

8th July 2009

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed your daughter's grade card and report for the summer term. The reports for Key Stage 3 are in a different format which has been developed this year following discussions between staff, students and parents. I do hope that you find them informative.

As we approach the end of what has been an exceptionally busy year, I should like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the developments at Belvedere.

HMI Monitoring Visit

As you may be aware, HMI conducted a monitoring visit on 23rd and 24th June. This is in line with Government policy which requires all academies to be monitored by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education during their second year of operation. This amounts to an inspection and a report is published outlining the inspectors' main findings.

HMI interviewed senior and middle leaders, observed lessons, spoke to sponsors and governors and met with students from all year groups.

The feedback we received was extremely encouraging and I have enclosed a copy of the final written report for your information.

Staffing

External Appointments

Five teachers are leaving at the end of this term. Mrs L Davies and Mrs J Cunningham are retiring, Mrs D Ball is relocating to London, Mrs G Vaughan is taking up a part-time position at Merchant Taylors' and Miss S Dearden is leaving to pursue other interests. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work at Belvedere and to wish them well for the future.

We have recruited some outstanding new teaching staff, five of whom are NQT's. Our new Assistant Curriculum Leader in Maths is an extremely experienced teacher of Advanced Level Maths who is currently Head of Maths at an F.E. College. We have also recruited a PE/School Sports Coordinator (whose post is partly funded by South Central Liverpool School Sport Partnership), a new Head of PSHCE and an experienced Science specialist from a Wirral school.

Our support staff team is now complete with the appointment of a new Receptionist, additional ICT Technician, Assistant Pastoral Manager and Finance Assistant.

Uniform Appearance & Personal Belongings

Looking forward to September, I would like to remind parents about our uniform requirement and personal belongings policy.

A copy of the uniform requirements for 2009/10 is enclosed together with an outline of our policy for personal belongings. Could I emphasise the requirement for an 'A line' plain navy skirt and the use of a black or navy school bag and coat. Also, students in Years 7-11 should not wear jewellery (beyond a simple set of single stud earrings and a wristwatch) and hair must be tied back at all times with a black or navy bobble.

Mobile phones should be switched off during the day and ipods and MP3 players should not be brought into school at all. Mobile phones or electrical items used on site may be confiscated and parents asked to come to collect them.

Personal Lockers

We are delighted to announce that The Belvedere Academy is investing in new personal locker facilities for our students as part of the refurbishment and new build programme (see letter and Acceptance Order Form enclosed). Should your daughter wish to have her own personal locker you will need to complete the acceptance form enclosed and return it to the Finance Department along with your refundable deposit of £10 and 1 year's hire charge for the facility of £10.

Parental Parking

As you are aware, Belvidere Road is a busy and sometimes dangerous road, particularly during school hours. We would like to ask for your support in reducing the dangers by not parking immediately outside the Academy on the double yellow lines or in the bus parking bays. The building programme will shortly be coming to an end which will help alleviate some of the parking problems as the builders' cars will no longer be parked at the bottom of Belvidere Road and the staff will have their main car park back.

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Autumn Term 2009

Students should return on Thursday, 3rd September at 8.30a.m.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year and wish you a relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely

P M Kennedy
Principal

Encl: Uniform Policy
Calendar of Events
Locker Hire Form
HMI Inspection Report



The Belvedere Academy

Uniform Policy (2009-10)

Regulation Uniform for Students in Years 7 - 11

Blazers

Regulation royal blue Belvedere Academy blazer with crest, which can be purchased from Laser School Wear only. All girls must wear a blazer during school hours, and must seek permission from the individual class teacher before removing during a lesson. All girls must wear a blazer on the journey to and from the Academy, whatever form of transport they use.

Ties

Regulation Belvedere Academy tie in Academy colours, worn at a visible full length outside of the blouse or shirt, with the top shirt button fastened Available from Laser School Wear only.

Blouses and Shirts

Regulation long-sleeved in light blue.

Skirts

Regulation 'A line' style, navy blue, which can be purchased from Laser School Wear. Skirts must be of a reasonable knee length, and must be plain without any pleats.

Tights and Socks

Socks should be plain navy. Tights should be plain navy or black.

Knitwear (Optional)

Regulation plain navy-blue cardigan with The Belvedere Academy crest on; or a plain navy-blue pullover with the Academy crest. Available from Laser School Wear only.

