

13 July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

This will be my last formal communication with parents and carers this academic year and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their magnificent support in my first year as Principal, this includes parents, carers, staff and importantly the students. I am very proud to be the Principal of this wonderful school and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year.

It has been a very busy year as you would expect. The fantastic legacy that Mr Haywood left Bishop Milner Catholic College made it easier to settle in, but nevertheless, you can never afford to stand still in our drive for continual improvement.

This week as you will already know, included a visit from the OFSTED inspectors on Wednesday 11 July. An inspection is never easy at any point in the academic year, but in the penultimate week of an academic year it is particularly tough. I must repeat my earlier words on social media this week and say how proud I was of the staff and students for the way they celebrated all that is so good about Bishop Milner. I'd like to also thank and commend parents. Many took the time to complete the official OFSTED Parent-view survey. Your comments were excellent, really supportive of the college and subsequently, had an impact on the inspection team as they came to their conclusions. It is unlikely that we will receive confirmation of their findings until after the summer holidays. As soon as we do, I will inform parents, carers, staff and students immediately.

In the remainder of this letter there is much important information about arrangements for next week and our return in September, so please read it all carefully.

## **End of the Academic Year**

Our summer term ends **Friday 20 July at 12.30pm.**

Our final week promises to be extremely busy with many activities taking place across key stages. These include Sports Day, rewards trips, rewards assemblies and of course Year 10 and 12 work experience. I'm thrilled that so many Year 10 students have taken the opportunity to go on a 4-day work experience placement as it will be so beneficial to help them learn about life after education. 82 students have managed to gain places which is excellent. Our aim next year is that all students in Year 10 find a placement and get to participate in such a crucial activity as part of their educational development. In addition to these activities, we also have a number of students travelling to Cambodia on a 3-week expedition with Miss Mulqueen. This will certainly be a life-changing experience for all concerned and we wish them well on their travels.

**Year 10 students have already had a separate communication linked to their final week**, but below is an outline for Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

Monday 16 July	Year 8 and 9 students not attending the rewards trip attend college as normal in <b><u>uniform.</u></b> <b>*A separate communication has been sent for those students attending the rewards trip (cinema and bowling) – sensible and appropriate non-uniform*</b>
Tuesday 17 July	Year 7, 8 and 9 – Sports Day (weather permitting). <b><u>Students to wear P.E kit.</u></b> Please bring hats, sun cream and plenty of water.
Wednesday 18 July	Year 7 students not attending the rewards trip attend college as normal in <b><u>uniform.</u></b> <b>*A separate communication has been sent for those students attending the rewards trip (cinema and bowling) – sensible and appropriate non-uniform*</b>
Thursday 19 July	Year 7, 8 and 9 normal college day and attend as normal in college <b><u>uniform.</u></b>
Friday 20 July	Last Day of term – Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will be dismissed for the summer break at 12.30pm and attend college in normal <b><u>uniform.</u></b>

Principal. Richard May BSc Hons

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## Highlights of the Summer Term

The exam season was extremely busy and all of our students who sat BTEC, GCSE and A Level exams were well supported in their preparation, thanks to staff giving of their time both during and beyond the college day. We wish all of our students who sat external exams the success they so richly deserve.

**The all-important results are available as follows:**

- A2 Levels BTEC Nationals on **Thursday 16 August 2018** from 8.30 am – 10.00am in the Sixth Form Centre, entrance from the Burton Road entrance only.
- GCSE / BTEC on **Thursday 23 August 2018** from 9.00am – 10.30am, entrance from the Burton Road entrance only.

The opportunity to mark the end of their studies for both our GCSE and sixth form students, was made all the richer thanks to our Chaplain, Father Stephen leading a Celebration Mass for Year 11 on the Feast of the Ascension and a leaver's service for our Year 13. The excellent Year 11 Prom wonderfully organised by Mrs Hand was at The Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, whilst some Y13 went to Alton Towers.

Other successful events during this term have included: The Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, Year 10 Mock Interview Day, Primary activities day, Year 9 Enterprise Day, a Music and Dance Performance Evening (including the England match and a BBQ) and all of the great activities that are due to take place during this coming week. I'm sure I have forgotten to mention many other events which have been a great success and enjoyed by both students and staff alike.

