



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

Our Ref: DJS/Easter19

4th April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take the opportunity to outline the arrangements for the end of term and to explain some changes we are making from the beginning of next term.

All pupils, except Year 11, will break-up at normal time on Thursday 11th April 2019. Pupils will be dismissed from school as normal at the end of the school day. Year 11 are expected to attend on Friday 12th April 2019 and staff will be working with them to focus on planning for the final stage of preparations for their GCSE examinations, which will begin in early May. Following the success of last year's Road to Success Day, we will provide valuable time with teachers and other staff to ensure that pupils are directing their learning appropriately in the concluding term of their courses. Year 11 pupils should arrive for an 8.40a.m. start, as normal. The day will consist of a series of activities where pupils will have the opportunity to discuss progress, both formally and informally, with staff and to engage in focussed activities to support their preparations for the exam season. This will ensure our final preparations are well targeted to maximise the use of time, in the lead up to the final examinations. Lunch will be provided for all pupils, prior to the end of the school day at 1.15p.m.

Earlier this term we launched our new website with the same web address of www.bluecoatacademy.org. The website is an important method of communication and it would be helpful if you could take some time to have a look at some of the new developments, including a new prospectus and updated information. We are also looking to increase our use of mobile phone apps to keep you up to date with how your child is progressing in school; more details will be sent to you early next term.

Over the course of this half term, a series of events have been organised to support our Lent Appeal in raising funds for Save the Children, the international charity which pupils chose as the focus of this year's fundraising. To raise further funds for this worthy cause, we will be holding a non-uniform day on Thursday 11th April 2019 with a minimum donation of £1. Thank you for your support with this major fundraising project. We will publicise the final amount raised after Easter.

As a school we are constantly looking for ways to improve the provision for our children. With this in mind, we are making some significant changes at the beginning of the summer term. From 29th April, all pupils will be placed into new form groups with their year group peers, replacing the current vertical (mixed aged) tutoring system. After careful consideration, it is felt that working with pupils in year groups will allow us to provide more focussed provision during form time and year group assemblies.

Following the selection of options for year 9 pupils, we will also be reorganising the timetable for year 9 when we return after the Easter break, to allow them to begin preparations for GCSE courses. More detailed information will be sent to year 9 parents at a later date.



As a result of the changes we are making, the return to school after Easter will be phased:

Monday 29th April 2019 – Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 return to school

Tuesday 30th April 2019 – Years 7, 8 and 10 return to school

Thank you for your support this term to ensure that your child looks smart each day. If you are getting new school shoes for your child over the Easter break, please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes or plimsolls. Please refer to the attached information regarding uniform expectations and I would draw particular attention to the expectations regarding hoodies, track suit tops, piercings and hair styles. More details are available on the school website: <https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/school-uniform>

I would again like to express my gratitude to you, parents and carers, for the support you have given to your children over this term. We are very keen to ensure that we continue to build effective working relationships with families to ensure that all pupils continue to thrive and fulfil their potential.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D J Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'S'.

Mr D J Smith
Principal