



May 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the summer half-term update letter. Thank you for accessing the BPS website to read this letter which will hopefully allow you to look at the range of information and news we regularly post on these pages. The Twitter feed is a fabulous record of how busy and vibrant BPS is on a daily basis. There will always be quality teaching, an activity, event, expedition or visit involving students in our thriving school. Thank you for supporting us with these opportunities.

As I write this our KS3 students are at La Fosca in Spain on the Water Sports week and the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition groups will be recovering after a wet and windy Friday night in the New Forest. Even the costal challenge walk in the Purbecks felt like November weather! It is important to have a range of extra-curricular activities and challenges available for our students, many of them free and available in school. The school focus having to be so firmly on preparing students for the exam system means it is even more vital to build in educational fun and space to do something different and balance the pressures.

With the GCSE and A Level season in full swing we can clearly see the importance of working closely with our students in increasingly anxious times. Most students in Year 11 are taking well over 20 individual timetabled examination papers over six weeks so it is no surprise that the pressure mounts as the exam season gets underway, with many students having already sat practical exams in March.

Well done to all our students for working hard and revising and to their families and friends, as well as BPS staff for supporting them. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there are any concerns at all during this exam period.

This letter does have to contain important information and dates for your diary as the end of term bumper BPS News colour edition will mainly focus on celebration. Please do check the dates for the end of term and planned start up for the new academic year. We are of course checking daily the progress of our new school build to be absolutely sure we can pack up in July and open up in September. This is a major operation as you can imagine and is also tinged with a lot of sadness and worries as we leave behind a much loved and successful learning environment. However, everyone who has been into our new school has been excited and can see the "wow" factor we have designed into a 21st century school. I would love all the students to get the chance to look round before we move to reassure them and get excited about "BPS 2". We will be taking what makes our school "tick" with us as it is the BPS community that makes us successful and that will always be about people and positive working relationships. I have been working closely with our new Headteacher, Mr Wilson, to make sure we capture this and take it with us. We are looking forward to the opportunities the Riverside Federation can develop in the years ahead with our Executive Headteacher and Headteacher model.

1 Copsewood Road, Southampton, SO18 1BU t 023 8032 5200 f 023 8032 5222

w www.bitterneparkschool.org.uk e info@bitterneparkschool.org.uk e info@bitterneparksixthform.org.uk

Headteacher: Susan Trigger BA(Hons) FRSA



A few dates for your summer diary:

Monday Friday	29 May – 2 June	Summer half-term
w/b Monday	5 June	Exam Week – for Year 7
Tuesday	6 June	"Dance Fusion" – 6.30 p.m., Sixth Form Theatre
w/b Monday	12 June	Exam Week – for Year 8
Wednesday	14 June	"Farewell" to the BPS current building open afternoon – all welcome (4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.)
Thursday	15 June	Summer Concert – 6.30 p.m., Sixth Form Theatre
w/b Monday	19 June	Exam Week – for Year 10
Thursday	22 June	Gifted & Talented Celebration Evening – 6.30 p.m.
Tuesday	27 June	Clearance morning for Year 11
Wednesday	28 June	Final assembly for Year 11, Class of 2017
Thursday	29 June	Year 11 Prom, Hilton Hotel, Ageas Bowl
Tuesday	4 July	Year 13 Leavers' Event
Wednesday	5 July	Year 6 Taster Day and Year 6 Parents' Evening – 6.30 pm
Thursday	6 July	Year 7 Summer Fayre, 3.30 – 5.30pm
Friday	7 July	INSET Day (school closed to students)
Tuesday	11 July	Performing Arts Celebration Evening – 6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	12 July	Information & Guidance Day (via appointments)
Thursday	13 July	End of term for Sixth Form (normal closure time)
Friday	14 July	Sports activities day
Friday	14 July	Sixth Form induction morning, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Monday	17 July	Music Tour to Paris departs
Tuesday	18 July	Years 7 to 10 reward trips
Wednesday/ Thursday	19 & 20 July	Achievement celebration assemblies
Thursday	20 July	End of summer term (Years 7 to 11 students finish at 12.25pm) – Lunches will be available at extended breaktime

Polite reminders:



If attending one of the above events can I ask that you park considerately if off site, as our neighbours have to cope with some very busy evening events. Thank you for your anticipated support.



Please try to make doctor and dentist appointments after 3.00 p.m. but if not, could you always write a short absence note, or jot down in the student planner, any requests re leaving the school site. Your son/daughter can then be excused from lessons to make their way down to meet you. We cannot let students leave the site without this permission. Our "parent call" text will go out automatically if we do not have an account for an absent student. This is a vital safeguarding procedure.

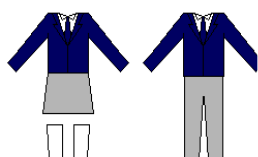
1 Copsewood Road, Southampton, SO18 1BU t 023 8032 5200 f 023 8032 5222

w www.bitterneparkschool.org.uk e info@bitterneparkschool.org.uk e info@bitterneparksixthform.org.uk

Headteacher: Susan Trigger BA(Hons) FRSA



Please read our policy on mobile phone usage (which is in the student planner and on-line) and particularly note the system in place when an investigation in school may be taking place. Parents will always be contacted when we can report back to them on an incident and will be invited into school.



Uniform. Can we remind you to check the new uniform guide (on the website) and plan ahead for September 2017.

Start of the new academic year dates (September 2017):

➤ School closed to students for completion of move, induction, unpacking, prepare/train for new school.	Monday Tuesday	4 September 5 September
➤ Normal staff INSET days (school closed to students)	Wednesday Thursday	6 September 7 September
➤ New Year 7 arrive for welcome, induction and new school training: All day, and continue on Monday and Tuesday in lessons (11 and 12 September)	Friday	8 September
➤ Years 12 and 13 in Sixth Form building: All day, and continue on Monday and Tuesday in lessons (11 and 12 September)	Friday	8 September
➤ Years 10 and 11 in school for welcome and induction and new school training: Years 10 and 11 to then <u>stay at home</u> on Tuesday 12 September. (Exam work will be set)	Monday	11 September
➤ Years 8 and 9 in school for welcome and induction and new school training: (Years 8 and 9 to <u>stay at home</u> on Monday 11 September). Work will be available on the FROG website.	Tuesday	12 September
➤ School opens to ALL students:	Wednesday	13 September

1 Copsewood Road, Southampton, SO18 1BU t 023 8032 5200 f 023 8032 5222

w www.bitterneparkschool.org.uk e info@bitterneparkschool.org.uk e info@bitterneparksixthform.org.uk

Headteacher: Susan Trigger BA(Hons) FRSA



Half term = Monday 23 Oct – Friday 27 Oct 2017

Autumn term will end = Thursday 21 Dec 2017, at 12.25 p.m.



Advice:

I keep reading about a predicted heatwave this summer, and we have finally had some welcome warm sunshine this week. Can I ask that your son/daughter is advised about how to handle this in school. They must bring in a bottle of water to refill during the day please and put sunscreen on if going to be outside enjoying the sun/walking to school.

The medical room can only offer emergency treatment for heat related issues and does not supply drinks or paracetamol as routine.

All I now need to do is wish you all a fantastic half-term break (even though there is still a lot of revision to do for many students). Fingers crossed for a sunny week! We deserve it.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

SUSAN TRIGGER
Headteacher

c.c. SNB/All staff/Governors/Website/GRW