



July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as the school year draws to a close in order to thank you for your continued support and make you aware of a number of issues that you need to know before the return on Wednesday 6th September. Please find below the start times for each year group:

Year 7: 8.30am

Year 8: 9.10am

Year 9: 9.50am

Year 10: 10.30am

Year 11: 11.20am

Firstly, can I thank you, as well as the staff and students at Balby Carr for the warm welcome I have received since arriving in January. As I have said several times in previous letters, we have many areas in which we need to improve, but not in terms of the warmth and good humour I have received in the previous six months. The students are a pleasure to work with and the staff have taken to an increased expectancy with refreshing relish.

I would like to draw your attention to the Balby Carr Newsletter, which you will be able to find on our website. We will be publishing this newsletter at the end of every term on our website. Our first newsletter commemorates the many positive achievements that have taken place at Balby. This term alone they include the Yr 11 Prom, Art and Technology evening, KS3 sports dinner, residential trip to the Lake District and a cinema experience to see *Despicable Me 3*. In addition to this we also arranged for a range of external providers to work with students to enhance their educational experiences, these included *Commando Joe's* and *Unstoppable Teen*.

Also on the website, <http://www.balbycarr.org.uk/uniform/> you can find at the new uniform requirements for September 2017. The site shows very clearly what is acceptable and what is not and I would ask you to consult it before you purchase your child's uniform. A simple "do and don'ts" is enclosed with this letter.

Following meetings with a number of parents a new method of communicating academy development and specific events will be in operation henceforth. A text message will inform you of any new communication that we will have published on our website, under the Parents tab, letters to Parent/Carers, whole school letters. Those parents or carers who wish to, will also receive a copy of the letter or communication in the post or by e-mail. Accordingly, please ensure that we have your email details and that you make it known to us which method of communication you would prefer. In this way we will endeavour to keep you up to date with all academy news and events.

Additionally, we have recently initiated a Parents Forum to gain the views of parents and start to listen more carefully to their views and incorporate them into academy policy. I would also remind you that we are seeking to reform the local Governing Body and any interested parents should contact my PA Charlotte Reed via email (c.reed1@balbycarr.org) or call on (01302) 312140.

Again as stated in previous letters the behaviour of a minority of students still is a cause for concern. Sadly, I have had to take the decision to remove a number of students from mainstream provision in the last few months. Whilst I do not like taking this decision it is vital to ensure that the majority of students (who are outstanding in terms of their attitudes to learning) can learn and make the progress that they truly deserve. During the past half term there has been a focus on improving attitudes to learning. The policy was changed to simplify the process and to build in a formal warning so that all pupils are aware if they are not meeting the academy expectations. It is important that we school our children to behave appropriately so that they can maximise learning opportunities and develop the skills that will make them a success in their future. This is the start of the journey but pupils and staff have worked together to create a calmer and more enjoyable atmosphere at Balby Carr. As part of this we have improved our rewards policy. This has meant that the majority of students in each year 7-9 have taken part in a Friday afternoon rewards activity. Year 7 have benefited from some outdoor learning activities from Commando Joe and the whole school has had a non-uniform day as a reward for decreasing the amount of litter that has been dropped on the school site.

The instant rewards scheme, the Balby Baffle has also been a feature of recent weeks in school. Students receive an instant baffle ticket for an act of positive behaviour that is then put into a draw for a prize in assembly each week. We will continue to further develop our rewards policy and you will see increased rewards next year as we seek to ensure that the vast majority of students who behave in a positive manner benefit from rewards activities.

We have the opportunity to say farewell to a number of staff who we wish well as they move onto a new challenge in their working life's. I am pleased to announce that we are fully staffed for the start of the new term having made a number of appointments. This should mean, even at a time of a crisis in teacher recruitment, we have less need for day to day supply staff in school. This is the first time this has been the case in some years and I will endeavour to make sure this situation continues. I would hasten to add that in the event of staff illness that cannot be helped, we will have to call on supply staff.

I wish you well for a restful summer break and look forward to the new academic year ahead with the promise that recent improvements will be continued in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Ashley

Headteacher

Uniform Policy

Do's



Blazers MUST be worn at all times, and this is compulsory for all students from Year 7 to Year 11. In addition to this, students must ensure they have their Red/Black school ties, or optionally for Year 11, their Blue/Black school ties and these must also be worn at all times.

At students own discretion, they can also wear black v-neck jumpers, however these can not show any branding.

Y7 - 10 Uniform



Acceptable Uniform items



Formal Black trousers



Black, knee length skirt



Trousers must be worn at all times, with no exceptions being made for jean style trousers, jersey fabrics, leggings or joggers.

Girls have the option to wear a black, knee length skirt with no exceptions being made for tube style or jersey skirts.

Shoes



Boys must wear formal black shoes at all times, with the only exception being boots during severe weather conditions, which the school will alert parents/carers about.



Girls must wear formal black shoes at all times, with the only exception being boots during severe weather conditions, which the school will alert parents/carers about.

Uniform Policy Don'ts



Unacceptable Uniform items



No jeans



No Leggings



No joggers



No tube/jersey skirts



No plimsoll/canvas style shoes



No boots



No brand name trainers



No sandals or toe post shoes

