

NW/LR

May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

What a quick half term this has been, but one packed with lots of activity and those all-important exams. I am incredibly proud to lead a school that has eagerly but also safely stepped away from COVID, back to what I can only describe as normal. It is notable that the work in classrooms and beyond has been fantastic with staff applying their craft with greater freedom and using all their talents to support the pupils.

It was wonderful to have a rite of passage assembly for the current Year 11's with all of our pupils, reception through to Year 13 present. It was a tight squeeze but a wonderful event. We started by applauding the Year 6's who had just concluded their SATs, conducting themselves marvellously throughout the week. The Year 11 were applauded both into and out of the hall with a number of pupils speaking eloquently and passionately about their time at school and the staff they have worked with. There is no greater mark of approval than our pupils saying our school is wonderful and marvellous!

The Year 11 Prom will be in July, with residential visits also for Years 2, 4 and 6. We are also planning a large number of trips for different year groups subsidised by school with a focus on reward, culture, life, and new experiences that we are sure all the pupils will enjoy.

We have welcomed four new governors to the school to work alongside the excellent team we have, who oversee the schools, strategy, finance, estate and direction of travel. The Governing body have a breadth of skills and life experiences which they bring to the board. They meet each half term and keep a close oversight on the school and its endeavours carrying out sterling voluntary work.

I was fortunate to show around the school a number of pupils who left 40 years ago. The class of 1982 thoroughly enjoyed a Saturday afternoon seeing their old school, revisiting memories and sharing some classic stories. I was amazed as to the detail they could remember about the school, their fondness of the building, but most importantly the fact that our heritage has not changed that much since they left.

We would like to welcome our new catering company Mellor's. They will prepare and serve food to the pupils from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. There will be some changes, but I know we will all enjoy the new tastes and flavours they will bring. They will be looking for feedback over this coming term to help shape their offer.

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents about the expectations around uniform in the summer months. In the primary, they have moved to wearing their summer uniform and in the secondary, the uniform remains the same. If we are fortunate enough to have hot weather, we will adapt the dress code accordingly. Can I stress that all pupils should have a bag for school with the appropriate equipment in. Mobile phones and headphones should not be used in school. Phones can be used to view timetables or other activities under the direction of staff. Pupils who choose to ignore this may have their phones confiscated and placed in the school safe.

As we move into the last half term of this year, we will welcome new pupils on visits to school in reception and years 7 and 12. These moving up experiences are important and help settle some anxieties in advance of September.

Finally, can I thank all the parents for their support to date. It was wonderful to see the Year 7 graduation on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, with parents present to support their children and celebrate the fantastic year they have had and all they have achieved. This is what The Bemrose School is about, we all give our heart and soul to help support each other to be the 'best me' we possibly can be.

Have a wonderful half term break and jubilee celebrations. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Best regards



Neil Wilkinson  
Executive Headteacher