

Dear Parents/Carers

### Introduction

Once more we are at the start of a new academic year and looking forward to working with our new and established students so that they may fulfil their true potential in the year ahead.

This is my first opportunity to introduce myself as the new college Principal to the whole of our college community. I am very proud to lead our fantastic college and after one week at the helm, I must say, students, colleagues and parents have made me feel very welcome.

Parents/carers are vitally important to the success of any educational establishment. I believe we can do more to engage with our community and will always welcome communications with parents/carers. Your son's and daughter's come first as we strive to provide academic excellence, spiritual development and social awareness to all of our students.

Our collaborative work with St Joseph's and St Chad's Catholic primary schools will continue to grow and develop as part of the St John Bosco Catholic Multi Academy. On behalf of the Board of Directors for the whole multi academy and the governing body which sits at Bishop Milner Catholic College, I would like to personally invite anyone who is interested in being part of our strategic development to make contact with me. Your skill sets beyond education could play an important part in our future for years to come and involving people who have the best interests of Bishop Milner Catholic College at heart, is so important. As the new Principal, I wish to forge positive working relationships with our Governing bodies to ensure we provide the best possible education for our young people.

The positions currently available, which we would like to fill as soon as possible include:

- Bishop Milner Catholic College – Parent representative
- Bishop Milner Catholic College – Three Foundation representatives
- St John Bosco Catholic Multi-Academy – Parent Director
- St John Bosco Catholic Multi-Academy – Foundation Director

Please do contact me at Bishop Milner Catholic College if you would like to explore this in more detail.

I have been very pleased with the behaviour and attitude of our students in the first week of the academic year. I have visited numerous lessons and it has been great to see them working in a calm environment, allowing them to excel as individuals and in groups.

I trust you will agree the addition of House colours in the college ties is a real positive step forward as we look to build a House culture day to day. Rewards, competitions-sporting and non-sporting, charity fundraising, trips and hopefully much more, we wish to link back to our five Houses, St Stephen, St John, St Bernadette, St Clare and St Andrew.

As you continue to read through this parental circular you will find some key pieces of information and please do not hesitate to get in touch if further clarification is required. **Most importantly in respect of next week, please see start of point b) re early closure on Thursday 21 September.**

In conclusion, I sincerely trust you will find this information useful and we look forward to working with you and your sons/daughters during the year ahead!

Yours sincerely



Mr R May  
Principal

RMA/JGI

a) **The Public Examination Results 2017**

**At GCE A2 (Advanced) Level:**

This summer we are pleased to report on another successful year of A Level examination results with our Year 13 students achieving: 40% A\* to B Grades, 67% A\* to C Grades with a 100% pass rate in 19 subjects.

Amidst a number of outstanding performances, we celebrate in particular the achievements of our Head Boy Matvinder Sangha with one Distinction\*, two grade A's and one grade B and Emmanuel Chidamwoyo and Billy J Cox who both achieved three Distinction\* performances.

The majority of our students now embark on their new and exciting journeys at University, whilst others have taken giant strides securing apprenticeships and work related opportunities. We wish all our former students the very best for the future.

**At GCSE Level:**

We are delighted to report on success in English, with 90% of students achieving a standard pass or higher and a staggering 77% achieving a strong pass or higher.

Our top performing student was Chloe McColgan whose exceptional performance ensured that she achieved the highest possible grades in all eleven of her examinations, with three 9 grades and eight A\* grades. Chloe has joined our Sixth Form this September to pursue A Level courses in Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology as she pursues her lifelong dream of a career in medicine.

Other notable performances included:

- Mirindar Sangha – 1 x 9, 6 x A\*, 1 x Distinction, 1 x A, 1 x 8, 1 x 7
- Amrit Kaur – 5 x A\*, 1 x 8, 2 x A, 2 x 7
- Laura Philpott – 4 x A\*, 2 x A, 1 x 8, 1 x 7, 1 x 5
- Riana Patel – 1 x A\*, 1 x Distinction\*, 3 x 8, 5 x A
- George Butler – 4 x A\*, 1 x 9, 1 x Distinction\*, 1 x A, 2 x 7
- Luke Parkes – 3 x A\*, 1 x 9, 1 x Distinction\*, 1 x 8, 2 x A, 1 x 7
- Aimee Ingram – 3 x A\*, 1 x Distinction\*, 2 x 8, 2 x A, 1 x 7, 1 x B
- Emma Jukes – 1 x A\*, 1 x 9, 5 x A, 2 x 7, 1 x B

