be absent -	A parent/carer should phone the school on the first morning before 8.25am. Your child make sure they catch up on missed work.
Your son/daughter takes medication -	Any medication should be passed onto Mrs Mills. You will have to provide us with a health care plan from home to explain what the medication is for and when it needs to be taken.



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Class Charts

Class Charts is a comprehensive online system that is designed to facilitate effective communication between teachers and parents while simplifying the management of student attendance, behaviour, and scheduling of detentions. The system enables teachers to monitor students' attendance records, as well as track positive and negative behaviours, making it easier for them to provide personalised support to each student.



Through Class Charts, teachers can also access real-time information about individual students' needs, including SEN information, medical conditions, and behavioural issues. This information is critical in enabling teachers to offer targeted support and accommodations to students, which can ultimately improve their academic performance.

The system also facilitates communication between schools and parents by providing a centralised platform where teachers can share information about upcoming events, important deadlines, and other school-related news. This feature is particularly useful in ensuring that parents are kept informed about their child's academic progress and can actively engage in their child's education.

Class Charts also makes teaching more efficient by automating tasks such as attendance tracking, behaviour management, and scheduling of detentions. This frees up teachers' time and enables them to focus on their core duties of teaching and providing support to their students.

In summary, Class Charts is an all-in-one system that helps to streamline communication between teachers and parents, facilitate effective management of attendance and behaviour, and make teaching more efficient and effective. By using this system, school can improve the overall learning experience for our students and create a more supportive and collaborative learning environment.

All Students and Parents/Carers are required to have a log on to Class Charts if you don't have a log on please contact Office@brs.srscmat.co.uk or alternatively please call school 01283 749450

For further information please see - [Slide 1 \(classcharts.com\)](#)



ClassCharts



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