

22 October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an extremely busy half-term, with many highlights ranging from our Year 11 students taking part in the latest instalment of the "Elevate" revision programme, Year 7 students visiting the Frank Chapman Centre, practice DofE expeditions and the school's Ofsted inspection.

I would like to remind parents and carers that this term ends on Friday 25th October at 3.20pm. School reopens on Monday 4th November to all year groups. Students are expected to be on-site no later than 8.40am. The rest of my letter will focus on school uniform, in particular appropriate footwear and trousers, mental health and emotional support and the schools "non-negotiables".

Keeping teenagers safe

Autumn is here and the nights are drawing in and it is getting darker earlier, which means that your children will most likely be finding themselves walking home from school or after school activities in the dark. All children can be vulnerable sometimes, and as a parent it is only natural to worry about their safety. Here are some tips to ensure that your child is safe when walking home:

- stay alert, and keep all earphones and music switched off or on low volume, so they can hear what's going on around them
- stick to busy, well-lit roads, and avoid short cuts through alleyways
- if your child thinks someone is following them, they should cross the road or go to a place with lots of people around, like a bus stop or shop
- when travelling by bus, your child should try to use bus stops on busy roads
- if someone tries to take something from your child, tell them never to fight
- tell them to keep mobile phones and other valuables out of sight, and to turn off their mobile phone ringer to avoid attracting attention
- remind your child they should never carry a weapon to 'feel safe' - it is illegal, could end up being used against them and could have serious and life changing consequences.
- encourage your child to speak up if they feel they might be in danger
- avoid walking alone, where possible
- report any suspicious activity to an adult, this can be done in school and reported to a member of staff

Know what to do in an emergency

Things happen, it's part of life but knowing what to do in an emergency can make all the difference. Make sure they know not to be afraid to make as much noise as possible to scare the person away. If your child feels as though they are at immediate risk of danger or are seriously concerned about their safety whilst they are out they can call 999.

School Uniform

We do appreciate that shoes can be an expensive item for parents to buy and we are therefore keen to ensure the correct version is purchased. Your child may tell you differently, but trainer-type shoes are not permitted, nor are canvas pumps, trainers or mules.

For girls, shoes should be flat or with a minimal heel, sensible, plain style, black and clean/polished please. Should your child attend school in footwear that is unacceptable, we will provide a pair for them use until they have acceptable shoes.

If for any medical reason your child needs to wear trainer-style shoes, you will need to supply evidence provided by a medical professional (i.e. GP or Consultant).

With regards to girls' trousers and skirts, full length "Tailored Black School Trousers" are required. They must not be low rise, skinny fit lycra, tight fitting, denim/jean or jeggings. The trousers must not have external buckles, rivets, zips or logos. Skirts need to be knee length and pleated – straight skirts are not permitted.

Those students who wear the incorrect uniform, will be expected to wear replacement uniform/footwear. Students will be challenged by all staff if they are wearing unacceptable uniform and parents will be informed and be required to rectify the issue.

All of our uniform is available to order online or by telephone from Marks & Spencer at http://www.mandsyourschooluniform.com/staffordshire-worcestershire/the-bewdley-school/prodlist_ct5167.htm?order=1&size=24. Further details and information on our school uniform and breaches of school uniform can be found in our Behaviour Policy <https://www.bewdley.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Bewdley-School-Behaviour-Policy-v10-January-2019.pdf>.

Please see the "Acceptable School Uniform Guidelines" handout at the end of this letter.

Mental Health and Emotional Support

It is very important to us that your child enjoys their time at The Bewdley School, and that they feel safe and supported whilst they are here. There are school drop down events e.g. regular assemblies, The Bewdley Values during form time activities, and our PSHE programme, Managing Harm Workshops when we will discuss related issues. Your child can talk to a Student Support Manager, their Form Tutor or their Head of Year. Your child sees their form tutor every day, or they can choose to speak with a teacher they trust.

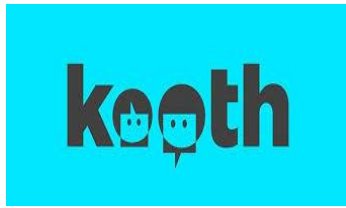
Head Teacher Dave Hadley-Pryce BSc MSc FRSA

The Bewdley School, Stourport Road, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1BL

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A great service available to children outside school is <https://kooth.com> This provides free, safe and anonymous online advisory support for young people and is open to use until 10pm.



Apps that can help your child?

If they are stressed you might consider downloading an app that might help them such as:



Headspace



Breathe



Smiling Mind

Specialised advice and support available?



Ready to Learn

Our school motto “Learning for Life – Achievement for All” applies to both students and staff. We expect the school community to ensure they are **Ready, Respectful and Safe** by living the school values.



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The focus for next half-term will be ensuring all students are “Prepared” and arrive to school “Ready to Learn”. We expect **all** students to adhere to the school’s “**non-negotiables**”:

- arrive to lesson on time
- complete all classwork to the best of their ability
- complete all homework
- bring and use their Knowledge Organiser
- wear the school uniform in full and with pride
- bring a fully equipped pencil case with the following equipment to every lesson – at least 2 black/blue pens, green pen, purple pen, pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, calculator, ruler, highlighter, colouring pencils, scissors, glue stick, compass, protractor
- students to put their hands up to ask/answer questions

Becoming involved in incidents out of school

It is also important that our students behave in a responsible manner when travelling to and from school. We have had some reports about the poor conduct of our students on the buses and in the local community. Please can you discuss with your child the importance of behaving in an appropriate manner when travelling to and from school. If students are involved in incidents, regardless of whether they have actively participated they may also be sanctioned, in the spirit of joint enterprise.

We appreciate your support as we work together to keep all of our students safe. The safety of our students is paramount to us and we are sending this letter to you as a preventative measure and to support you when talking to your child regarding their safety when out in the community and how to stay safe. We also thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child arrives to school “Ready to Learn”. The school will hold lunchtime/afterschool detentions if students fail to meet these basic expectations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful half term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries or questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Chauhan – Deputy Head Teacher

Acceptable school uniform guidelines

Blazer [Boys]



Blazer [Girls]



Jumper



Polo Shirt [summer only]



School Tie

[Yrs 7, 8]



[Yrs 9, 10 & 11]



Trousers [Boys]



Trousers [Boys]



Plain White Shirt/Blouse



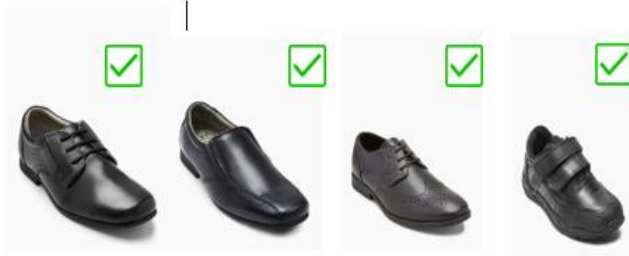
Pleated Skirt [Girls]



Trousers [Girls]



Examples of **acceptable** footwear [Boys]



Examples of **unacceptable** footwear:



Examples of **acceptable** footwear [Girls]