Whilst all of these and many other activities took place during this term, most importantly teaching and learning continued to provide academic rigour so that our students continue to develop the skills to face the challenge of the examination system and the needs of future employers. In addition, the lifelong spiritual development, social awareness and academic achievement of our young people continues to be of real quality.

## September return dates

**The new academic year starts for staff on Monday 3 September when college is closed to students.** As can be seen below there is phased return for all Year Groups.

<b>Tuesday 4 September</b>	<b>Y7 &amp; Y12 return/start</b>
<b>Wednesday 5 September</b>	<b>Y8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 students return/start</b>

## Significant changes for September 2018

Vertical tutoring (Years 8 to 11) will change to a horizontal Year groups pastoral structure from September 2018. The five House groups will remain in place, however they will be within each year group e.g. Year 8 St Stephen, Year 9 St Stephen....

I have made this change following feedback from staff, a selection of students and some parents. It allows us to focus on key aspects of their academic development at certain stages in their time at Bishop Milner. A selection of examples include; Year 7's already build their confidence in transition from primary to secondary as a horizontal pastoral structure (no change). Year 8 will be focussing on GCSE options. Year 9 will focus on the first year of their GCSE's. Year 10 placing a greater emphasis on Work experience and Careers education. Year 11 focussing on Mock examinations, revision and GCSE public examinations. A return to a more traditional approach will allow tutors and students to work together in smarter, more targeted ways.

Heads of House will change to **Heads of Year**.

**Mr Cutler:** Head of Year 7

**Mrs Johnson:** Head of Year 8

**Miss Cope:** Head of Year 9

**Miss Berrington:** Head of Year 10

**Mr Biddle:** Head of Year 11

## SchoolComms- Bishop Milner's online reporting system

We still have a number of parents who have not signed up to our new online reporting system. It is simple and easy to use and allows you instant access to your child's attendance, achievements and progress reports as well as allowing you to make payments online. All college notifications, newsletters and parental circulars will be sent through this system including text messages. **If you require any help or support in accessing the new system, please do not hesitate to contact the college.**

### **Photography and filming consent**

Please can I encourage parents/carers to return the consent forms for photography and filming. We always look to celebrate the successes of our students at Bishop Milner Catholic College, but it is becoming increasingly difficult with new regulations in place where we need new consent forms from parents/carers. Obviously there are individuals who would prefer not to be photographed or filmed for various reasons and that is perfectly acceptable. Please be assured as a college we would never put a student at risk and will always work with parents on this sensitive topic. Sporting activities, enrichment activities and productions to name a few are excellent at Bishop Milner and we wish to celebrate these both internally in college and externally when appropriate. It is so frustrating seeing other schools in the local area appearing in newspapers or on social media celebrating their events and I want Bishop Milner to be in the public eye as well. We have sent forms out directly to parents and still have a significant number outstanding. So if you wish to grant us permission, please send those forms in before the end of term.

### **Staff Leavers and Starters**

Colleagues who are also leaving at the end of this academic year: Mr M Banks, Mrs E Hill, Mr T James, Miss E Bevan, Miss G Coyle, Miss C Pearson and Miss Bashford.

Their combined service and commitment has touched the lives of so many students at Bishop Milner and as a consequence, they are all the richer for having spent time in their care both in and out of the classroom and I trust you will join me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

### **New staff wef 1 September 2018**

Mrs E O'Connor (Assistant Principal i/c Religious Education and Spiritual Life of the college)  
Mr G Jones (History)  
Miss H Sims (Geography)  
Mr R Price (Humanities)  
Miss J Evans (Science)  
Miss G Stokes (Religious Education)  
Miss C Flynn (English)  
Mrs S Underwood (MFL – French and Spanish)  
Miss O Byrne (Dance & Drama)  
Miss S Jones (Teaching Assistant)

We also welcomed Mrs Prime in July who joined us as our new Behaviour and Inclusion Manager and Mrs Denning who is our new Management Information System Co-ordinator.

Last but not least, on behalf of everyone at Bishop Milner I wish you and your children a happy, healthy and safe summer break and I look forward to seeing your sons and daughters in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr R May  
Principal

RMA/JGI