



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School



Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

September 3rd 2014

Year 8- The Year Ahead

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to you all for the start of the school year. I will be taking over from Mr Doughty as your son's Head of Year and will be working with them to ensure that they are able to create a platform for their academic study in preparation for Y9 when they make decisions about the subjects they would like to study at GCSE in Years ten and eleven. I was very impressed with the results for the cohort at the end of Y7 and now they must use these successes to work even harder to progress and be ready for the rigours of academic study at the start of Y10.

This letter contains numerous key dates that you need to be aware of as well as additional information regarding reward trips, expectations, support available, form activities and how the merit system will work for this year.

Calendar

21st October- First set of Y8 cards

24th October- Half-term holidays

24th November- REVIEW DAY (A chance for you and your son to reflect on their progress since the end of Y7 and identify areas for improvement over the forthcoming months to prepare for the end of year examinations)

18th December- Christmas holidays

13th February- Half-term holidays

4th March- **SWIMMING GALA**

12th March- Second set of Y8 cards

17th March- PARENTS EVENING

26th March- Easter Holidays

29th April- **SPORTS DAY**

21st May- Half-term holidays

1st June to 5th June- EXAMINATION WEEK

10th July- FULL REPORT

17th July- Summer Holidays

Throughout the year I will keep you updated with forthcoming trips and all key events but all this information can be found on the school website.



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Expectations

It is expected that throughout the year your son upholds the following values and responsibilities in regards to theirs and others education.

1. They are punctual to school and all lessons
2. All homework is completed to the best of their ability and on time
3. Students and their own learning is not disrupted
4. Courteous, considerate and co-operative with all students
5. Get involved as much as they can in all the extra-curricular activities on offer
6. Try their best in every aspect of school life at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

Rewards, Merits System and Form Activities

This year there will be numerous opportunities for your son to attend reward trips for individual efforts, form group rewards such as half-cinema days, astroturf and sports hall slots as well as half-termly Amazon vouchers for commitment to education and academic study. Other possible trips could include Go Ape, Go karting, Drayton Manor, Twycross Zoo and The National Sea Life Centre. Your son will be able to go on as many of the trips that are made available throughout the year. All trips will incur costs and these will be issued in the not too distant future with many activities falling in the summer term to minimise disruption to learning.

This year the theme will be Harry Potter with one of the reward trips being a trip on Harry Potter's Studio Tour. Each of the four houses in school will be affiliated to one of the houses in Hogwarts so Blue House will represent Ravenclaw, Gold House will represent Hufflepuff, Red House will represent Gryffindor and White House will represent Slytherin. Over the course of the year students accumulate merits for outstanding work, contributions to the school community, hard work both individually and as a team as well as effort and commitment. If however students don't meet the expectations then they will potentially accrue a negative behaviour point for work that is incomplete, behaviour that is inappropriate and disrupts learning and anything that falls outside the expectations I referred to earlier. Students will only be eligible for the reward trips if they adhere to the minimum expectations and receive less than **three** behaviour points per half-term.

To instil the notion of team work and collaboration as well as taking responsibility for their own actions each form will have a container where they will earn additional points, alongside merits for being punctual, attendance, exemplary uniform, displaying excellent manners, helping the school community, charity work and respect for others. A coloured bead for their house will be distributed and kept by their form tutor that can be traded in at the end of the year as a form group from a selection of prizes. However if any of these qualities fall short of the minimum expectations, a dark bead will be placed in the form groups container which will be subtracted from the overall total at the end of the year.

Form Activities

To help raise as many positive points as possible your son will be participating a wide variety of form activities throughout each week, over the course of the year including quizzes, book reviews, charity Christmas shoe boxes, assembly presentations and much more. I have attached a breakdown of the activities for the year. There will be some flexibility in these but ERIC, which is our reading afternoon, will



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be held every Thursday in either morning and or afternoon registration so your son will need to bring a book of their choosing.

Y9 World Challenge 2016

Over the past four years the school have organised a range of very successful Y9 trips to Morocco, Croatia and Norway. The costs of these trips are approximately £1400 for a 7-8 day expedition and include flights, food and accommodation as well as a range of activities and in Y9 your son will have the opportunity, should they wish to go on this trip at the end of Y9 in July 2016. The expeditions are very much lead by students and look excellent on applications for the 6th form as well as developing an abundance of vital skills, including leadership, communication, cooking, team work and organisational. Whilst the cost of the trip is daunting students are expected to try and raise a lot of this money themselves and indeed this year one Y9 raised all the money for the trip. In giving you this information I hope that this gives you sufficient time to discuss the possibility of your son going on this trip and indeed a much longer period to raise funds for what is an outstanding week. For more information on the World Challenge please visit <http://www.world-challenge.co.uk/>

I will be issuing much more information in regard to the World Challenge later in the year.

Please contact me if you have any queries or questions regarding any of the points I have discussed in this letter and any issues throughout the year.

Kindest Regards

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