

Parental Circular – October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Introduction

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 during the first half term of this academic year. It has been a very busy start to the year and now is a wonderful opportunity to communicate with all parents, carers and students.

I'd like to begin with reiterating that the safety of your sons and daughters in our care is of paramount importance to us. Our commitment as a college to work with community groups and the Police to try and tackle our concerns that some young people are involved in dangerous anti-social activities in the surrounding communities which the college serves, has increased dramatically over the last 18 months. As a college, we are increasingly being made aware by the Police and other members of our local community, of the risks and temptations our students are being exposed to in central Dudley and its surrounding areas. We have a fantastic relationship with the local Police and our Community Liaison Officer PC Andy Peters works closely with us to raise awareness of the dangers our children face. Indeed, as a college we are part of a Dudley wide initiative to tackle knife crime and you will recall us having the WM Police Knife Arch on campus in July 2019. It is our intention to promote this initiative once again in the coming months to help educate our young community.

Drug and knife crime is on the increase across the country and we want our students to avoid being caught up in this dangerous web of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

As a Bishop Milner Catholic College our message is clear:

If you bring drugs and/or items related to drugs onto our college campus, then you will be permanently excluded from this college.

If you bring knives, weapons or objects onto our college campus that are designed to cause harm to another individual, then you will be permanently excluded from this college.

Please note: It does not matter whether you/that student brought these items onto our campus accidentally or deliberately, if they are yours or you are looking after them for someone else. If you walk onto our campus with drugs, items related to drug taking or weapons and these items are found on your person, in your bag, or can be linked to you in any way, you will be removed from Bishop Milner Catholic College.

Our **zero tolerance approach** is there to protect all students and staff, which means that students/parents/carers need to expect this consequence if this is what a student chooses to do. **Please see our College Behaviour Policy (Stage 6).**

The college also has the authority to severely sanction any student involved in any drug/weapon related incident which takes place when you are in college uniform and travelling to and from college. Similarly, if you are seen to be actively promoting drugs/drug culture or the use of harmful weapons, including via social media, you can expect to be severely sanctioned by college and potentially the Police.

I trust all parents and carers will support the college's approach towards this serious matter so that we can ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Principal, Richard May BSc Hons

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

T. 01384 889422 E. info@bmilner.dudley.sch.uk www.bmilner.dudley.sch.uk

Upcoming Key Dates

- Prospective Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 7 November 6.00-8.00pm.
- Whole College Careers Convention: Thursday 14 November
- Y11 Sixth Form Taster Day: Friday 24 January 2020
- Y8 Options Evening: Thursday 19 March 2020 3.45-6.15pm.
- Y10 Mock Interview Day: Thursday 25 June 2020

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

1. Friday 20 December 2019
2. Monday 6 January 2020
3. Friday 1 May 2020

***Please note:** College may also be closed to students on Thursday 7 May 2020 for local elections (to be confirmed). If the College is used for local elections, it is likely we will still expect Year 11 students to attend as they will be commencing their exams the following week.

Term Dates

Autumn: Monday 2 September – Friday 20 December 2019

Half-Term: Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2019

Spring: Monday 6 January – Friday 3 April 2020

Half-Term: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020

Summer: Monday 20 April – Friday 17 July 2020

Half-Term: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2020

Parents Evenings 2019/2020

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

Y10	Thursday 28 November 2019
Y9	Thursday 5 December 2019
Y11	Thursday 23 January 2020
Y13	Thursday 6 February 2020
Y8	Thursday 5 March 2020
Y12	Thursday 2 April 2020
Y7	Thursday 21 May 2020

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	13 January 2020
Y13	13 January 2020
Y12	10 February 2020
Y10	18 May 2020
Y9	18 June 2020
Y7	13 July 2020
Y8	13 July 2020

Website

Up-to-date news and events, including key dates can be accessed via our college website, along with our 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 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.

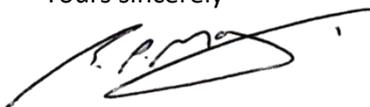
Lay-by at the front of College

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.

In conclusion, I sincerely trust you find this information useful. I would like to wish you a restful half-term.

Yours sincerely



Mr R May
Principal

RMA/JGI