



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

27.03.24

Dear Parents / Carers & Pupils,

A very busy term as always!

It has been another incredibly busy term with: - in and out of school competitions, school trips, school shows (as I write the Performing Arts departments are preparing for the Easter Showcase this evening), a multitude of sports fixtures, Duke of Edinburgh, PSHE, our first ever Iftar, careers and RSHE sessions and of course lots and lots and lots of learning! To keep up to date with these events including commentary, photos and even videos please follow Bedford Free School's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bedfordfreeschool>

Well done to all the pupils who have worked hard all term and seized the opportunity to learn effectively in lessons and partake in all the wonderful extra-curricular events on offer to them and thank you so much to the teachers who go the extra mile to provide them.

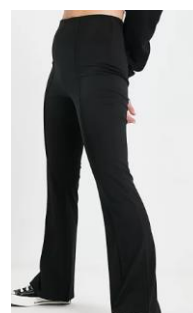
Reminders (please refer to parent section of the homeschool agreement below)

Homework

Parents and carers can support pupils to keep up to date with and conscientiously complete their homework by overseeing that they are doing it and cross referencing what they have been set by logging onto their dedicated Satchel One account. When your child first arrived at Bedford Free School you would have been given log-in details. If you need to be re-issued with log in details, please contact reception 01234 332299 who can help you.

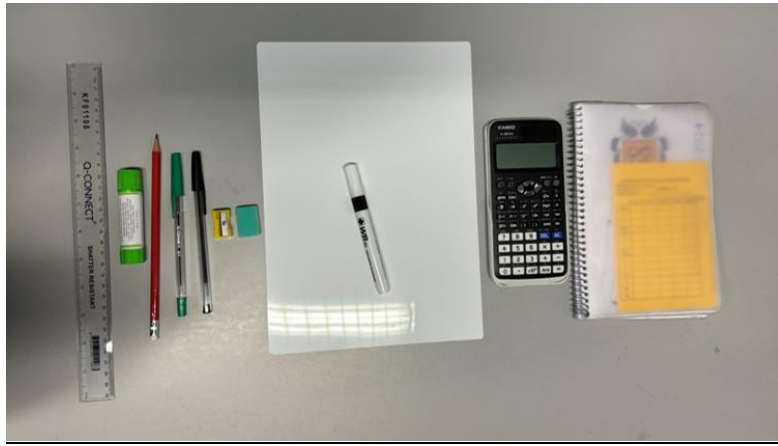
Uniform and equipment

Please take the opportunity this holiday, to check that your child has the full and correct equipment (e.g. fully stocked pencil case with at least 2 of each colour pen, a mini-whiteboard, (MWB) and MWB pen) and school uniform, (e.g. knee length skirt, black shoes - not trainers, school style trousers - not fashion***).



T: 01234 332299 E: info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk Bedford Free School, 12-16 Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AD

RESPECT • HONESTY • HIGH EXPECTATIONS



Drop off / Pick up

Drop off / pick up must happen in the designated travel plan place of Melbourne Street, Car Park, (and absolutely NOT outside school or anywhere along Cauldwell Street). This arrangement is in accordance with requirements from the Local Authority and in order to keep pupils, families and others safe. For any breaking these rules, parking tickets may be issued and corrections will be given to pupils.

Arrival time

Please remember that the gates close immediately as the clock strikes 8:25am. There are a minority of pupils who are compromising the smooth start to the school day by arriving after this time. Thank you to all those pupils who arrive comfortably by 8:20am when the bell rings.

Parent section of the homeschool agreement

*Going the extra mile – the commitment to Bedford Free School by parents/carers
I believe my child is capable of academic and personal success and that it is through hard work on the part of my child, with my support, that their potential will be realised.*

Learning

- I will allow my child to go on school field and residential trips.
- I understand that my child will have homework set regularly, including weekends, and that the expectations in terms of time allocated to do it will increase in length as they progress through the school. It is my responsibility to see that homework is completed.
- I understand if homework is not completed my child will have to attend an after-school correction, usually on the same day, which will last 30 minutes.