Coats and Rainwear (Optional)

A plain black or navy blue full-length coat, plain full-length raincoat or black or navy blue regulation cagoule.

NB. No other coats, anoraks, etc, are acceptable.

A School Bag

The bag must be navy-blue or black, waterproof and must close to protect books and A4 files, i.e. be of sufficient size to protect all school books and materials.

Shoes

Regulation flat, close fitting shoes in black leather.

In the interest of comfort and health, we request the co-operation of parents in buying sensible shoes.

Hair

Long hair must be tied back or secured with dark coloured accessories. There should be no inappropriate non- natural hair colours. Fake or Acrylic nails are not allowed. One pair of

conventionally placed plain ear studs is allowed. No other body piercings or jewellery apart from a wristwatch should be worn.

Hijab

If a hijab is worn, it must be plain navy-blue

Scarf (Optional)

Regulation navy blue Belvedere Academy scarf with crest available from Laser School Wear only.

Waist belts

With purse; navy-blue.

Summer Uniform

A regulation light blue short-sleeved blouse to be worn with the skirt and blazer. No tie is worn with the summer blouse.

Lesson Specific Uniform

Full length Overall

To be worn in Science, Art, and Technology. *(Available from the PE Department in the Academy)*

Physical Education

- Polo Shirt
- Skirt
- Shorts
- Socks for Lacrosse
- Sweatshirt
- Tracksuit Bottoms

Every item is needed and may be purchased throughout the year. An Order Form is included as part of the new student induction pack, and will also be available at the Parents Induction Evening, and upon request from the PE Department. (The Science / Art overall is also sold by the PE Department)

Also

- One pair of predominantly white trainers
- One pair of studded boots for lacrosse (Y7-Y9)
- One tennis racquet (Summer Term) (Optional)
- One mouth guard for lacrosse

Marking

All personal belongings, including blazers, PE kit, shoe-bag, purses, etc. MUST be clearly marked with the owner's name.

Regulation Sixth Form Academy Uniform For Years 12 - 13

Business Suit

A plain black business type suit to be worn, which may include either a matching black skirt of reasonable length or matching plain black tailored trousers.

Blouses and Shirts

A plain white shirt or blouse

Tights and Socks

Socks should be plain black. Tights should be plain black or flesh coloured.

Knitwear (Optional)

Regulation plain black cardigan or pullover.

Footwear

Sensible black shoes or boots. No trainers.

In the interest of comfort and health, we request the co-operation of parents in buying sensible shoes.

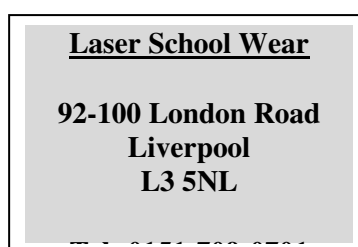
Hijab

If a hijab is worn, it must be plain black

Additional Subject Specific Uniform & Equipment

Additional items such as full length overalls or lab coats, PE kit etc. may be required for some subject courses. Individual departments will advise on this if appropriate.

Please note official 2009-10 Academy suppliers for any uniform items containing the Academy badge:



PE - Mouthguards

It is mandatory that students wear a mouth guard during lacrosse lessons and matches.

Equipment

School Bag

Students should bring a bag suitable to carry their books, writing equipment and sports kit. Every student is expected to provide the following basic items of equipment for every lesson:

- Black or blue pens
- Pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Calculator

Please check regularly that you have the correct equipment for lessons.

Jewellery

Students are restricted to one watch and one pair of matching, plain gold or plain silver stud earrings, one in each ear lobe. Expensive jewellery should not be brought into the Academy and parents are asked to ensure that this rule is followed. Jewellery and badges should not be worn on jacket lapels or other clothing.

Facial jewellery and other body piercings (for example, a nose pin) are not permitted and students will be asked to remove such items immediately. Students may be withdrawn from lessons if they are unable to remove unauthorised jewellery and in this case

parents will be asked to ensure its removal before their daughter is permitted to return to lessons.

Mobile Phones & Electronic Items

The Belvedere Academy will take no responsibility whatsoever for the security or loss of any mobile phone or electrical item such as and I-Pod or MP3 Player. In addition, their use will not be allowed for any purpose (including text messaging, music playing, or games etc) at any time during the Academy day (including break and lunch times). No mobile phone or electrical item should be switched on during Academy hours (8.00am - 3.15pm/4.15pm on enrichment nights). You may only pick up messages from your mobile phone or use personal electronic equipment such as I-Pods and MP3 Players, after the end of the school day.