In addition to these exceptional performances, we also celebrate a number of other excellent individual achievements.

b) **Key Dates**

**We have our prospective Year 7 Open Evening – Thursday 21 September 6.00-8.00pm; and as we did last year in order to provide time for staff and students to prepare, we will CLOSE THE COLLEGE TO ALL STUDENTS AT 1.30PM.**

- Y7 and Y12 Individual Photographs: Wednesday 20 September
- Y13 UCAS Information evening: Wednesday 20 September from 6pm.
- Y7 Settling in Parental meeting with Form Tutors: Thursday 12 October 3.30-4.30pm
- Prospective Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 9 November 6.00-8.00pm.
- Y10 & Y12 Careers Convention: Thursday 16 November 5.00-7.30pm
- Y8 Options Evening: Thursday 22 March 3.45-6.15pm.

Professional Training Days – the College was/will be closed to students on the following days:

1. Monday 4 September 2017
2. Friday 22 September 2017
3. Friday 24 November 2017
4. Thursday 4 January 2018
5. Friday 5 January 2018

College may also be closed to students on Thursday 3 May 2018 for local elections (to be confirmed)

**Term Dates:**

Autumn :	Monday 4 September – Friday 22 December 2017
Half-Term:	Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October 2017
Spring:	Thursday 4 January – Thursday 29 March 2018
Half-Term:	Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February 2017
Summer:	Monday 16 April – Tuesday 20 July 2018
Half-Term:	Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June 2018

**Parents Evenings 2017/2018 (3.45-7.00pm) - Reporting your son's/daughter's progress and achievements:**

Y10	Thursday 23 November 2017
Y9	Thursday 7 December 2017
Y11	Thursday 25 January 2018
Y13	Thursday 8 February 2018
Y8	Thursday 8 March 2018
Y12	Thursday 19 April 2018
Y7	Thursday 10 May 2018

In addition to our Parents' Evenings, Academic/attitude to learning, feedback is provided on a termly basis and a **full College report** is issued at the following times:

	Week Commencing
Y11	15 January 2018
Y13	15 January 2018
Y12	12 February 2018
Y10	21 May 2018
Y9	18 June 2018
Y7	16 July 2018
Y8	16 July 2018

**c) Online tracking of student progress**

Please ensure you keep up-to-date with your son's/daughter's summary of progress by accessing online the data that informs you of their progress and attitude to work. This data is updated and shared with parents/carers and students at the end of each term (three times a year). In addition, you will also be able to access your son's/daughter's attendance record. Individual passwords are given out to new parents; via the post for Sixth Form Students and for Y7 parents at the Settling in Evening (see point b)). If any parents misplaces the password please contact Mr Sumner at the college and a new one will be issued.

**d) Website**

Up-to-date news and events, including key dates can be accessed via our college website, along with our half termly newsletters; which we would encourage you to read.

**e) Uniform and appearance**

Many thanks to all parents/carers who have ensured that our students have started the College year in perfect uniform and look very smart, your support is very much appreciated. Students must wear proper black shoes i.e. no trainers, canvas footwear etc, and girl's shoes must be low heeled. We ask for conventional hairstyles, which in its length, colour and style is acceptable to the college. Boys hair must be no longer than shirt-collar length, no eyebrow slits, no grade 1s, no scalps showing, no lines or outlandish colourings. No hair extensions, no extreme partings or extreme variations in lengths. KS3 and KS4 boys must be clean shaven at all times. More information is found on page 25 of the student planner.

Students are ambassadors for the College and must be **in full College uniform and smart in their appearance** on their way to and from College each day. Please ensure that **ALL items of clothing are marked with your child's name**. This is especially important as our children have to change into their P.E. kit for PE and Dance lessons.

We also request your co-operation in not sending your son/daughter to College with valuable coats, watches or personal possessions since we do not provide insurance cover for personal property and it is

wise for parents to ensure that property is insured against any theft, loss or damage that may occur. **Students must never leave any items of value unattended.**

f) **Mobile Phones**

Students are **not allowed to use or have out mobile phones in College during the working day.** If a mobile phone is seen staff will confiscate it. Any confiscated items can be collected **ONLY** by a parent or carer from Reception during office hours (8.30 – 4.30) or outside these hours by prior arrangement with the College Site Manager.

g) **Social Media**

Many of the problems that occur between young people and occasionally surface in college are due to the misuse of social media. As parents, it is essential you keep a watchful eye on your son's/daughter's use of this medium to ensure they are above all safe but also not getting themselves into difficulties that will undoubtedly impact upon friendships etc.

