

September 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and wish you all a warm welcome to the new academic year. I especially welcome the families of new Red Ties in Year 7 and those with students joining the Sixth Form.

In addition I would like to welcome the following new staff who have joined us this term: Mr. Aalit (Deputy Head of PE), Mr. Ashraf (Head of KS4 Maths), Ms. Attina (Teacher of Music), Ms. Begum (Teacher of Religious Education), Ms. Del Olmo (Science Apprentice), Ms. Dixon (Art Technician), Mr. Khebchi (Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages), Mrs. Khoogar (Teacher of Computer Science), Mr. Kilner (Teacher of Drama), Mr. Laurencine (Learning Support Assistant), Mr. Mussard (Teacher of Science), Ms. Newnham (Teacher of Maths), Ms. O'Leary (Teacher of English), Ms. Paisiou (Science Technician), Mr. Saidoune (Teacher of Science), Ms. Shahid (Teacher of Science), Ms. Smith (Teacher of Maths), Mr. Tebourski (Learning Support Assistant), Ms. Terziu (Learning Support Assistant in Maths), Ms. Topping (Learning Support Assistant) and Mr. Tucker (Teacher of English). I would like to wish them well for the forthcoming year.

We have had a good start to the new term, pupils have settled in well and we are all ready for an excellent year of study and personal development.

You will be pleased to hear that Ernest Bevin College has obtained another good set of examination results both at GCSE and A Level. This is against a national picture of fluctuations in grades and changing grade boundaries in some subjects, which has adversely affected many schools locally and nationally.

GCSE

There are new measures for reporting GCSE results as from this summer. Therefore, it is not possible to fully compare the results with last year. The new measures being reported are:

- the percentage of pupils obtaining both English and Maths – 59%
- a progress measure for the best 8 subjects – +0.17
- an attainment measure for the best 8 subjects which is an average grade – C
- the percentage of pupils achieving the EBacc (English, Maths, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography) – 34%

The results may change as we have sent all of the English Language coursework and speaking and listening scripts for remarking. The outcome of this will not be with us until the end of September. Even as the results stand, I am very pleased with what the pupils and staff have achieved.

Sixth Form

The school has obtained the expected set of results at A Level as follows:

- 49% of A Level entries were at grades A* – C
- 64% of Level 3 BTEC entries were Distinctions – Distinctions*
- 87% of Level 3 BTEC entries were at least a Merit
- Over a hundred pupils have a place at university

I am delighted and very proud of the achievements of all our pupils and want to take the opportunity to thank all the staff, pupils and parents for their hard work in ensuring successful outcomes for these young people.

At the end of last year, a number of new initiatives were implemented with the view to raising their profile at the beginning of the new academic year 2016-17. These include:

- 1) The launch of a new Combined Cadet Force (CCF) unit. It is the first new unit to open in the borough in many years. We will be working with the Royal Marines who will host a taster day for pupils and families on Wednesday 12th October.
- 2) The launch of our Cricket Academy which will enable students to benefit from professional cricket coaching and a full programme of competitive matches alongside their studies.

Towards the end of last term we learnt that the college's provision in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects had received national recognition and we were awarded STEM Assured Status. We are one of only a handful of schools across the country to receive this prestigious award which recognises the outstanding teaching and provision in these subjects and the excellent opportunities offered to our students outside the classroom in these areas.

You will find more information included in this mail shot which will help you plan for the year ahead:

- a) the college calendar which includes key dates for the year
- b) important information to enable you to support your child at school – a 'Guide for Families'
- c) the Phoenix Magazine
- d) the Co-Curricular Activities leaflet (Years 7 – 11)

This year we are reviewing our marking policy and will be trialling some changes this term. The aim is to improve the quality of the feedback given to students, ensure students take an active role in the feedback process and raise the level of literacy at the school.

The key changes being trialled include the following:

- Feedback will be given to students on their classwork (c/w) and homework (h/w) every four to six lessons or every two weeks if they have fewer lessons than this over the two week period in that subject.
- Students will be encouraged to proof read their formal assessed pieces of work prior to handing them into their teachers, checking for spelling and grammatical errors. We believe that this will help students get into the habit of checking for errors they can correct themselves and become more independent in the long term.
- Formative assessments will take place every half term and students will be given feedback in the form of 'What went well' (WWW) and 'Even better if' (EBI).
- Students will be required to respond to this feedback in green pen.
- Students will be awarded an effort grade 1 – 5 for their work (1 being the highest).

This provisional policy will be reviewed at the end of the autumn term (December 2016) and parents will be informed of any changes that arise from the trial and review period.

Uniform for Year 7 – 11

In order to maintain our high standards, can we remind you of our **uniform code**, details of which can also be found in the student planner.

Every pupil in Year 7 to 11 is expected to wear compulsory uniform of a black blazer with the college badge and tie, black trousers and black leather shoes. Shirts should be white and jumpers black with a V-neck without logo or branding. Please support us in the ethos of our expectations around presentation by ensuring that your son has an appropriate hair cut – without patterns, notches or extreme styles.

The following non-uniform items and other articles **should not be worn / brought to college and are not allowed on the college site:**

- Hooded tops
- Outdoor coats with logos or with a hooded top attached to the coat
- Outdoor coats should **not** be worn inside the buildings
- Plain woolly hats may be worn in the playground from November until Easter
- No caps are to be worn on the college site at any time
- Trainers – except for PE lessons
- Canvas shoes
- Mobile phones / iPods / MP3 players etc. including headphones
- Pouches

For Years 12 – 13

The following items and other articles are not allowed to be worn:

- Hooded tops
- Tracksuit tops and bottoms
- Hats – these may not be worn anywhere on the college site (including the playground areas) after the Easter break until October half term
- No caps are to be worn on the college site at any time

For Year 7 – 13

Banned items – all types of knives and pocket knives, alcohol, fireworks and any sort of weapon, imitation firearm or harmful chemicals.

Bringing any of these items into the college is likely, at the Principal's discretion, to result in a recommendation to the Governors of the college for a permanent exclusion.

You can expect your son to have these items confiscated should they be seen by a member of staff; please ensure that they leave home properly prepared for a successful day.

We would also like to remind you of the importance we place on **attendance and punctuality**. Numerous studies show poor attendance and lateness correlate to under achievement for young people. Students who arrive late will be expected to make up the lost time, usually at the end of the day, when they will be kept behind in detention until 4pm. Likewise, any student who is placed in our referral room for more serious incidents may not be dismissed until 4.30pm.

Parents will be informed of any detentions that last later than 4pm in advance but you will not usually be notified of same day detentions that finish by 4pm.

Generally, the college day ends at 3.30pm but there are a number of after school activities which your son may choose to take part in and the playground is supervised until 5.30pm. Please check with your son if they intend to remain at

school as it can be difficult to locate students after formal lessons have finished. Members of staff supervise students at the end of the school day as they leave the college and wait at nearby bus stops. We ask that students do not loiter in local streets beyond 4pm out of respect to our neighbours and because we cannot have staff monitoring the local area after this time.

School will be closing at 2.45pm (end of Period 5) on Tuesday 4th October, in order to allow staff to prepare for our Open Evening for Year 6 parents.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you in ensuring that your son/daughter achieves to the best of their ability.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rukhsana Sheikh'.

Rukhsana Sheikh
Principal