



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

29 August 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

The start of the school year is a very important time for all of the staff and your boys, because it is now that expectations are established, patterns of working are set in place and thus the year is set up to be a success. We will do our very best to ensure that you know what is going on in school, through regular updates on the website and twitter, both of which can be found at www.bws-school.org.uk. As a reminder you do not have to have installed twitter or be a member of the regular 'twitterati', as the main school twitter posts will load automatically when you visit the school website. Through a button on the home page of the website you can access all of the 35+ individual twitter feeds which are operated by a wide range of staff across the school. The intention is to give you a feeling for the vast range of activities and achievements that the boys are involved in and, by so doing, to narrow the gap between home and school that is so often a feature of secondary school life. In addition any urgent updates regarding school arrangements, events or emergency planning will be posted on the main school twitter feed for your attention, so if you do have twitter and you elect to follow @Bwordsworths you should always know what is going on!

Another way in which you can keep abreast of your son's welfare and progress at school is through Insight, the school's web portal for parents. Many of the details of his day-to-day routine will be accessible, all of his homework and deadlines will be posted there too as well as achievements (distinctions and commendations). If he gets into a scrape then that, too should be visible on Insight for you to see and subsequently enliven the dinner table conversation...

Other communications from school will come home via email, which tends to be a little more reliable and punctual than the teenage messenger service! Please do ensure that we have your up to date contact details, both email and also home/mobile contact numbers. It can be very worrying for all concerned if, on the rare occasions that we need to contact you urgently, we find that the details that we have are redundant.

Can I remind you of a couple of routine but really important things at the start of the new school year? Firstly (and I know that this is one of those horrible niggly jobs that is all-too-easy to put off!) can you please ensure that you have named all of your son's clothing/kit/personal belongings? We take a fairly strict line with lost items – if they are named then they generally get straight back to their owner (if he can be enticed to collect them from Reception that is...!). If they are un-named then they are retained at Reception for a couple of weeks and then disposed of if not collected. I invariably display all of the lost property items at Tuesday assembly; if parents were present they would be dismayed at the amount of material which their boys have simply discarded randomly around the school site. A name attached means that we have a fighting chance of reuniting property with its owner in quick order.

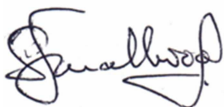
Your first point of contact at the school should be your son's form tutor (Years 7-11) or his mentor (Sixth Form). He or she should be making contact with you early in the academic year to ensure that you are aware of who to talk to and also outline some basic understanding for the year. If, however, you feel that there is a more serious issue then please feel free to contact the appropriate pastoral support officer – you should find all of the details on the website. If you have any concerns relating to child protection then please get in contact with either Mr Griffin-Raphael or Mrs Russell.

Please can I also remind you about the school rules regarding mobiles phones. These are brought in at their owners own risk and should be switched off on the school site except at lunch times. During this time they should be used in a sensible and responsible manner and no filming must be done. All mobile phones must be handed in at PE/Games lessons.

Lastly, I have one very specific request relating to dietary matters. We now have a small number of boys at Bishop's who have severe nut allergies. It is, of course, impractical to make a school the size of BWS a nut-free zone, but it would be very helpful if you could avoid nuts as much as possible if you prepare food for your son to bring to school. We will be reminding both boys and staff about washing their hands regularly and (especially) before and after eating so as to minimise the environmental risks, and a message to this effect will be issued on twitter shortly.

We start 2018-2019 on the back of strong exam results and with our second group of 160 boys joining us in Year 7. Whichever year your son is in I hope that he tries his hardest and finds something at which he can shine. I will be telling the boys that together we can achieve amazing things here – and I am very much looking forward to working with you to make that happen between now and next July.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S D Smallwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

S D Smallwood
Head Master