

23rd July 2020

Headteachers End of Term Letter – July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we come to the end of a very eventful school year, the whole school is looking forward to returning in August with a greater degree of normality than we have had for several months. Despite all of the challenges of COVID-19 and the significant disruption, the school staff team remains committed to driving improvements for boys in the coming school year and not allowing the situation deter us from our commitment to providing the best for every boy.

The intention is that all boys will be welcomed back with a full time offer from August 27th with the first 2 weeks focused on reintegration of boys back into school following long periods without the structure of formal education.

Alongside planning for the return of all boys, behind the scenes staff have been working really hard planning and preparing for an amazing curriculum for the new school year. In the lead up to the summer break we have been talking to boys about some of the changes that the school will be making in order further improve and to better prepare them for life beyond Bramfield.

Vocational Curriculum

We recognise that many of our boys enjoy hands on activities and learn best through experiential leaning and as such over the summer period additional facilities are being developed to allow boys to learn in three new curriculum areas.

This starts with the addition of the 'Bramfield Farm' which is being built at the front of the school over the August holiday. Boys will have the opportunity to look after the animals and learn how to care for them alongside countryside studies and practical qualifications that will allow them to go into land management and animal care related careers. Boys will use this area to learn about nature and science as well as gain the skill needed to empathise and understand themselves.

A motor vehicle maintenance workshop is being built at the front of the school so that boys with an interest in engineering and mechanics can gain up to Level 2 qualifications. This offer will come online from October half term after which boys will be invited to work on vehicles with skilled



Mechanics from the industry. The workshop will be kitted out with all of the exciting gear you would expect in a garage and it is hoped that a number of our boys will apply for 'vacancies' advertised at the garage thus learning the skills to prepare them for future apprenticeships.

We are further extending the Design and Technology offer and creating an outdoor construction area, which will allow us to offer construction, based courses for boys. Here they will learn basic construction techniques integrated with key skills and numeracy. Many of our boys have gone onto this sort of career following leaving the school and a number of boys show interest in this industry.

'Bramfield Boy'

Way back in November this last Academic year staff started to work on a new curriculum which was focused on the singular development of each and every boy at the school. In doing this the whole staff team sort to develop an offer which holistically developed your son and engender in him 5 key characteristics;

Spark – The desire to learn and discover an interest in the world around him and nurturing the talents that every boys holds.

Grit – Determination and resilience to keep trying and to not give up on their dreams even when things are not going right.

Team – The ability to work with others, be part of a community and care about other people.

Ready – Be prepared for real life, be able to function well in society.

Adventure – Has a sense of curiosity, to have experienced a wide range of opportunities and to have an open-minded outlook on life.

In the new term these five core attributes will be integrated into the new school curriculum with afternoon sessions focusing on providing the experiences and teaching the skills to gain these characteristics. These activities will range from rock climbing and sailing to cycling proficiency and outdoor pursuits. Boys will have the opportunities to gain certification and qualifications whilst enjoying a multitude of activities.

Development of the Primary and nurture offer at Bramfield

Over the last year the demand for places at Bramfield House School has continued to increase, following our recent Ofsted inspection many more parents are showing an interest in placing their son at the school, as a result, many of you will know that the school has been full for virtually the whole year.

However, at the end of this Academic year, the school will be saying goodbye to a number of well loved and cared for Year 11 boys, many of whom have been with the school since a very young age. As these boys go onto college and their new lives beyond Bramfield House we welcome a new cohort of primary aged pupils who will be the Bramfield Boys of the future.





**Bramfield House
School**

With this, we are reorganising the schools accommodation so that the primary phase can accommodate these young people. This sees all primary accommodation relocated into the main house and new facilities developed on the 1st floor. This has enabled us to remove the Portakabins on the school site and redesign the learning spaces with 21st century learning in mind.

On the first few days back to school boys who's classrooms have been relocated will help with the personalisation of the spaces and will be supported to make the transition into the new accommodation. Later in the school holidays staff will be sending out some support materials for young men who require prior warning about the class moves and social stories will be provided to parents.

School return dates

New Return from the Summer holiday starts Thursday 27th August 2020 (Start Time: 8:45am) (*Inset Days Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th August 2020)

New October half term being Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October 2020 (inclusive)

The end of an era

This summer we say goodbye to some well-loved staff who have made fantastic contributions to the School over the years.

Gill Ridley – Gill leaves the school after several years as housekeeper at Ibstock House. Gill will be spending some more time with her family and growing number of grandchildren. She will be sorely missed, especially her cooking!

Ross Sindell – Is sadly moving on from the school, Ross has worked at the school as Team Leader for 7 years, he takes up a new role in care outside the group.

Graeme Archer, Night Waking Watch – Also leaves to company after a number of years good service.

Welcoming New Staff

Sebastian Morton – Joins us as an experienced Primary Phase Teacher with a specialism in humanities subjects. Sebastian is keen on hands on learning approaches and has a wealth of experience in topic based study.

Melaine O'Dwyer – Joins us as a Vocational Catering Instructor. Melaine has been training young chefs for a number of years and offers for us the opportunity to teach qualifications in barista studies, professional cookery and hospitality. She brings with her wealth of experience both running professional catering operations and pre training for apprenticeships.

Rhoda Linklater - Joins us as a Part time Nurture Teacher. Rhoda has worked in some of London's most challenging and deprived wards with young people with a range of SEN needs. She specialised in science and humanities and joins the Primary Nurture Team.



Appointment of two new SENDCOS

I'm pleased to announce that Zahra Jones (Primary) and Louise Double (Secondary) both long standing members of staff at the school have recently been appointed as SENDCOs at the school from September 2020.

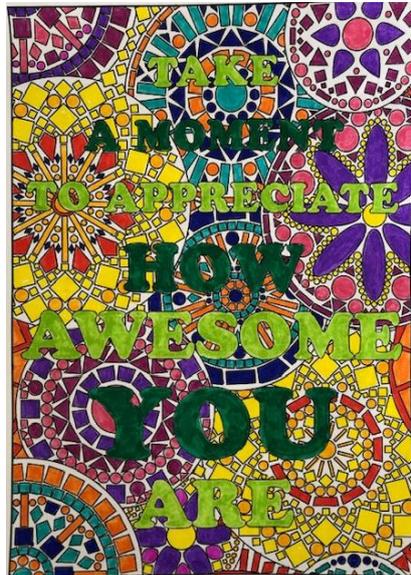
You can contact either of these staff through the usual routes at info@bramfieldhouse.co.uk or through the usual school phone number 01986 784 235.

The big year 11 send off

At this time of year we usually have a celebration day which culminates in a big send off for our year 11. This year has been particularly difficult given the COVID 19 situation so instead we're having a celebration for parents and young people on August 20th (Exam results day). Loads of celebrations are being planned and all of the usual activities including T- shirt signing and embarrassing awards are all underway. I am sure you will join with me in wishing those very special young men all the best in their future; they will be very much missed.

Parents colouring competition winners

I'm pleased to announce that Nicky and Ray (Charlies Mum) are the winners of the parent colouring competition with this fantastic entry. Some light refreshments are making their way to you shortly!





I hope you all stay safe and well over the summer. I look forward to seeing everyone in August.
Thank you for all your support and kind wishes.

Sincerely,

Davina Bell,
Headteacher

