

12 April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Easter break is nearly upon us and I wish all of our parents/carers and students a restful and relaxing break. Our Year 11s and 13s should also be focussing on their revision, so plenty of encouragement please, as well as breaks, refreshments and sleep. A balance between work and rest is key! Whilst it's natural to be slightly nervous about impending exams, we do not want any of our students to feel worried. They have a wide range of avenues of support in school for the curriculum work itself and for their emotional support and well-being. If your child or you have any concerns or issues, please phone in and have a chat with the appropriate member of staff –we're all here working together with your child to secure successful outcomes.

Supporting Your Child during Exam Time (Young Minds)

Young Minds have launched advice for parents about supporting their children. Tips include:

- Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
- Remain positive and hopeful!
- Let them know their feelings are valid and normal, but also offer support and solutions where possible.
- Anxiety is often worst at night and this means it is useful to encourage good bedtime routine

You can find out more here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/wellbeing-tips-for-secondary-students-during-exams/>

The Bewdley Values

We have had a number of exciting and adventurous trips and visits that students have been involved to enhance their learning experience ranging from Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expeditions, Cambridge University visit for Sixth Form students, Royal College of Arts visit and Llanrug to name a few. Over the Easter break students will be taking part in the school's annual Ski Trip to Italy as well as a Drama visit to Central London.

Learning outside the classroom is a fundamental experience that students cherish throughout their child and adult lives and firmly rests within our school values.

What are Values?

Qualities, characteristics, or ideas about which we feel strongly. Our values affect our decisions, goals and behaviour. Values define what is of worth, what is beneficial, and what is harmful. Values are standards to guide your actions, judgments, and attitudes. We get our values from society, friends, reading, religion, media, school, our family and perhaps even music.

How to know your values?

- Do you feel good about this being important to you?

Head Teacher Dave Hadley-Pryce BSc MSc FRSA

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- Have you ever done anything that indicates that this is important to you?
- Is this something you would stand by even if others made fun of you for it?
- Would you feel good if people you respect knew that this was important to you?
- Does this fit in with your vision of who you are?

The Bewdley Values:



We continue to explore our core values through assemblies and the V@B [Values at Bewdley] programme. The key themes can be found on our website

<https://www.bewdley.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Values-at-Bewdley.pdf> As Mahatma Gandhi once said...

'Your beliefs become your thoughts. Your thoughts become your words. Your words become your actions. Your actions become your habits. Your habits become your values. Your values become your destiny.'

We strongly encourage you to ask your child which of the school values you put into practice in your school life and in making you a better citizen of our community?

County lines exploitation

It is likely you have heard the term 'County Lines' used in the news recently. This is a growing form of criminal activity that exists nationally, regionally across the West Midlands and here in Worcestershire. County Lines is a term used to describe how gangs and organised criminal networks export illegal drugs into other (mainly rural) areas by exploiting children and vulnerable adults, often without them realising it. Gang members may use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to do this. We are clear that this is child exploitation.

Warning Signs:

We want to support parents and carers to keep children safe; listed below are some warning signs of 'County Lines' exploitation for you to look out for. Often, these are behavioural changes such as:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled
- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places

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If you have any concerns about your child, speak to them calmly and explain the risks and consequences. You may wish to contact a member of the Pastoral Team at school if you feel you need support or believe your child is at risk. We can talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together.

If you or your child are aware that other young people in school or the community are at risk of 'County Lines' or any criminal exploitation, you should contact the police directly via 101. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>. If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Below are some links that you may find useful for more information.

- www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-is-county-lines
- www.fearless.org/professionals/resources/gangs
- www.spurgeons.org/

Safeguarding, Uniform and Behaviour

Over the Easter holidays the school will be installing the automated gate mechanisms to further improve security and safeguard our students.

We encourage all students to walk to school where possible. If your child is bringing a bicycle to school, please ensure their bike is roadworthy, your child wears a helmet and they have a bike pass. In the unusual event that you have to come on to the school site during the school day please drive extremely slowly and carefully. We would also request considerate parking in the vicinity of the school as we have received complaints from neighbours.

The Leadership team will continue working with all staff and students ensuring that the very highest expectations are adhered to across the school. Please can we stress how much we value your support in reinforcing our expectations and supporting decisions we take in sanctioning students where conduct falls below our high expectations.

It is also important I take this opportunity to reiterate our expectations in terms of uniform and equipment. We firmly believe that pride in our school uniform and being equipped ready to learn is an essential part of achieving the right learning culture. Attention to detail in ensuring that students are smart, well-presented and appropriately prepared with right learning equipment will be a key focus for next term. Again we thank you for your support in sharing this message and in supporting us to maintain these standards.

Sixth Form Magazine – Enrichment

We have launched our new Sixth Form magazine. The magazine celebrates all the fantastic news and events taking place in Bewdley Sixth Form and includes articles written by our students. It also contains news about the exciting developments taking place within our Sixth Form which we look forward to informing parents/carers about over the coming months.



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Thank you all for your incredible support and we look forward to having the students return in full school uniform [blue summer polo shirts are permitted for the summer term] ready to learn on Monday 29 April 2019. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries or questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Chauhan – Deputy Headteacher

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