



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

28 May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

In advance of September, all students from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, will move up a Year Group, i.e., our current Year 7 students will move up to Year 8, our current Year 8 students will move up to Year 9 etc. Therefore, please find attached our "Moving Up Guide". This document reminds and updates on the routines that the school will be operating for the rest of the academic year.

An important point to note is that we will be continuing to keep face masks as a part of our way of life, until 21st June, at the earliest. Some other local schools have had to put in place extra measures, due to a cluster of cases they have encountered and this is just proof of the point that the pandemic is still very much part of our daily life. We have avoided this issue, largely because our catchment does not extend into Milton Keynes and we do believe in the importance of masks.

Our new facilities are ready for 7<sup>th</sup> June. The builders have all but left and there are a handful of tiny jobs to complete now. The students are already accessing the new toilets (except Year 10 who will be pleased to say goodbye to the portacabins on The Beach, as they move up into Year 11!) The new changing rooms will be in use in June, as we return to a routine of changing for PE. We now have nine Science laboratories and two dining rooms!

Since we returned in March from Lockdown, we have continued to face further challenges as a community. Our Year 11 and 13 students have done remarkably well to maintain their superb approach to the assessments that have contributed to their final grades. Those in education will understand the huge amount of extra work that teachers have completed to ensure that our Teacher Assessed Grades are accurate. Normally, we prepare students for their public examinations and these are taken under the supervision of invigilators. This year, we have still done the extra work to prepare the students, but teachers have also had to write the exams, supervise the sitting of them, mark them and then complete the moderation of them. All of this, whilst continuing the education of all of our other Year Groups. I hope parents of our Year 11 and 13 students in particular, recognise how far "over and above" our staff go every day.

On the note of recognition, it has been heartening in the last twelve months to feel as though both the school and its students are being perceived in a more positive way by the community. We take a view on how our students behave anywhere in the community, especially if they are wearing our uniform. We are proud of our school, proud of our uniform and proud of our community.

We never claim to get it right all of the time, but we will continue to give our all to the students. We take Success for All very seriously indeed and constantly strive to improve the education that we provide. It was Year 9 Parents' Evening recently and we received the following feedback via the usual questionnaire:

- 96% of students are happy
- 97% feel safe
- 0% of parents reported bullying incidents that haven't been dealt with properly
- 95% of parents either haven't raised a concern or have had their concern dealt with properly

*The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to [finance@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:finance@buckinghamschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



- 93% of parents feel that we have high expectations for their child
- 96% of parents feel that their child does well at this school

Whilst the above scores are good, they are still not 100%. I believe that 100% is achievable. It is also conspicuous that many positive answers are by parents who “agree”, rather than “strongly agree.” This we will change! Even Ofsted commented privately, it feels like your community trusts and believes that you are doing well, but you need to show them more!

We will continue to improve our communication. We will aim to:

- Keep you better informed of what your child is learning
- Tell you more about what we are doing to develop your child as an individual and as a learner
- Make sure you understand the lengths that we go to, to keep your child safe
- Share with you many more of the great things that go on in school
- Share with you more about the Governors’ and Leaders’ vision for the school
- Offer to you more opportunities to take part in school life

If we expect your child to show ambition, it is important that we do, too.

As I write this note, it looks like summer has finally arrived. Let’s hope the temperature can stay in double figures now! I wish everyone a safe and happy half term break.

With my best wishes,



**Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

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