

Parental Circular – September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## Introduction

As we are about to enter the fifth week of the new academic year, I am really pleased with how our new and established students have applied themselves to their work and new examination courses in Key Stage 4 and 5.

It has been a very busy start to the year and now is a wonderful opportunity to communicate with all parents, carers and students in the form of a newsletter.

As you will already be aware, our July 2018 OFSTED report is now available and the link to our website was sent out to all parents and carers at the beginning of term. If you haven't yet had the chance to read it, I encourage you to do so as it is important all stakeholders are aware of our successes and also our areas for development as a college. We are all very proud of the report and along with our summer examination results it ensured 2017-2018 was a really successful year for the college.

I recall writing to all parents and carers last September and I outlined our aims for the coming year. The first was increased academic success and I think you will all agree the improvements in GCSE results is really pleasing and has certainly put Bishop Milner back amongst the top 3 achieving schools in the local authority according to the information we have received so far this term. Secondly, I was really keen to improve our lines of communication with parents and carers. I am pleased that our social media pages are becoming increasingly popular and parents have recognised the improvements made in a recent parental questionnaire. The developments in the spiritual life of the college have been magnificent. We now have a fantastic team of staff including Fr Stephen Fawcett who work very hard to ensure our Catholic ethos is at the forefront of everything we do. Our established staff have been joined by Mrs Oliver (Vice Principal) and Miss O'Connor (Assistant Principal i/c R.E and Spiritual Life of the College) and they bring vast experience to our college with a real desire to promote Catholic values and Christ's teachings. The whole college Masses in the sports hall are very special occasions and emphasise to everyone why we are so unique and distinctive in comparison to other local schools. Obviously I have only mentioned a few developments over the past twelve months, but we will continue to always strive to provide academic excellence, spiritual development and social awareness for all of our students.

Our collaborative work with St Joseph's and St Chad's Catholic primary schools continues to grow and develop as part of the St John Bosco Catholic Multi Academy. I have also been thrilled by the support I have personally received from my fellow Head teachers and Strategic Director within the Multi-Academy.

Once again, 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 Principal, I will always aim 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.

Principal. Richard May BSc Hons

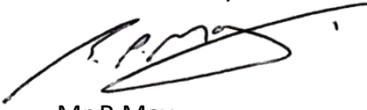
Bishop Milner Catholic College, Burton Road, Dudley, DY1 3BY

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As you continue to read through this parental newsletter you will find some key pieces of information so please do not hesitate to get in touch if further clarification is required.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R May', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Mr R May  
Principal

**RMA/JGI**

## **Summer 2018 Examination success**

### **GCSE:**

Bishop Milner Catholic College continues its success at GCSE with 72% of students achieving 5 or more standard passes including English and Maths, which is a 10% increase compared to 2016-2017 results. A third of students have achieved grade 7 or above on average in all subjects.

English results remain outstanding with 83% of students achieving a standard pass or higher and an impressive 71% achieving a strong pass or higher. Mathematics results have shown a 11% improvement compared to the previous year, with 77% of our students achieving a standard pass or higher in Mathematics.

Our top performing student was Ishika Patel whose exceptional performance included six grade 9's and four grade 8's. Ishika will be joining our Sixth Form in September to pursue A Level courses in Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology as she pursues her lifelong dream of a career in medicine.

### **A Level:**

This summer we are pleased to report on another successful year of A Level examination results. Summer examination results show an increase of 8% in students achieving A\*- A and A\*- B grades at A Level.

Amidst a number of outstanding performances, we celebrate in particular the achievements of Simron Kaur and Saima Kauser who each gained four A grades and will be progressing to top institutions to study Medicine, and Hassan Hussain who achieved the equivalent of one A\* and two A grades.

### **Key Dates**

- Prospective Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 8 November 6.00-8.00pm.
- Y10 & Y12 Careers Convention: Thursday 15 November 12.40-5.00 pm
- Y8 Options Evening: Thursday 21 March 3.45-6.15pm.

Remaining professional training days – the College will be closed to students on the following days:

1. Friday 23 November 2018
2. Monday 7 January 2019
3. Friday 3 May 2019

**\*Please note:** College may also be closed to students on Thursday 2 May 2019 for local elections (to be confirmed).

### **Term Dates**

Autumn:	Monday 3 September – Friday 21 December 2018
Half-Term:	Monday 29 October – Friday 2 November 2018
Spring:	Monday 7 January – Friday 12 April 2019
Half-Term:	Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February 2019
Summer:	Monday 29 April – Friday 19 July 2019
Half-Term:	Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2019

### **Parents Evenings 2018/2019**

(3.45-7.00pm) - Reporting your son's/daughter's progress and achievements

Y10	Thursday 22 November 2018
Y9	Thursday 6 December 2018
Y11	Thursday 24 January 2019
Y13	Thursday 7 February 2019
Y8	Thursday 7 March 2019
Y12	Thursday 11 April 2019
Y7	Thursday 16 May 2019

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	14 January 2019
Y13	14 January 2019
Y12	11 February 2019
Y10	20 May 2019
Y9	17 June 2019
Y7	15 July 2019
Y8	15 July 2019

### **Online tracking of student progress**

Please ensure you keep up-to-date with your son's/ daughter's summary of progress by accessing the online data that informs you of their progress and approach to learning. 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.

### **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.

### **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.**

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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**. Please can I also appeal to all parents and carers not to block off local residents' drives especially in the estate directly opposite the front gate. Can I encourage you to make arrangements for students to be picked up slightly further away so the pressure is eased on this estate. We thank you for your on-going support in this matter.

### **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.

### **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 (3.20pm-3.50pm), and Head of Year detentions. These will take place at either a break or lunchtime or in some instances both. There is also a Wednesday evening detention which is run by the College Senior 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 misdemeanors, which includes persistent willful disobedience; the College reserves the right to permanently exclude.

### **Record of Achievement Diaries /Planners**

**ALL students** have been issued with the **College Diary & Personal Planner**. This 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 planner to acknowledge receipt of all letters/correspondence sent to you by the College.**

## **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

## **Staffing**

We have welcomed the following staff to our team this year:

Miss O Byrne	Teacher of Dance
Miss J Evans	Teacher of Science
Miss C Flynn	Teacher of English
Mr G Jones	Teacher of History
Mrs E O'Connor	Assistant Principal i/c Religious Education and Spiritual Life
Miss H Sims	Teacher of Geography
Miss G Stokes	Teacher of RE
Mrs S Underwood	Teacher of MFL

## **Pastoral Support 2018/19**

Mr R May	Principal
Mrs T Oliver	Vice Principal
Mrs H Parkes	MAC Strategic Business and Finance Director
Mr S Lodge	Assistant Principal i/c Behaviour for Learning, Attendance and Punctuality
Mrs S Foster	Assistant Principal i/c Teaching, Learning and Assessment
Mrs E O'Connor	Assistant Principal i/c Religious Education and Spiritual Life
Mr M Hambrook	Assistant Principal i/c Progress and Attainment (Secondment)
Mr J Cutler	Head of Year 7
Mrs N Johnson	Head of Year 8
Miss K Cope	Head of Year 9
Miss R Berrington	Head of Year 10
Mr S Biddle	Head of Year 11
Mr D Handy	Head of Key Stage 5 (Year 12 and 13)
Mrs M Bowen	SENCO
Mrs S Hand	Student & Staff Welfare and Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Heath	Attendance Officer
Mrs K Harding	Talking Therapist & Admin Pastoral Support