



1 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support during a most settled and successful start to the academic year. Students have returned to school more prepared and focused than ever before and are looking extremely smart in their uniform. We have had a very busy start to the term ensuring that all of our programmes are up and running. Specifically, here are some of the things which have already taken place this term:

- On 19th September, we held our annual awards evening and celebrated the achievements of many of our students.
- We have launched the support and revision programme with Year 11 students.
- Year 11 students have already started using Tassomai, our online Science revision tool, and their enthusiasm and use have already surpassed last year's group. We have been really impressed with Year 11 so far, well done.
- Our new Year 7 students have made a great start at Brannel.
- We have had an unprecedented number of new students join the school, both from outside of the local area and within. Welcome to all our new parents/carers.
- We had a hugely successful PSHE day last week. We were particularly impressed with our guest speaker, Kevin Mincher. Thank you to parents and carers who were able to support the evening talk he gave. A link has been placed on our Facebook page which will take you to Mr Mincher's strategies and resources on how to best support your child in them reaching their potential GCSE grades.

I would also like to thank you for your support and communication with us. We have worked hard at making sure that we communicate with you, as much as possible, regarding what is happening at school. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there anything we can do to support you or your child. Please also contact us if you have any concerns about anything at school. We often find that emailing staff directly is the most effective way of communicating. If you have any problems, please let myself or the office know.

One of the most challenging areas of the school to get right is the transport provided between school and home. It is always very frustrating when we hear of incidents which take place on the school buses and we are sorry that these appear to continue to be happening. Our staff are regularly on hand to support students with bus issues and to tackle those who repeatedly fail to behave in an appropriate way on any of the buses. Please can I ask that you help us by doing the following:

- Please ensure that your child is travelling with a valid bus pass for the correct bus. Bus passes are checked regularly and, if a child does not have a valid pass or temporary pass for that day, they will not be allowed to travel. Students who do not yet have a bus pass cannot be issued a temporary one for the bus.
- Discuss with your child the importance of safe and courteous behaviour on the bus. This will reinforce the expectations that we have of their behaviour. Poor behaviour will result in a sanction at school, incidents being reported to the Local Authority and may end up with a ban from travelling for a period of time.

- Encourage students who experience or see inappropriate behaviour to inform school staff. Mr Richards, Assistant Headteacher, has responsibility for supporting students and will address any issues identified.
- Please contact the Passenger Transport team if you have any concerns about the bus provision.

Thank you for your help with this. We have also noticed that recently some of the buses have been running late. We are monitoring the situation and will be reporting back to the Local Authority on a weekly basis.

Finally, I would like to remind you about some of our upcoming events that we are looking forward to this term. We hope you will be able to join us for some or all of these events.

- Year 10 Parents' Evening – 18th October
- Half Term Week – 22nd to 26th October
- 'Trunk or Treat' Halloween Activity – 31st October
- Tutor Evening for all Years – 1st November
- Macbeth Cluster Performance – 6th & 7th November
- Community Fireworks Night - 9th November
- Year 11 Parents' Evening – 13th November
- School Production 'Beauty and the Beast' – 28th, 29th and 30th November
- INSET Day and Year 7 Academic Progress Day – 30th November
- Year 8 Parents' Evening – 6th December
- Class of 2018 Presentation Evening – 6th December
- Christmas Fayre – 12th December
- Carol Service – 18th December
- End of Term – 19th December

Wow, what a busy term! Please don't forget to follow all of our notifications, events and news on our Facebook page.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Edmonds
Headteacher