

Bullers Bulletin

September2018

Headteacher

I do hope that you enjoyed a good Summer and that your daughter/son has returned to school well rested and ready for the challenges ahead. Last week we welcomed students back and look forward to both the opportunities and challenges in the year ahead. In particular we extend the warmest of welcomes to students, parents and carers who are new to the school—in all year groups—but most obviously in Y7 and Y12.

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

At GCSE we were thrilled with students' outcomes—particularly given that in many subjects new more rigorous specifications were being examined. 82% of students secured 5 or more GCSE grades at 9-4/A*-C—improving on last year's results. Nearly 40% of students secured 3 or more grades at 7-9/A-A*. Similarly at A Level we have seen improved outcomes with over 46% of grades being secured at A*-B, and nearly 74% of grades at A*-C. Students in both Y11 and 13 worked incredibly hard over two

years to secure these results—they deserve our congratulations.

Students across all courses and programmes should be proud of their achievements. Alongside these they have achieved many other qualifications—for example the Music and Drama exams and the Project Qualifications where students from Y8-13 have enjoyed success; not to mention their involvement in many extra-curricular activities. These results reflect students', teachers' and support staffs' hard work over two years and set them in good stead for their future courses, training or employment. We wish them well—and look forward to hearing of their future achievements.

As the sun begins to fade on a glorious Summer we set our sights on the this year's cohorts of students—in all year groups—and set out optimistic and excited about maintaining and improving on the standards we have set.

Ben Greene, Headteacher





Foundations for success—Respect and Ready to Learn

The start of a new school year is a busy, exciting and sometimes daunting time for our students, particularly those new to the school. This is also a time when we remind all students of our very reasonable expectations regarding behaviour.

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. This is based on a very simple series of expectations for behaviour to which all students must adhere. These are based on two overriding principles – Mutual Respect and Ready to Learn.

These expectations are displayed clearly around the school and we feel certain you will agree they set out a strong framework for an orderly and well managed learning environment. They are also summarised in the students' planners. We are grateful for your support in reinforcing these with your daughters and sons.

We welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school and we will act to ensure it remains a safe place to learn and work. The vast majority of the parents and carers are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school's work. If a parent or carer has concerns we will always listen and seek to address them.

We expect all members of our school community to behave in a professional and courteous manner but regrettably there are rare occasions when behaviour by parents, carers and visitors to the school is considered

unacceptable. All members of the school community have the right to work without fear of abuse or violence.

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated are:

- shouting at members of the school staff, either in person or over the telephone;
- physically intimidating a member of staff, eg standing very close to her/him; threatening/aggressive hand gestures;
- swearing;
- any form of physical contact;
- breaching the school's procedures for visitors (**all visitors to the site must report and sign into Main Reception upon arrival**).

We are extremely fortunate at Bullers Wood to have a supportive and friendly parent community. Our parents and carers recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents and the school.

There are and will be times when parents and carers have concerns. Our expectations of how all members of our community conduct themselves form the foundations upon which we can ensure a supportive partnership that responds productively to whatever challenges we are faced with.

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



Communication

The targets we set each year are ambitious and parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting their 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.

Over the Summer we have changed our email system. All Girls' school email addresses are '@bwsgirls.org'. The first part of the email address for individual members of staff is the initial & surname i.e. bjohnson@bwsgirls.org

Other key addresses/telephone numbers are:

office@bwsgirls.org

Tel: 020 8467 2280

Year7@bwsgirls.org

Year8@bwsgirls.org

Year9@bwsgirls.org

KS3attendance@bwsgirls.org

Year10@bwsgirls.org

Year11@bwsgirls.org

KS4attendance@bwsgirls.org

sixthform@bwsgirls.org

Bullers Wood School for Boys

We are delighted that the Boys' School is now open for business in temporary accommodation at 1 Westmoreland Road, with the first cohort of students starting on Monday 10th September.

In terms of the permanent site an appeal has been lodged against the refusal of the second application which will be heard in November by way of a Public Inquiry. Alongside this a third application is being prepared.





Uniform—Y7 to 11

For your reference, a few reminders regarding our uniform expectations:

Please ensure that your daughter's skirts is of knee length or below. The skirt should fit around the waist and should not need to be rolled up at the waistband in order to fit properly. This not only shortens the length of the skirt but also breaks the zip on what is an expensive garment.

