



KIRK EDGE ROAD ~ WORRALL ~ SHEFFIELD S35 0AE

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the school year is coming to an end I thought I would write to you 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%. We are now in the last week of term and it looks like we will be 95.2% by the end of this week. Can I ask you again not to take holidays during term time, because this year parents who did that reduced our attendance figure by 0.26%.

Punctuality to school has improved a lot this year, thank you. However, a large number of parents are still driving onto the school site in order to drop off late. This can cause problems in the car-park and problems for the school buses trying to get on-site. We prefer you to drop-off in the village and allow your child 5-10 minutes to walk up to school.

You may have seen in the media over the last year the concerns expressed by school leaders about the net cut to school budgets, due to costs being imposed on us from central Government. This was one of the reasons why the National Union of Teachers went on strike last week. Bradfield School has not been immune from these cuts. Since 2014 our per-pupil funding has been cut by 8.5%. On top of this our costs have gone up by about 6%. To try to prevent this 14.5% net drop in our funding affecting the quality of provision for our students I have had to make difficult decisions this year about class sizes, staff numbers and staff workload in order to balance the books. Our 'general capitation' budget is an area that we endeavour to make savings in. This is the one that subjects use to purchase stationary items for students such as pens, pencils, glue sticks etc. In future we will not be supplying students with these items. Can I ask for your support to ensure your child comes properly equipped for school each day? 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, pair of compasses.

Uniform discrepancies amongst a large number of our students this year has been a problem for us. We endeavour to provide clear guidelines for our uniform to support you, the parents, when purchasing items on shopping trips with your children. I have updated the uniform poster on our website so you can see, as well as read, what actually constitutes 'acceptable uniform'. Many of you have had letters from me in recent weeks asking for your support with this. Please note, the fact that certain retailers have sections labelled 'school trousers' does not guarantee that they satisfy our uniform policy.

We are proud of the behaviour of our students here at Bradfield School. They are a credit to you. During our last Ofsted inspection, the behaviour of our students was rated as 'Outstanding'. This is not an accolade that is easily retained. It must be worked on every single school day. To that effect, we are introducing some new procedures from September to follow-up on poor behaviour. We still retain what we call 'chance, warning, action', but for those students who fail this by persistently misbehaving in the classroom they will have an instant detention that same day for 15 minutes in their lunchtime. If a student does this for a **second time in the same day** they will have an instant after-school detention that same day of 30 minutes. If your child is in this after-school detention you will be notified. You would rightly expect me as Headteacher to be tough on poor behaviour where ever it occurs in order to maintain a calm and purposeful learning environment for all students around school. Please look out for more details in the information pack that will be given to your child at the start of next term.

Some important dates for your diary:

**Y7 - 'Welcome to Bradfield School' Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 6:00pm**

**Y7 - Academic Tutorial night will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

**Y8 - Academic Tutorial night will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

**Y9 - Joint Subject parents evening and Academic Tutorial night will be Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

**Y9 - Options Choices Evening will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

**Y10 - joint Subject parents evening and Academic Tutorial will be Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.**

**Y11 - joint Subject parents evening and Academic Tutorial will be Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.**

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  
Acting Headteacher