Healthy living

- I will only drop my child off in the designated travel plan place of Melbourne Street-car park, (and absolutely NOT outside school).
- I understand that the school will encourage a healthy lifestyle, and I support the choices made by the school in this respect.
- I will give my child healthy food and drinks to take to school.
- I will encourage my child to take part in sports and physical activities.

Attendance

- I will ensure my child arrives to school before the school gate closes at 8:25am.
- I will not plan for family holidays or other extended absences during term time.
- I will make certain that my child attends school every day, except in cases of illness or another legitimate reason.
- If my child is absent, I will telephone the school before 8:15 a.m. on the day of the absence to report why my child is absent and send a letter to explain their absence on the first day of their return.
- I understand that all measures taken to support absences are compulsory and non-negotiable.

Uniform and Equipment

- I will make sure my child wears the full school uniform neatly to school each day.
- I will make sure that my child has their full and correct equipment each day.
- I understand that uniform and equipment violations may result in my child being kept out of lessons, sent home to collect the items or us bringing the proper items to school.
- I understand that school takes no responsibility for the damage, loss or theft of personal electronic devices. I will ensure that my child conducts him/herself appropriately online.

Parent-school communication

- I will always make myself available to the school by providing an up-to-date phone number and contact details.
- I will communicate with the school in a timely and polite manner, in line with the School's values and will not air grievances on social media platforms.
- I will read all reports carefully, attend all parent meetings/information evenings and check and sign my child's Achievement Card each week.

Discipline

- I have understood the Bedford Free School values and accept and support the School's consequences for misbehaviour.
- I understand that corrections usually happen on the day that they are given, and that a standard single correction lasts 30 minutes.
- I understand that my child cannot be excused from correction or any other after school intervention.

I understand that in sending my child to the school I agree with and abide by the Home School Agreement.

Two-week Autumn half term break 2024?

Please take the time to fill in the very quick Microsoft poll form to feedback on the two week half term held last Autumn to help inform the decision as to whether Advantage Schools should maintain it. Replies should be made by Friday 12th April 2024.

<https://link.advantageschools.co.uk/BFS-Oct-Half-Term-Feedback>

Happy holidays!

Term ends tomorrow, Thursday 28th March and begins again for pupils on Tuesday 16th April who are expected back to school with full equipment and school uniform (the jumper is optional in the Summer and first half of Autumn Term).

Please find key dates below and the uniform and equipment list attached.

All the staff and I wish you and your family a very restful break.

Yours faithfully,



Jane Herron
Principal

(See Key Dates below)

Bedford Free School – Key Dates 2023-2024	
Summer term	
Mon 15 th April 2024	Staff training day (school closed for pupils)
Tues 16 th April 2024	Pupils back to school
Thurs 25 th April 2024	Year 10 Information Evening- destination and mocks (normal finish time – 4pm)
Mon 6 th May 2024	BANK HOLIDAY (School is closed)
Thurs 9 th May 2024	Formal GCSE Examinations begin
Thurs 9 th May 2024	Year 8 Preferences Evening (normal finish time – 4pm)
Mon 27 th May – Fri 31 st May 2024	HALF TERM (BANK HOLIDAY – Mon 27th May)
Mon 3 rd June 2024	Pupils back to school
Mon 24 th June – Thurs 27 th June 2024	Year 10 Mock Exams
Mon 1 st July – Fri 5 th July 2024	Activities Week/Year 10 Work Experience
Thurs 11 th July 2024	Sports Day (tbc)
Thurs 18 th July 2024	Year 10 Progress Evening/next steps event (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 19 th July 2024	BFS End of Year Celebration Assembly
Mon 22 nd July Year 7 - 4 September 2024 Year 8-11 – 9 September 2024	SUMMER HOLIDAYS