



9th September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers & Pupils,

Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022

All of us at Bedford Free School pay respect to Queen Elizabeth II. We are grateful for her service. May she rest in peace. This morning we collectively marked her passing and we will of course observe the period of mourning accordingly.

A lovely start to the new school year:

It was delightful to spend three days with all of our new Year 7 on their own this week to teach them everything BFS, before welcoming back the rest of the school yesterday, (Thurs 8th). All pupils have returned back looking very refreshed, enthusiastic and ready to learn. If your child is missing any uniform bits or equipment please ensure they are fully ready for Monday.

Upcoming Events:

Open Evening – Thursday, September 22nd

As always, early in the new year we open our doors to families with Year 6 pupils so they can make informed decisions about which school they would like to apply to for next September. Our Open Evening takes place on the evening of September 22nd. We will be asking our current pupils to come and help us show off their school. Please support them in this by signing permission letters (which will be given out Monday 12th Sept.) and organising with them what they should do in between home time and returning to school for 4:45pm. On this day all current pupils will be dismissed at the earlier time of 3pm so that we may get the school cleaned and ready for the evening.

Progress Evening Year 8 and 9 – Thursday, September 29th

Please note that we have a new and additional progress evening scheduled. We will be inviting parents and carers of **selected pupils only**. If this applies to your child you will receive a letter next week. If you are a parent/carer of a year 8 or 9 pupil please can you provisionally mark out this date on your calendar.

Expectation reminders:

We pride ourselves at Bedford Free School on sky-high expectations for our pupils and maintaining fantastic standards of conduct so that pupils may learn in a distraction-free zone. The pupils are clear that every rule implemented at BFS is done so for a well-considered reason – we constantly and consistently ‘sweat the detail’.

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RESPECT • HONESTY • HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Some reminders about important details:

- If you drive your child to school please pick up and drop off your child in the agreed and designated carpark in Melbourne Street. Please do not cause danger and traffic chaos around other areas in the vicinity of the school
- School trousers only (i.e. no fashion trousers such as skinny fit)
- Black shoes only (no boots or trainers)
- No make-up, hoodies, tracks in hair or eyebrows, facial piercings, nail or eyelash extensions or decoration of hands (unless for recognised religious observance)
- Hair to be natural colours only
- Jewellery must not exceed the '1 rule'
- No facial piercings
- Knee-length skirts
- Pupils of both sexes may wear black school shorts (bought from Josens only)
- Bags should be predominantly black
- Only bring healthy food to school; no mega bags of crisps, packets of biscuits, sweets, fizzy drinks or chewing gum
- Arrive on time to school BEFORE the gate closes at 8:25am and attend daily without fail unless genuinely ill
- Achievement Cards should be signed every Wednesday by a parent/carer – the responsibility for this is the pupils.

Kindest Regards



Jane Herron
Principal

(please see key dates below)

Bedford Free School – Key Dates 2022-2023	
Autumn Term	
Mon 19th September 2022	<i>Bank Holiday (school is closed) for the funeral of the Queen</i>
Thurs 22 nd September 2022	Open Evening (for Year 6) School finishes at 3pm
Thurs 29 th September 2022	Year 8/9 Progress evening (selected pupils only) (normal finish time)
Thurs 13 th October 2022	Year 7 Settling in and info evening/Welcome to Year 10 & Work Experience/Getting the best from Year 11 evening (information to follow) (normal finish time)
Fri 21st October 2022	Staff (Trust) training day (school closed to pupils)
Mon 24th – Fri 28th October 2022	HALF TERM (school is closed)
Mon 7 th November – Fri 11 th November 2022	Year 11 Mock Exams
Thurs 1 st December 2022	Year 11 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 2 nd December 2022	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Thurs 15 th December 2022	Christmas Lunch
Fri 16 th December 2022	Christmas Assembly
Mon 19th December 2022-Mon 2nd January 2023	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Spring Term	
Mon 2nd January 2023	<i>Bank Holiday (School is closed)</i>
Tues 3rd January 2023	Staff training day (school closed for pupils)
Weds 4 th January 2023	Pupils back to school
Thurs 12 th January 2023	Year 10 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 13 th January 2023	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Thurs 26 th January 2023	Year 9 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 27 th January 2023	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Thurs 2 nd February 2023	Year 8 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 3 rd February 2023	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Mon 13th – Fri 17th February 2023	HALF TERM
Mon 20 th – Fri 24 th February 2023	Year 11 Mock Exams
Thurs 23 rd February 2023	Year 7 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 24 th February 2023	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Thurs 9 th March 2023	Year 9 GCSE & Options Evening (normal finish time – 4pm)
Thurs 16 th March 2023	Year 11 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 17 th March 2023	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Mon 3rd April – Fri 14th April 2023	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Summer term	
Mon 17 th April 2023	Staff training day (school closed for pupils)
Tues 18 th April 2023	Pupils back to school
Mon 1st May 2023	BANK HOLIDAY (School is closed)
Thurs 4 th May 2023	Year 10 Information Evening (normal finish time – 4pm)
Thurs 11 th May 2023	Year 8 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 12 th May 2023	School starts later – gate closes at 8.55am
Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd June 2023	HALF TERM
Mon 5 th June 2023	Pupils back to school
26 th June – 30 th June 2023	Year 10 Mock Exams
Mon 3 rd July – Fri 7 th July 2023	Activities Week/Year 10 Work Experience
Mon 17 th July 2023	Sports Day (tbc)
Tues 18 th July 2023	Year 10 Progress Evening/next steps event (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 21 st July 2023	BFS End of Year Celebration Assembly
24th July – xx September 2023	SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Please note that all dates are subject to change/be added to/cancelled. We will notify you as soon as any changes are made.