School coats should be of a plain black fabric with long sleeves. Large logos, denim, leather, suede, PVC and fur coats/jackets are not permitted.

Shoes or low ankle boots should be black, sensible, low-heeled and of a traditional style, (with black laces if appropriate). No trainers, canvas shoes, open-toes, flip flops, sling-backs or casual style footwear are permitted.

Your daughter should have a strong waterproof black school bag large enough for A4 books and files.

Jewellery, make-up, false and /or coloured/nails and eyelashes are not permitted. One pair of small, plain silver or gold stud earrings for pierced ears (one earring in each lower ear lobe) only is permitted. Other body jewellery, including any form of facial, helix or body piercing (other than earrings in the lower ear lobe) are not permitted.

Helix piercings—Helix piercing involves piercing the cartilage at the top of the ear. Students are not permitted to wear earrings in this part of their ear. Cartilage piercings unlike piercing of the lower lobe can take from two – four months to heal before the earring can be removed. It is therefore unadvisable to have this procedure done at any time including the summer holidays as there is simply not enough time for it to heal adequately.

Hair accessories should be of school colours – cream, white, navy, dark green, red or black. No large flamboyant hair accessories. Hair should be of a natural colour and appearance. No extreme hair styles or shaved hair is allowed.

We ask that parents and carers exercise careful judgement in matters of uniform and that they check with their Head of Year any potential purchases that might not meet our uniform expectations.

Our uniform expectations can be found in full in the Behaviour policy on the website:

<http://www.bwsgirls.org/uniform/>

Sixth Form Dress Code

Sixth Form students are role models for the rest of the school who are dressed in school uniform, and therefore the dress code is geared towards a smart and formal appearance. Sixth Form students will be issued with an ID pass and a lanyard which they will be expected to wear at all times whilst on site.

Sixth Form students may choose from:

- Traditional two-piece matching suit, incorporating a tailored jacket and trousers/skirt in conventional colours, i.e. brown, blue, grey, or black. Trousers should be full length. Skirts must be worn with tights and be mid-thigh length as a minimum. A tie is optional.
- A conventional shirt or blouse – plain, or modestly patterned providing it is tailored and designed for formal wear. It must have sleeves and must not be low cut; it must cover shoulders and midriff. T shirts are not permitted.
- A plain fine knitted V-neck jumper or cardigan in a conventional colour can be worn under the suit jacket.
- Plain smart shoes in a single dark colour. Heels should be less than 5cm high. Boots no higher than the ankle.
- Fabric coat with long sleeves. Large logos, denim, leather, suede, PVC and fur coats/jackets are not allowed.

Jackets must be worn at all formal events, e.g. (but not exclusively) assembly and photographs. Jackets can be removed in lessons and the rules may be relaxed on very hot days. In Technology, PE, Drama, Dance or Science students may be required to bring in protective or specialist clothing to be worn during these lessons -but not around school.

Jewellery must be subtle and consistent with smart formal dress. Apart from earrings, no other visible piercings or spacers are permitted, and it is not acceptable to cover up additional piercings with, for example, plasters or retainers. The same applies to tattoos which should not be visible at all. Headwear and hats should not be worn in lessons (except for parentally confirmed religious or medical reasons). Hair should be of natural colour and appearance and extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Items such as 'Hoodies' and inappropriate piercings will be confiscated and sanctions will be applied in line with school policy.

Travel to and from school—Safe and Sustainable

Bullers Wood School has been involved in the Youth Travel Ambassador (YTA) Scheme for the past six years. The YTA Scheme is a student-led project developed by Transport for London and delivered by the London Borough of Bromley. The scheme has given us the opportunity to make a real difference to the travel and transport issues which affect our local community. One of our key aims is to promote safe, independent travel for all students to and from school. Students living within 2km of the school are encouraged to walk to school.

