

Parent/Carer Newsletter September 2023 – December 2023: Term 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023/24. You will see students from all year groups have been involved in various and exciting activities during this term.

Once again, our assemblies have focused on our school values and core message that all students are unique and valued. We continue to encourage all students to arrive at school each day determined to be the best version of themselves.

Students have been reminded that they should display the school's core values at all times and commit to having the highest expectations of themselves and each other.

As a school we have all taken a pledge of zero tolerance to bullying/hate crime.

I have the privilege of welcoming your child each morning, looking smart in their uniform, ready for the day ahead and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Below is a link to advice pages for you to access during the holiday, while school is closed:

Bradford Families Information Service

<https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/>

I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful holiday. To those celebrating the festive season; Merry Christmas and my best wishes to you all for the New Year ahead.

Yours Faithfully



Mrs J Hobbs
Principal

See you ALL on
Thursday 4th January
2024



ONE IN A MILLION FREE SCHOOL

Dates for your calendar:

- 10/01/24: School Nurse Drop in Session
- 11/01/24: Year 10 Parent's Evening
- 11/01/24: Year 9 Vanquis Careers Session in School
- 15/01/24: Year 7 – Year 10 Odd Arts
- 25/01/24: Year 9 Parent's Evening/Options
- 26/01/24: Year 11 College Assembly
- 29/01/24: Year 11 Revision Skills Day
- 30/01/24: Year 7 Residential Trip/Return
- 02/02/24
- 31/02/24: School Nurse Drop in Session
- 07/02/24: Year 8 Vanquis Careers Session in School
- 09/02/24: School closes/Return 19/02/24
- 21/02/24: School Nurse Drop in Session
- 22/02/24: Year 9 Vanquis Careers Session in School
- 27/02/24: Year 8 HPV Vaccines
- 28/02/24: KS3 Arts Day
- 07/03/24: World Book Day
- 07/03/24: Year 9 Teenage Booster Vaccinations
- 20/03/24: School Nurse Drop in Session

Message for Year 7

Year 7 have made an excellent start to secondary school. I hope all Year 7 have a wonderful break. I look forward to see all in the New Year, ready for our Residential to the Lake District.

Mr Brennan
Head of Year 7

Message for Year 8

Well done for all your hard work and effort this term. Have a wonderful, restful and safe break.

Mr Stokes
Head of Year 8

Message for Year 9

Year 9 have made an excellent start to this new academic year.

A New Year is a great chance for students to have a fresh start with new aspirations to achieve.

I wish you all a fantastic holiday and look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Mr Kaine
Head of Year 9

Enrichment

This term's enrichment has included: Reading and Homework, Football, Well Being , Art and Photography, Singing / Musical Theatre, Jiu-Jitsu, Drama, Archery, MultiMedia

Message for Year 10

Year 10 have begun the first term of KS4 with very much 'The End In Mind'.

As we get closer to the winter break, it is a time for many to spend time with family and friends. I would like everyone across the year group to 'Sharpen the saw', rest and recharge and get ready to go again in 2024.

I wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you next term.

Mr Brennan
Head of Year 10

Message for Year 11

As the first term draws to a close, I would like to say well done for the hard work you have shown. The mock exam process showed real character and determination.

In the new year, our hard work continues and we set our sights on our GCSE prep.

Have a wonderful, restful and safe holiday.

See you in the New Year!



Careers

This term we have focused on 'Enterprise' opportunities, workshops and assemblies to support our students' with exciting student experiences and personal development.

- We have successfully launched our Careers platform to all students.
- BEX delivered a KS3 financial literacy day to our Yr 7, 8 and 9 students. The workshop/assembly involved students learning about how to be financially savvy.
- Yr 8 Students have taken part in the National Literacy Trusts Words for Work Programme. A careers, employability and literacy programme designed to equip students with the communication skills required for a successful future.
- Bank of England delivered an introduction to finances and the financial sector to our Year 10 students. The aim of this assembly was to provide students information about the financial sector.
- Year 10 students had a 2 hour Employability workshop led by Vanquis. The workshop supports developing students' interview skills.
- Multiple post-16 providers attended to provide Year 11 students with further information about post-16 options and applications. Dixons Sixth Form, Bradford College, Steven Gerrard Academy and New College gave vital information around their providers and post-16 pathway options.

Student Experience

Our students have been involved in a number of inspiring activities this term:

- 158 students from Yr 7, 8 and 9 took part in the day.
- Yr7 students took part in 'The Big Idea', hosted by The Enterprise Centre. To develop their business ideas.

The competition is open to all students in the school and they have correctly answered the questions and displayed a good interest in the competition.

Maisha Ullah 9C
Abdul Aziz AbuZoor 9B

They each win the prize of a voucher to spend at Broadway Centre.
CONGRATULATIONS!



involved in 'Prison Me No Way' Crime and students the opportunity to gain a balanced view of society, with the outcome of instilling in them fulfilling their potential and

Blamingoland and thoroughly enjoyed an engaging and interactive workshop to take on the roles of a new



Safeguarding

This term, we have held a number of events to support the well-being of our students and staff. This term, our focus has been around mental health. Some of these events have included;

- October - Mental health and Well-being Pop-up event offering support, advice and information.

Uniform

All our students in Year 7 to 11 are expected to wear the approved school uniform. A high standard of work and behaviour is expected from all our students and we believe these are helped by also having high standards of appearance.

All items of school uniform are worn conventionally and we expect parents/carers to support our reasonable requirements. We operate uniform checks each morning to ensure our students uphold our high standards with regard to the dress code and to check on essential items for a successful school day. If the correct uniform isn't being worn, students will be asked to change into school owned alternatives or they may be sent home to change.

Non uniform coats, hoodies or footwear should be removed before students enter the building and stored in their locker.

Safeguarding and Support

As a school we aim to provide a safe environment for our students to learn in. We want to make sure that our students remain safe, at home as well as within school. If you need to talk, we are here to listen. If you are worried about something you can talk to a member of staff in school.

Our safeguarding team are:

Miss Woodcock – Safeguarding Lead

Mr Gallagher – Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Hobbs – Safeguarding Deputy

Numbers to contact if required during the holidays:

Childline: 0800 1111

The Year 9 boys football team, unsurprisingly sit top of the league with some star performances across the season so far. The team are continuing to live up to the expectations and level that has been set from their predecessors last



Useful Info

British Gas

British gas is now providing grants for people who need help with their energy bills, even non customers. Fuel voucher codes are also available if people can't afford to top up their metre.

Telephone 0121 348 7797

<https://britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/>

Values Champion

Values Champions have been awarded for September – October (HT1) and December (HT2). Students are wearing their badges with pride and enjoying the use of the



Assisted Purchase Scheme

The Assisted Purchase Scheme is a low cost solution for people to buy essential items such as beds, electric cookers, fridge freezers, sofas, microwaves and washing machines.

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/assisted-purchase-scheme/>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.



WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction: that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.



POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain "heavy" metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.



UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.



ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.



ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 1.3 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal, materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.



WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.



UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.



SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.



VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term "natural and artificial flavourings". Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.



Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

The National College

