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Headteacher: Mrs S. King

20 July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### Information for the start of the 2022-23 Academic Year

Our final newsletter of the year will be issued on Thursday, showcasing many of the fantastic end of term activities, alongside our thanks and goodbyes to departing staff.

In the meantime, I thought it would be useful to write before term ends about our plans and expectations for the start of the next academic year.

### Important dates for the start of term:

School will be open and staffed from Monday 5 September. See table below for details:

Date	Details	Timings
Monday 5 September and Tuesday 6 September	INSET days - School open to staff only	All day
Wednesday 7 September	Induction day for Year 7 and Year 12 students only. Uniform and equipment expected	Students to arrive no later than 8.25am. Students leave at 3.00pm.
Thursday 8 September	Term starts for all students	Students to arrive no later than 8.25am for 8.30am registration

We take great pride in ensuring our students understand and appreciate the importance of punctuality as this is such an important life skill. We expect all students to be 'through the gate' by 8.25am, thus allowing them to be present in tutor by 8.30am ready to start the day.

### Uniform at BFS

All students will be expected to wear full school uniform from the start of term.

<https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/uniform>

Book your 1:1 store appointment with our uniform supplier Monkhouse before August to avoid the last-minute rush. You can book your appointment now at [www.monkhouse.com](http://www.monkhouse.com) Remember that shirts, trousers, skirts are available from many high street retailers including Asda, Marks & Spencer etc.

We are fortunate to have lots of good quality, second-hand uniform in stock. We plan to hold a sale at the start of term 1, so please look out for further details and take advantage of this.

## School Uniform Expectations

- Trousers and skirts must be charcoal grey, not black
- Ties are compulsory, apart from in extreme weather and blazers are compulsory in Terms 1 to 5
- Jumpers are optional but must be either BFS branded, or plain navy V neck. No other jumper is allowed. Hoodies are also not allowed.
- Shoes must be black, leather and able to be polished, with no discernible branding. We do not accept trainers that cannot be polished and that have visible branding
- Jewellery rule is one silver or gold stud per ear. No piercings are allowed in the upper ear, no nose piercings and no dangly or hooped earrings. One ring may be worn in Years 10 and 11
- Coats and hats are not allowed in lessons

To ensure consistent high uniform standards, senior staff will conduct checks at the school gate. Uniform breaches will be followed up through the school's behaviour system. In extreme circumstances, students may be sent home to correct their uniform, before being allowed into their lessons.

Examples of serious breaches are extreme hair styles or colour, facial piercing, jeans or clothes that are not considered school uniform.

BFS does sign up to the Halo Code for Afro hair, but does not allow Durags in school, so families are encouraged to plan hair styles around term dates.

## PE Uniform Expectations:

Compulsory:

- Top - Navy BFS polo shirt/plain navy sports t-shirt (no logos)
- Bottoms - Plain navy shorts/skort/sports leggings/joggers (no logos)
- Socks - Plain navy knee length
- Trainers - Sports trainers with non-marking sole
- Gum shield (KS3)
- Shin pads (KS3)
- Football boots (KS3)
- Long hair must be tied back and no jewellery is permitted (including earrings/watches).

Alternative items:

- BFS PE Sports hoody/sports leaders hoody
- BFS quarter zip sweatshirt
- Plain navy crew neck sweatshirt
- Non-branded PE kit must NOT include hoodies or any garments with zips.

## School Equipment at BFS

Students are expected to bring a school bag, ideally a rucksack, to carry the essential equipment:

- Blue/black pen – with a spare
- Red pen – with a spare
- Pencil case
- Two pencils and a sharpener
- Eraser
- 30cm ruler
- A protractor
- Reading book
- Calculator (preferably Casio 83GTX or 85GTX)

### **Rewards, Behaviour and the House System**

We will be starting the new school year with a fresh start for all students and encouraging everyone to earn house points. These will be awarded through our core values of Community (awarded through tutor teams), Ambition (awarded through subject areas) and Opportunity (awarded through extra-curricular) and will lead into our final day house assemblies, when we award the overall House Cup. Various individual rewards can be earned at incremental stages throughout the academic year.

We will be introducing lots more inter-house competitions next year. We will be encouraging parents and carers to get involved in some of these competitions. We know some of you are competitive too! To keep informed please make sure you have logged into ClassCharts (which will be the way we communicate rewards and behaviour points) alongside the newsletter, where details of these exciting competitions can be found.

We are reviewing our Behaviour Policy and when it is finalised we will send you details early in term one.

### **Residential Trips 2022-23**

To support families with financial planning and the escalating cost of living, we plan to provide you with the range of residential trips we are offering next year in September. We will be reducing the number of expensive residential trips and will add more affordable day trips to complement our enrichment offer. We believe that family finances should not be a barrier to enriching experiences, yet some families tell us that school trips do offer affordable opportunities that could not be accessible unless schools provided them. We are working hard to strike the right balance in this regard and planning in time for reasonable long-term payment plans.

### **Communicating with school**

Please use [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for all emails to school so we can ensure the right member of staff deals with your email. BFS has grown to be a very large school with large teams of staff dedicated to specific areas of expertise. Teachers will not be able to respond to emails during the school day as their substantive role is planning, teaching and working with students. We would typically aim to deal with emails within 48 hours although some issues may require more time so we will send you an update. We ask parents and carers not to arrive on school site without a prior appointment.

Please regularly check our website for all the information you need about your child's curriculum, term dates and much more. <https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/>

It only leaves me to wish all our families a very happy summer holiday. This has been a fantastic and successful academic year at BFS and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S King  
Headteacher