

20th July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the school year is coming to an end I thought I would write to you to thank you for your support this year and to ask for your continued support in a few crucial areas.

Attendance at school is the first priority for our students. My whole school target for attendance is 96%. This year we have achieved 95.28% compared to 95.14% last year. This 0.14% improvement is all the more impressive because it is against a background of a 0.4% fall in attendance across Sheffield schools as a whole. Please support our drive to improve this further by not taking holiday during term time.

The budget situation at Bradfield is still at crisis point. The Governors and I have been in contact with the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA, the branch of Government that pays our funding) to ask for financial help next academic year. Without that help we face a budget deficit situation and no resources to close the funding gap. The ESFA have looked at the parents' presentation from our website and they know that there are only 42 schools in the country that receive less per-pupil funding than Bradfield. They are acutely aware of the crisis in education funding in general, so it was heartening to see the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, announce this week that they are committed to the National Funding Formula, which includes a minimum of £4800 minimum per-pupil, and they intend allocating an additional £1.2 billion to ensure it is properly funded. However, this does not commence until 2018/19 so we still have the problem of next academic year to sort out. I will write to you again when I have more news, but in the meantime you can support us by ensuring your child is properly equipped for school. They should have a pencil case with the following items: *Pens, pencil, eraser, ruler, coloured pencils, glue stick, calculator (scientific, can be purchased from school), protractor and a pair of compasses.*

Many parents have spoken to me in support of the new uniform. They have told me that a smart uniform, that is strictly enforced, is much overdue for Bradfield School. We are looking forward to seeing the students dressed for success when they arrive back in September. It is only fair for the vast majority of students who wear the correct uniform that we enforce the uniform policy. To this end, if a student arrives to school in the morning NOT wearing correct uniform they will be asked to change into new, clean uniform that we have purchased for this purpose. If they refuse to comply they will go into isolation for the day or we will contact you and send them home to get changed. Students and parents rightly get very frustrated with those students who seem to 'get away' with not wearing school uniform. This approach is designed to support those that are doing the right thing.

Next year we are planning to introduce some big changes to the way we assess our students' Attitude to Learning (ATL) and Attitude to Homework (ATH). The current system of four ATL grades (1, 2, 3 and 4) is no longer fit for purpose now that the new GCSE grades are numbered 1-9 and we also felt it was not providing you as parents, nor the students, the right amount of information and advice on how to improve. We will be communicating the new system to you and students in the new term via letters, assemblies and information evenings for parents. In addition, we hope to launch the 'parent view' part of our management information system on 1st January 2018. This will allow you to see 'live' information about your child's attendance, behaviour points, house points and school reports. More information about this in the Autumn Term.

Home / School transport will be different for many students in September. We are confident that through working with the various providers we will have a much improved service. However, we anticipate that it will take a few weeks to 'settle down'; please be patient with us as the school bus service is not under our control.

Some important dates for your diary:

Y7 – 'Welcome to Bradfield School' Thursday 14th September 6:00-6:45pm.

Y7 – Academic Tutorial evening will be Wednesday 13th December 4:30-8:00pm.

Y8 – Academic Tutorial evening will be Tuesday 27th March 4:30-8:00pm.

Y9 – joint Subject and Academic Tutorial parents evening will be Tuesday 13th February 4:30-8:00pm.

Y9 – Options Choices Evening will be Wednesday 28th February.

Y10 – Subject parents evening will be Thursday 30th November 4:30-8:00pm.

Y10 – Academic Tutorial evening will be Thursday 16th May 4:30-6:00pm.

Y10 – 'Moving up to KS4' night will be Thursday 14th September 7:15-8:00pm.

Y11 – Academic Tutorial evening will be Thursday 16th November 4:30-6:00pm.

Y11 – Subject parents evening will be Tuesday 6th March 4:30-8:00pm.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year and I hope you all find time over the summer holidays to have a rest and lots of quality time with your family.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ian Gilbert (Headteacher)