

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

A very Happy New Year to you all. In advance of school starting back tomorrow, **Wednesday 8th January 2025**, I wanted to welcome everyone back to the Spring Term! There has been so much to celebrate over the last term. As one would expect, the atmosphere around school was well ordered, positive and purposeful, with the overwhelming majority of students meeting or exceeding expectations. We are excited for what 2025 will hold for all our students and we will remain dedicated to building on the achievements they have already made, so we can ensure they continue to be even more successful.

Can I thank you in advance for ensuring your child is ready for their new year start by ensuring their uniform is in line with the school policy which can be seen on our website here: [Bournville School Uniform – Bournville School](#).

Our school improvement priorities are focusing on challenge so we can ensure we stretch every student to achieve even higher levels of learning. We expect every student to be ambitious and to work hard to overcome any challenges they have. With the right effort, support and determination every student can achieve their potential. Homework is a crucial aspect of this, it allows students within the quiet of their own time and space to work through problems. We therefore expect every student to complete their homework. Please stress to your son/daughter if the homework is not right, not to worry however we expect them to give it their best effort! If they have given it their best effort and still cannot do what is being asked can I ask you as their parent to write a note in their planner to explain to the teacher who can then help.

Thank you for your all your support at our parents' meetings and Christmas Fair. These were well attended, and I have been inundated with compliments about the students who helped with these evenings/events, with parents commenting about how confident, positive, genuine, and sincere they were in their depiction of life as a Bournville student. When Mrs Poole has asked for volunteers to help with many extra-curricular events including open evenings, she has had offers of support from over 100 students across all years; this really demonstrates the pride that our young people have in our school.

There has been so much to celebrate over the last term, and I was very proud of our students as we recognised their achievements in assemblies showing their dedication and hard work in their learning, punctuality and attendance. Staff and students across all year groups in assembly all applauded their peers, it was a real celebration of our students' achievements.

Looking forward to the next half term we welcome all parents to the **Year 11 progress meeting** which is planned for **Thursday 23rd January 2025**. I want to take this opportunity to recognise how hard the year 11 students have been working for their Mock exams, ensuring they take full advantage of all the additional support by attending every day and giving their full commitment to their period 6 sessions.

Likewise, our year 6 students are now turning that corner as they are now preparing for both their upcoming SATs in the summer term and their transition towards secondary school. Mrs Briner and Mrs Withy will continue to keep you informed about how your child is doing and how they are preparing them for these significant milestones.

There are also a series of school trips planned for the first half term (Spring 1) with our **year 10** Spanish students attending the **Onatti Theatre** on **21st January** and our **years 10 and 11** History students attending a **History Theatre trip** on **11th February 2025**. Likewise, the **11th February 2025** will be **internet safety day**.

I want to take this opportunity to also commend our drama students who have been supported by Mrs Brown in their rehearsals for the much-awaited **Hansel and Gretel performances**. The students from both primary and secondary have worked very hard rehearsing almost every week since summer term last year. We will be running two sets of performances: a matinee performance on **21st January** and an evening performance **22nd January**. Please do come along and support the performers who have been working hard to prepare to entertain you. We will be sending out further details about the timings of shows in due course.

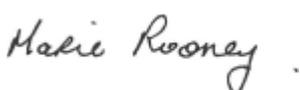
Our **year 9 options evening** will be on **13th February 2025**. We urge all year 9 parents to attend this evening as it will provide the information needed to help your child make the choices they will study for the next two years for their GCSE's. Our ambition is to ensure every child will be able to continue their studies in the subjects they enjoy and will achieve well in.

The Year 7, 8 and 10 parents' evenings will take place in the second half of this term (Spring 2) with the **year 7 parents' evening** taking place on **27th February**, the **year 8 parents' evening** taking place on **10th April** and the **year 10 parents' evening** taking place on **20th March**. The **primary school parents' evening** for all years will take place on the **3rd and 4th March** with the **World Book Day** and **Book Fair** taking place in primary school on **6th March**.

Finally, I want to thank you as parents for all your support over the past year! We have been on a very steep improvement curve, and we have had to make many changes to ensure every child achieves to the best of their ability. School improvement is like learning, it is a continuous journey, and it does not have any end because there is always something that can be done better. We appreciate how you have collaborated with us in a positive and constructive manner along this journey. As a school community, because of our collective efforts, we are in such a positive place, and it is only going to get better!

We have another busy term planned, time is of the essence and once again thank you for your continued support as we help your child become the best version of themselves.

Best wishes



Marie Rooney
Principal Bournville Academy