

31 March 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to our end of spring term "newsletter"

Our "BPS Newspaper" colour editions are now published at Christmas and a bumper end of summer term edition to celebrate and record the fabulous range of activities that our students enjoy. On other occasions we will still write regular information updates.

This letter has been posted home to make sure the important information enclosed does get to you, as "pupil post" is not as reliable. As a general principle our parent "letters" are now only available on-line on our website (www.bitterneparkschool.org.uk). We will always send text alerts to remind you about any letters and news etc and our website and Twitter feed is an excellent source of information. I hope you regularly check the website as, for example, the uniform review update and results can now be found on-line, with student briefings in assembly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of monitoring your child's mobile phone. Students have reported to school staff this week their concerns around unknown "Instagram" accounts encouraging them to send inappropriate images of themselves and others. We have reported this to the police and contacted their parents. Please make sure you are discussing the safe use of social media and mobile phones with your children and you are monitoring the use of them.

I am particularly keen that you note the arrangements that are developing in relation to our new school build. We have been waiting patiently but anxiously to see if our move can take place over the summer holiday closure as originally planned. There was always a chance that this could have moved into the autumn term causing much more disruption as a three week closure would have been recommended. A separate diary sheet is enclosed recording the key dates and closure details which you can save for reference in the months ahead. The important news is that we will close to main school students (Years 7 to 11), for their summer holiday on **Thursday 20 July (12.25 p.m.)**

The teaching and support staff will then complete the school closure process as we will not be allowed back into the current BPS building from Wednesday 26 July. This is already proving to be a massive operation and the new school opening will also need careful planning. We are responsible for packing and/or labelling every single item in our existing building which will then be physically moved by the Kier contractors into the new building over the summer closure period, or disposed of. We all know how hard it is to "move house" never mind a school!

Staff and students will need to be carefully introduced to the new building and actually rehearse and test all systems, security and processes, not least the operational movement around our new school. Safety will be paramount in these first vital weeks of using such a brand new school. **Please note:** Details to save are on the gold coloured A4 sheet enclosed.

Continued

You may also be aware of the progress the Governors have made in restructuring the senior management team to take account of several developments and increased demands in the years ahead. The "Southampton Riverside Federation" is the official name for the one Governing Body who oversee both Bitterne Park School and Townhill Junior School. We hope to develop this further by becoming a small Multi-Academy Trust with additional partners in the year ahead. In order to develop this plan further, the new Headteacher of Bitterne Park School position has been secured to ensure the daily operations of BPS in our new school building will be strengthened as the Federation, M.A.T and Teaching School grow and develop further. The advice and guidance for new Federations/M.A.Ts is to move to an Executive Head model to meet expected organisational requirements. We are delighted that Graham Wilson will return to BPS to take up the Headteacher position after 10 very successful years at St George's Catholic School. Mr Wilson will become Headteacher and I will become Executive Headteacher as from 1 September 2017. If you wish to clarify any queries about our new model please do get in touch. Mr Wilson will be in school in the summer term to meet students and introduce himself.

Despite all this excitement, we are working incredibly hard in the final run in to the examination season. These have been crucial weeks for Years 11, 12 and 13 students and everyone is feeling the pace. I am very proud of the commitment we can see and a break over Easter is going to be well deserved. It is important to balance revision and exam preparation with time allocated to relaxation, family and friends and breaks from the hard work. Please do get in touch with any concerns as we approach what is unavoidably a stressful time as students are sitting more exam papers than previous years and are very conscious of doing well at GCSE to access post-16 opportunities. I hope the revision training Year 11s received this term has given them the confidence to be prepared and organised.

The BPS Sixth Form College is proving increasingly favoured as a bespoke, quality post-16 environment with an excellent range of curriculum choices. The Sixth Form was judged to be "Good" in our last inspection and this reflects the strong personal approach we have to each learner's needs. Please book in a visit if you have not looked round. (www.bitterneparksixthform.org.uk). Applications for places open now!

Our final term in our much loved existing BPS building will be very sad but the future is bright and most definitely exciting.

Can I wish you all the best for a lovely Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely



SUSAN TRIGGER

Headteacher

Enc.

c.c. Websites/All Staff/SNB/GRW



Bitterne Park School and Sixth Form College



OLD SCHOOL/NEW SCHOOL KEY DATES 2017

<u>Current Academic Year and closing:</u>	<u>Key Date</u>	
➤ Easter holiday:	Monday to Friday	10 April 21 April
➤ School early closure re "move" (12.25 p.m.) Year 11 lessons will continue P5 & P6.	Thursday	27 April
➤ Friends of Bitterne Park School quiz:	Thursday	4 May (6.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.)
➤ Half-term:	Monday to Friday	29 May 2 June
➤ Year 11 Prom (Hilton, Ageas Bowl):	Thursday	29 June
➤ Years 13 and 14 leavers' event:	Tuesday	4 July
➤ INSET day:	Friday	7 July
➤ IAG day for all Years:	Wednesday	12 July
➤ "The Big Interview" for Year 12	Wednesday	12 July
➤ Sixth Form closes for Years 12 and 13: (normal end of school day)	Thursday	13 July
➤ New Year 12 induction event:	Friday	14 July
➤ Year Group reward trips, details to be distributed by Heads of Year soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 to Paulton's Park • Year 8 to Chessington • Year 9 to Thorpe Park • Year 10 to New Forest Water Park 	Tuesday	18 July
➤ End of Year Achievement Assemblies	Wednesday Thursday	19 July and 20 July
➤ Main school will now close for all students Years 7 to 11 on: (last day <u>was</u> scheduled to be Tues 25 July)	Thursday	20 July (12.25 p.m.)

➤ Existing BPS school building closed to all from:	Wednesday	26 July
➤ A level results - in Sixth Form Theatre	Thursday	17 August (10.00 am)
➤ GCSE results - in Sixth Form Theatre	Thursday	24 August (10.30 am)

<u>New Academic Year opening:</u>		
➤ Staff INSET days for completion of move, induction, unpacking, prepare/train for new school, in addition to delivering our normal teaching training programme:	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	4 September 5 September 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)	Tuesday	12 September
➤ School opens to ALL students:	Wednesday	13 September

Many thanks for your anticipated support during the disruption to normal routines as we move schools.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.