- Walking boosts learning, enhances focus, heightens concentration, improves memory, reduces stress and increases creativity, all of which will help a child's performance at school. In addition, punctuality is improved as students walking to school will not be late due to heavy traffic.
- Walking gives children good life experience. It is an opportunity for them to be independent, think responsibly, and make decisions for themselves. New research on walking and cycling supports recommendations that active travel can help boost mental wellbeing. Walking releases endorphins which reduce stress, anger, tiredness and confusion.
- Walking provides daily exercise for children. Incorporating physical activity into a child's daily routine is a good way to reduce health risks such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease. Walking one mile to school and one mile home equals 2/3 of the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day.
- Walking is better for the environment – Returning to 1969 levels of walking and bicycling to school would save 3.2 billion vehicle miles, 1.5 million tons of carbon dioxide and 89,000 tons of other pollutants—equal to keeping more than 250,000 cars off the road for a year.

Many of our students currently walk to school, and a number of students use public transport. Those students who currently come by car are encouraged to incorporate some walking into their journeys to and from school.

We work hard to ensure your child's safety in school and staff are on duty at the school entrances at the start and end of the school day to support this. We also ask all parents to avoid stopping/parking near the Chislehurst Road gates, and at the end of St Nicolas Lane. We also ask any parents that park/stop in the vicinity of the school to do so considerately and safely. Please be aware that the London Borough of Bromley regularly send their parking enforcement vehicle to photograph any vehicles parked illegally and that fines are subsequently issued as a result.

There are two main gates to Bullers Wood School,

- Chislehurst Road – This is the school's main entrance/exit for the majority of students. It is well lit, has pavements on both sides and has traffic calming measures.
- St Nicolas Lane – All students are able to use this entrance in the mornings. In addition, some students are issued with a pass by the office to enable them to leave via this gate. For Health & Safety reasons, numbers are restricted using criteria based on postcode and mode of travel.

A third vehicular entrance on Logs Hill is for deliveries only and is out of bounds to students.

We like to encourage students who use other modes of travel to include some walking in their journey to/from school. For example, if travelling by bus, children can consider getting off a stop earlier. Indeed, if your child has only a short bus journey of perhaps 3 or fewer bus stops, it can be quicker to walk rather than waiting for a bus that may be crowded. Or, if travelling by car, children can be dropped off or picked up a short distance away and walk, e.g. at Pines Road (by the playing field). This is called our "Park and Stride" initiative aimed at reducing the number of students being dropped off by the school gates. Dropping off or parking by our gates adds to congestion, and we would like to keep these areas as clear of cars as possible for the safety of students, staff and all road users.





Welcome to Bullers Wood!

September is the time of year when we extend the warmest of welcome to students, parents and carers who are joining the Bullers Wood Community for the first time. Principally in Y7 and 12 but in other year groups as well.

We have also been joined by new colleagues — some who have joined from other schools, others who are embarking on the start of their careers and others for whom this represents a career change.

History – Mr. Crawford

Geography – Mr. Bassett and Mrs. Barclay

Maths – Miss Meason (Head of Maths), Ms. Connaway, Mrs. Venkataraman and Mrs. Amfo

Media – Mrs. Gould (Head of Media)

Business and Economics – Mr. Bloxham

Science – Mrs. Malhotra (Head of Chemistry and 2 i/c of Science), Mrs. Kent (Head of Biology), Miss Bealing and Dr. Carlyle

Art – Mr. Bishop (Head of Art) and Mrs. Lea

Working alongside our teachers we have an expert and committed team of support staff working across a range of roles. Also joining us this week, adding to our dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants is *Mrs. Shrubshall*.

Newcomers and visitors to the school frequently comment on the atmosphere and ethos as they walk around the school—a combination of professionalism and humanity. Longer serving colleagues (mentioning no names!) reflect that this is a feature in them staying as long as they have. It is a privilege and an inspiration to be part of this community, equaled only by the opportunity to teach and work with the students who come through the gates on a daily basis.

We look forward to a fantastic academic year ahead—and to sharing news of this in future issues of this Bulletin over the year.

Term Dates 2018-19

Autumn Term 2018

Wednesday 5th September—Friday 19th October

Half Term Monday 22nd October—Friday 2nd November

(Please note—two week half term break)

Monday 5th November—Friday 21st December

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January—Friday 15th February

(School will start for students on at 10.30am on 7th Jan)

Half Term Monday 18th February—Friday 22nd February

Monday 25th February—Friday 5th April

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April—Friday 24th May

(School will start for students on at 10.30am on 23rd Apr)

Monday 3rd June—Friday 19th July

School will be closed to students because of Staff Training days on Friday 1st March 2019 and Friday 28th June 2019