

Headteacher



I do hope that you enjoyed a good Summer and that your son/daughter has returned to school well rested and ready for the challenges ahead.

In recent weeks you will have seen our students' success in GCSE, AS, A2 and BTEC exams.

At GCSE 94% of students achieved A*-C in English; 85% A*-C in Maths and 84% secured A*-C grades in both English and Maths. 81% of students achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths. At A Level and L3 BTEC 81.4 % of all grades were A*-C and 52.2% A*-B grades, with 25% of all grades A*-A. 60% of students achieved all A*-C grades. We are equally proud of students' achievements and success in creative and practical subjects which reflect our broad and balanced curriculum that nurtures and develops the skills and aptitudes for study and work in the 21st century. Students across all courses and programmes should be proud of their



achievements. Alongside these they have achieved many other qualifications – for example in Music and Drama exams and the Extended Project Qualification; not to mention their involvement in many extra curricular activities. These set them in good stead for their future courses, training or employment. We wish them well – and look forward to celebrating their achievements at next week's Prize Giving.

Ben Greene, Headteacher

Communication

The targets we set each year are ambitious and parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting your children in achieving and exceeding these. A key element of this is to ensure that any concern is communicated at the earliest opportunity and I would encourage you to let us know as soon as possible should you have any anxiety about an issue which may affect your child's progress at school. In the first instance this should usually be via the relevant Form Tutor or Subject Teacher. Similarly staff are encouraged to share concerns with parents and carers at an early stage. Most problems can thus be understood and resolved both easily and speedily. In addition there continues to be a 'walk in surgery' every Monday morning from 8.30 – 9.00 am either myself or one of the Deputies will be available to listen to any concerns, opinions or ideas you may have in relation to any aspect of our work. If you wish to attend, please sign in at Reception. This provides us with valuable feedback, as well as another means of ensuring that any issues are swiftly identified and followed up.

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Foundations for success—Respect and Ready to Learn

Visitors to the school often comment on how impressed they are with the purposeful manner in which the students move around the site and engage with their learning. These expectations are founded on the twin principles of ‘respect’ – for self and each other; and ‘ready to learn’. We will be reminding students of these and the behaviours which support them over the next few weeks.

We will also continue to prioritise good attendance and punctuality. There is a strong correlation between students’ attendance at school and the progress they make – those with the best attendance secure the most impressive results. A score of 90% in most examinations secures an A* grade. However, attendance of 90% in effect means missing one day a fortnight; or nearly four weeks of schooling over an academic year – a pattern of attendance which has a negative impact on examination performance. An attendance record of below 90% is regarded as

‘persistent absence’. Mr Parsons, our Education Welfare Officer, Heads of Year and Form Tutors will be working pro-actively to ensure that all available support is in place where students are at risk of falling below this target. We were delighted with the improvements we secured in this regard last year and grateful for the support of parents and carers in this. Linked to attendance is punctuality – being on time at the start of the day is a key foundation to an effective day’s study. All students should be in their form rooms by 8.30 am, and as last year a same day ‘Late Detention’ system will run for those who are not. If you know your daughter is going to be late for school due to a medical appointment please phone the school in advance and ensure that they bring evidence of this appointment to school, ideally in the form of an appointment card.



Uniform and Behaviour

Similarly we have very high expectations with regard to behaviour and uniform and have been revisiting these with students over the first few days of term. The most common issue to be addressed with students in Y7-11 is skirt length – which should be on or below the knee. We are repeatedly reminding students that skirts should not be rolled at the waist – not least because it can damage the fastening leading to costly repairs or replacement. We are also grateful for your support for our policy on mobile devices – that these are ‘off and away’ whilst in school. This minimises distraction and helps to keep students focused and plays a significant part in reducing tensions caused via social media.

Bullers Wood Behaviour Expectations

I will...

- Show **respect** for myself, for other students, adults, school rules and the environment.
- Follow the **dress code**.
- Be a **good role model** in the community.

Mutual Respect

- Arrive at school and lessons **on time**.
- Bring the correct equipment, books and homework to **support my learning**.
- Make sure that my **mobile device is off and away** in school.

Ready to Learn

Last year a working party of students from each year group worked on strategies to embed a culture at Bullers Wood where bullying in any form is completely unacceptable. This involved surveys and discussions groups.

Y7-12 students took part in an anti-bullying session on Thursday. We will continue to work on this through focusing on positive friendships, and constructive resolution of issues in assemblies and Personal Development work.