Electronic games, I-Pods, MP3 players and personal stereo equipment should not be brought into the Academy. With regards to mobile phones - we understand that some parents wish to remain in contact with their daughters during the journey to and from the Academy for personal safety reasons. For this reason, it means that students may (if absolutely necessary) bring mobile phones to the Academy, but it also means that students must look after them themselves, and that they must at all times be kept switched off and out of sight. For example, the PE Department will not regard them as valuables to be looked after by them during PE lessons.

Any mobile phone or electronic item being carried by hand, or being used during the Academy day, will be confiscated and lodged in the Pastoral Office for collection at 3.15pm. A second confiscation will result in a letter to parents, with the possibility of confiscation for the remainder of the term and a requirement that the phone or electronic item be collected by parents.

Students should therefore, not make any phone calls on their mobile phones during the day to parents or carers reporting illness for example. If a student feels unwell or ill, they should always report to the Pastoral Office to be assessed and treated. The Pastoral Office will then contact parents and carers if appropriate.

The Pastoral Office is available for students or parents needing to make urgent contact with each other, and the Pastoral Administrator or Assistant will ensure that important messages from parents are taken and passed onto students during the day as appropriate. This facility should therefore, minimise the need for students to carry mobile phones on their person throughout the day.

Ref: Personal Lockers

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to announce that the Academy is investing in new personal locker facilities for our students as part of the refurbishment and new build programme. The new student lockers have been sited on general corridor and open space areas around the Academy rather than as previously, in classrooms. This is to allow for less disruption to lessons, and to create more space in smaller classrooms for better curriculum usage.

The new lockers are of a higher quality and in many cases, are larger than the existing ones. All new lockers have a high security lock fitted to them, with a single key access. In order that we are able to ensure the safe return of the key and to a degree the general upkeep of the new locker, the Academy will be asking for a refundable £10 deposit. The deposit is required for your daughter to secure a key for her own personal locker, and will be returnable when your daughter leaves Belvedere, subject to the safe return of the original key and the reasonable state of the locker.

There is an additional annual hire charge for the new personal lockers of £10 per annum. The income generated from this will be re-invested into additional student facilities, as well as maintenance and general upkeep of the new lockers.

Should your daughter wish to have their own personal locker assigned to them, you will need to complete the acceptance form below, and return to the Finance Department along with your refundable deposit of £10, and at least 1 year's hire charge for the facility charged at £10 per annum. Once both of these have been received, your daughter will shortly be assigned her own locker and her personal key for it.

Yours sincerely

Mr I. Irwin
Vice Principal

Reply Slip - Attached

Reply Slip

Personal Locker Hire

I wish to hire a personal student locker for the coming academic year, at an annual cost of £10 per annum. I understand that I am also required to submit a one off refundable deposit of £10 for the security of the key.

I understand that the personal locker is the property of The Belvedere Academy, and that as such I will be responsible for the suitable up-keep of the locker (including the internal areas of it and outer door. I understand that I must not intentionally de-face the locker by drawing or marking anything onto it, including the attachment of any stickers or related product).

In order for the £10 deposit to be returned, the safe return of the original key must be submitted along with proof to a designated person in the Academy that the locker is un-damaged and in good order. I also understand that if I wish to continue to use the locker beyond the initial 1st year, then I will need to pay an additional annual hire charge.

I also understand that the Academy has the right to refuse or deny usage to an individual student, of a personal locker if it is evident that the locker is being misused. If this is the case the Academy will inform parent/carers of the situation and make any appropriate refunds if applicable (subject to the refundable deposit clause noted above).

Agreements

A: I agree to the above conditions, and wish to be considered for a personal locker

Signed: _____

Date:

(Student)

Signed: _____

Date:

(Parent/Carer)

B: I enclose the following payment(s):

1. Refundable £10.00 Deposit (subject to conditions highlighted above) =
£10.00

2. 1 x Year Hire Charge charged at £10.00 per annum =
£10.00

Or

3. Advance payments for additional years Hire Charge (optional) at £10.00 per annum

Number of Years Required: _____ x £10.00 per annum =
£ _____

(All payments should be made payable to the 'GDST Academy Trust')

* All Reply Slips and Payments should be returned to the Academy Finance Office.