

21 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I just wanted to write again before the end of term, reiterating what I have said in our wonderful newsletter which I hope you will have time to read when you receive it this week.

It is difficult to reflect on an academic year that has been dominated by circumstances out of our control. However, what we have achieved together during this pandemic has been truly exceptional. I would like to thank all staff, students, Governors and parents /carers for their support this year and I would like to particularly thank and congratulate my Senior Leadership Team for their unrelenting support, immense work ethic and sense of humour over what has been an extremely challenging time for everyone.

I think it is also important to mention how magnificent the students and staff have been with regard to the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) awarding process across KS4 and KS5. The whole process was extremely arduous, but Teaching staff have responded exceptionally well to every additional expectation. I am sure they will all agree that we should NEVER cancel exams again. Please be aware that the results days for Year 11 and 13 students are as follows:

- 10 August for A-Level/ Level 3
- 12 August for Year 11.

Please note that students should collect their results on their own, taking into account socially distanced measures. There will be staff on hand at the Academy to discuss results should your child require any support with this.

Despite all the challenges, our ASPIRE competencies have underpinned everything we have done. ASPIRE nominations, to recognise developing students' character developments, have continued despite Academy closures. Our July ASPIRE Day (Bourne Fest) was an amazing opportunity, for students to select three sessions, from 30 possible activities, to complete during the day - developing their Physical Literacy through Sport, Self Confidence and Developing Ambition. The sessions were led by members of staff and external experts working with students throughout the day.

Other events and activities have also continued to run, with some adaptations where possible (online or outside). Sports Day, The Summer Music Café, The Musicians, Bourne to Perform, The Summer Music Recital, A Midsummer Night's Dream have all demonstrated just what make The Bourne Academy community so special. These events have showcased the talent of our students away from the academic arena. However, I am delighted to say that whatever activity they have been involved in our students have conducted themselves in an appropriate way and most importantly, had fun. These events, and the excellent teaching and learning received by our students, was externally recognised by the National Examination body, Pearson, when we were awarded the BTEC School of the Year this month. This national recognition is testament to the hard work of our staff and students and I would like to thank everyone in our community for their contribution to the award.

This was not the only national recognition we received. We were recognised by Sport England, for our successful model of Community Lettings. This follows a successful project driven by Active Dorset. In Phase 1 of the Opening Schools Facilities project, Active Dorset was one of 19 pilot projects commissioned by Sport England to deliver the Opening Schools Facilities project between October 2019 and December 2020. Sport England wanted to share good practice and learning from Phase 1, so this February they commissioned the Active Partnership network to create a series of short

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animated videos of a few case studies. We're very proud to say that The Bourne Academy's case study was selected for this and the film is able to be viewed on our website, link [here](#). We are extremely proud of our collaboration with Active Partnership in engaging with the community and transforming lives through sport and physical activity. We are now well established as a community hub and we are held in high regard within the area.

In our opinion, school uniform plays a vital role in contributing to the ethos of The Bourne Academy and in setting the appropriate tone and standard. The majority of our students wear the correct uniform with pride. For clarification, our uniform policy is very clear about our expectations for uniform. It sets out clearly that only "natural" make up, with only one pair of stud earrings and a watch is permitted. Visible facial piercings and stretcher earrings are not allowed, and students will be asked to remove them, **this includes clear retainers**. Please note that students should not be wearing short skirts (they should not be rolled up) or skinny / tight trousers. The policy goes on to say that coloured nail varnish will not be tolerated. Please see our Uniform and Equipment Policy on the website for a full list of what is acceptable. Please be aware that our uniform policy will be rigorously enforced in September and any student who does not comply with our policy will be sent home to change. Furthermore, you will also be aware that we are bringing in our First Impression Card (FIC) in September. This initiative will reinforce our normal routines and will ensure all our students are rewarded for doing the right thing and the minority of students will be supported to form good FIC habits.

I am delighted to say that we are one of only a few schools to be oversubscribed this year and our new Year 7 students received a very special 'Steps to ASPIRE' Transition experience and we look forward to welcoming them to our Summer School or in September.

I would also like, once again, to pay tribute to the work of the Parent Voice Team (PVT) and The Bourne Foundation Trustees. They have supported the Academy throughout the year and raised a significant amount of money which has provided additional resources for our students. This support is very much appreciated by the staff and students. If you would like to offer your services to the PVT or to The Bourne Foundation, then please contact Mrs C Gobell (Business Director) at the Academy.

Term begins for students in Year 7 on **Tuesday 7 September**, Year 8 students on **Wednesday 8 September**, Year 12 students on **Thursday 9 September**. Years 9, 10, 11 and 13 all start on **Friday 10 September**. However, ALL students will be required to undertake an initial lateral flow test on site before they start their term. They will receive one further test, on site, within 3 to 5 days. You should have received information regarding this. Please check our letters section of the website for all communications.

Public Health England has asked me to circulate the letter below as guidance has changed significantly and at short notice. We shall endeavour to keep you informed to the best of our ability.

Lastly, a huge thank you is also warranted to all The Bourne Academy staff, Governors, parents and carers for their unrelenting support throughout the year.

I hope you have a great summer holiday.

Kind regards
Mr M Avoth
Principal

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