Site

Our site and ICT teams have been very busy over the break carrying out repairs, upgrades and in particular a refurbishment of a number of classrooms in the Link Block. A significant amount of time and expense however was diverted towards removing chewing gum from desks and carpets. We would far prefer this to be directed to ongoing improvements and will be emphasising this with students and are grateful for your support with this. We recently secured a generous donation from the Chislehurst Society to securely enclose a section of our historic woodland which we will then be able to open to students at lunchtime when the weather is good. We are thrilled to be able to do this – knowing just how unique this environment is and how much both current and ex-students appreciate this. We hope to develop this area further for community use and in this respect are delighted to be hosting an event with the Chislehurst Society on the morning of Saturday 24th September. This will include a talk about the houses on the site and a tour – which will include the famous library, the woodland and the restored pond. Further details to follow.

Bullers Wood School for Boys Update



A planning application was submitted in July and we are expecting a decision to be made by the Bromley planning committee in early October. We are hopeful that the outcome will be a positive one given the need and demand for secondary school places in the area.

Applications are now open and parents can complete our **online application form** on the Boys' school website at www.bwsboys.org The deadline for applications will be **Friday 31st October 2016** and offers will be made the week beginning **Monday 20th February 2017**. We will be running our own admissions which means that parents apply directly to the School. Further information can be obtained at our **Open Morning for Parents and Year 6 Boys** on **Saturday 17th September** from **9am – 12.30pm**. The Headteacher will deliver three talks at **9.30am, 10.15am** and **11.am**.

How you can help?

Once we know the date of the **Planning Committee Meeting** we will communicate that to you as members of the public are able to attend. If you do have a son who will need a secondary school place in the future, we would really appreciate letters and messages of support explaining why there is the need for Bullers Wood School for Boys. These can be posted to the Headteacher Designate, Anne Gouldthorpe at the School or emailed to Karen McCarthy at kmccarthy@bullerswood.bromley.sch.uk We can then use these to demonstrate support for the Boys School.

Open Morning

Saturday 17th September 9.30am-12.30pm

Presentations by the Headteacher at 9.30am, 10.15am and 11.00am

BULLERS
WOOD
SCHOOL
FOR BOYS

To find out more about the school please visit www.bwsboys.org



Friends of Bullers Wood

The diary for the following weeks is already filled with events, trips and visits. Many of these are supported and arranged by the *Friends of Bullers Wood* – our Parent Teacher Association – and you will be hearing from them in due course about their activities. Please do consider how you may be able to support them in these. Any contribution you are able to make will make a difference for both current and future students.



Teaching and Learning

We have a number of areas that we are focusing on this year to secure further improvements in Teaching and Learning. In particular we are launching an electronic homework platform which we believe will support students in organising and managing their independent learning. Not least because this will provide a quick and easy way for parents and carers to have an overview of what has been set and whether or not it has been completed and submitted. This goes alongside a significant review we have carried out in relation to the purpose, nature and timing of homework tasks as well as how they are followed up on in class. Further details will be sent out over the next week.

Many of you will be aware of changes to GCSE and A Level specifications which are being phased in. In most courses this means a greater emphasis on final examinations taken at the end of a two year programme of study – modular exams are disappearing and coursework/controlled assessments are being drastically reduced. With this in mind we are reviewing delivery throughout the school to ensure we are developing the learning qualities to support these new frameworks of assessment. In particular we will be sharing with students the importance of approaching their learning with an ‘open mindset’, and looking to develop their resilience and to persevere with their learning over the ‘long haul’.

Linked to this we are also looking very closely at delivery in Years 7, 8 and 9 – to ensure that students’ learning progresses from Primary School in relation to the new KS2 Curriculum and that it underpins and prepares them for the requirements of the new GCSEs they will be studying.

Up and running...

At the time of writing students are back in school and attending their first lessons, and our daily routines are being re-established. It is pleasing to see how quickly the students have settled and focused on their studies. I very much look forward to seeing more of this in the lessons and activities I visit over the coming weeks and hope also to see you at one or other of our forthcoming events.

We hope you like the format of the new newsletter. As the year progresses we will look to include pieces written by the students detailing their achievements. We will also soon be launching a new website. There can be no doubt that the school holiday is over and the new term upon us—though hopefully the good weather will continue.

Ben Greene—Headteacher