h) **Chewing Gum / Caffeinated / Fizzy drinks**

Due to students not disposing of chewing gum properly it is **banned in College** and students who violate this rule will face sanctions. In addition, due to the health issues involved in caffeinated/ fizzy drinks these are also not allowed in college.

i) **Public Bus travellers / Pedestrian Crossing**

At the end of each College day, to ensure the Health & Safety of all our students, our staff volunteer to supervise our students lining up and boarding the No 1 bus to Dudley and the No 1 bus to Sedgley at the bus stops directly in front of the College. Students must line up at the bus stop in **SINGLE FILE** and board the bus behind the person in front of them **in an orderly manner.**

Ever mindful of Health and Safety **all students crossing Burton Road must use the pedestrian crossing** directly in front of the College entrance which is controlled by traffic lights.

j) **Lay-by at the front of College**

As a duty of care to our students and staff, please ensure that the official markings are adhered to and as such, no cars should be parked on the road either directly in front of or in close proximity to the gates.

It is also essential for health and safety, that vehicles do not enter or leave the lay-by area at speeds that are not commensurate with this type of road. **Cones will block off the lay-by until approximately 3.30pm to allow students to leave the front gates safely.** We thank you for your on-going support in this matter.

k) **Rewards**

Praise and reward are vitally important and it is our expectation that students who perform well irrespective of ability will be praised for their endeavours and this should be verbal, praise post cards, letters or text home etc and where appropriate, by **Positive Achievement Rewards (PARs)**. In respect of **PARs**; students with these rewards are then put into a grand draw at the end of the year for prizes chosen by the student council.

In addition, students who perform well over the academic year in respect of outcomes and attitude to work will be rewarded at our end of year 'Award Assemblies'. At these assemblies attendance, subject and sporting awards are distributed.

For those students taking external exams, additional reward is most importantly to be found in the qualifications that are achieved and these should demonstrate that our students have worked to the utmost of their ability irrespective of their personal starting points.

l) **Sanctions**

Our expectations in respect of work, behaviour and uniform are high. As such, any infringements will be dealt with and as you will appreciate, we trust that all of our parents and carers will be supportive of our approach.

If a student has to work out of class, the College will inform parents and carers at home or place of work dependent on contact details and availability. Any student that is placed in our 'Aquinas Centre' for a day

or more will be provided with supervised work and break and lunch time will also be spent in that area. In addition, students in this area will not be dismissed until 4:00 p.m.

Sanctions also include both whole College detentions on a Tuesday and Thursday, House Progress Leader detentions and these will take place at either a break or lunchtime or in some instances both. There is also a Friday evening detention which is run by the College leadership team.

On rare occasions a sanction may involve a fixed term exclusion from College which will go onto a student's record and in exceptional circumstances, i.e. for series misdemeanours, which includes persistent wilful disobedience; the College reserves the right to permanently exclude.

**m) Record of Achievement Diaries /Planners**

**ALL students** have been issued with the **College Record of Achievement Diary & Personal Planner**. This RoA Planner is a very important document for communications between parents and College. Should this be lost the replacement cost is **£5**. **Please sign your child's RoA Planner to acknowledge receipt of all letters/correspondence sent to you by the College.**

**n) Contact / Student Details**

To ensure continual effective communications/dialogue with our parents and carers it is essential that you **inform us immediately should there be ANY changes to the data** you have registered with us for our College records system such as :

- change of address
- change of telephone number(s)
- change of mobile phone number(s) – a mobile number is crucial for our records/SMS messages
- change of emergency contact
- changed family circumstances
- changed medical condition

**o) Staffing**

We welcome the following to our staff:

Mrs E Aston	Teacher of English
Miss J Bashford	Teacher of Re
Mrs M Bowen	SENCO
Miss R Mulqueen	Teacher of RE
Mrs V Ologunde	Teacher of MFL

**Pastoral Support 2017/18**

Mr R May	Principal
Mr S Lodge	Assistant Principal
Mrs S Foster	Assistant Principal
Mrs M Bowen	SENCO
Mr D Handy	Acting Head of Sixth Form
Mrs S Hand	Student Welfare and Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss K Cope	Head of Stephen House
Miss E Bevan	Head of John House
Miss R Berrington	Head of Bernadette House
Mr J Cutler	Head of Clare House
Mr S Biddle	Head of Andrew House