

BARNWELL SCHOOL



PARENT/CARER AND STUDENT
September 2022 Guide

INTRODUCTION

We hope you and your families have had a fun-filled and restful summer break. It was lovely to share the successes with our Year 11 and 13 students on the results days in August and to meet many of our new Year 7 students at the transition events in July. We look forward to welcoming all new and returning students and staff to school over the coming week.

We will be launching The Barnwell Way in September which is the approach we expect all staff, students and parents/carers to buy in to when they join Barnwell School. It captures the culture and ethos of our vision and values and highlights the set of behaviours we expect in order to fully support the progress of our community.

If you have any questions following your reading of this guide, please contact communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk.

For questions specific to your child only, please email your child's head of year/college and they will reply as soon as possible.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Returning to school following the summer holiday may be daunting for your child and you may be feeling concerned about their return to school, especially if they find change difficult. To support their return, please aim to complete the following over the next weeks to help prepare your child and gain a sense of control over the uncertainties.

- Think about your child's individual needs. Take some time to talk through their return with them and read this guide together.
- Preempt any worries your child may have by contacting their Head of Year/College prior to the start of term.
- If you feel the school needs to know any details that will support your child's return, or changes to your personal circumstances, email your child's Head of College/Year. Our pastoral teams will be focusing on your child's social, emotional and mental well-being as part of their reintegration into the school environment.
- Talk regularly about returning and go through some of the school preparation together: gather their equipment; try on their uniform; purchase a new school bag for example.

START DAYS FROM 5TH SEPTEMBER

In order to support the new Year 7 students, we will be having a phased return for year groups on Monday 5th September.

Monday 5th September

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Year 7 | 8.40am start |
| Years 8-11 | 11.00am start |
| Year 12&13 | 8.00am start |

School photos will be taking place for Years 10/11/12/13 on Monday 5th September.

Tuesday 6th September

8.40am start for all year groups

School photos will be taking place for Years 7/8/9 on Tuesday 6th September.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

We have informed County transport that students will be returning on the 5th September. County transport have confirmed that they will be running transport.

Year 8/9/10/11 students that use school buses will need to come in early if they are unable to make alternative arrangements.

SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

To ensure a smooth start, students need to be in full school uniform (Years 7-11) and are expected to remain in full school uniform every day. If students forget or lose items, they will be expected to borrow uniform to meet uniform expectations. Unreasonable non-compliance will result in application of the school's behaviour for learning policy.

If there are any particular issues with providing uniform please contact the school to discuss how we can support.

Middle and Upper School Uniform

- College tie
- Navy blue sweater with collar piping
- Navy Blue Blazer with School Logo
- Standard white shirt
- Black trousers – no 'skinny' or denim style
- Black pleated skirt – of reasonable length, appropriate for a work environment - worn to the knee or just above the knee (pleats must be the full circumference of the skirt, either from the waistband down or with a short plain panel from the top of the skirt. There is no stipulation on the size or style of pleat)
- Socks – plain, white, black or navy blue (socks must be worn below the knee)
- Tights- plain black or beige (no hold-up stockings)
- Hats, coats and scarves - when needed, can be worn to school, but must not be worn in school buildings
- Black closed shoes only – **No sandals, trainers*, converse 'style', plimsolls or canvas style are permitted.** Every part of the shoe must be completely black. No stripes, logos, coloured soles or non-black laces are allowed
- Should a student due to a medical reason need to wear other forms of footwear, the school will require a doctor's note in order to issue a uniform pass for the required period of time indicated by the doctor
- **Cardigans and hooded tops are not permitted and are not to be worn as outdoor coats**

Jewellery

It is permissible to wear the following:

- 1 earring in each ear – a small single stud
- 1 watch
- No facial and visible body piercings allowed. Students will be expected to remove their piercings without exception. Clear retainers are not permitted for any facial piercings.

Make Up

Make up should be **discreet** and kept to a minimum. **No eye liner, eye shadow, blusher, contour, false eyelashes, coloured nail varnish or false nails.** False nails pose a health and safety risk to students as well as contravening our uniform policy. They are not permitted on any school day including non-school uniform days.

Hair

Only plain, functional and safe hair accessories are allowed. Hairbands: plain and of dark colour.

Hair must be one natural colour and hair styles should be appropriate for school **with no exaggerated cuts or styles and of a natural colour only and no obviously contrasting highlights, bleaching or bright colouring.** Shaved hair no shorter than a No.2 cut. This also applies to shaved eyebrows.

Extreme weather conditions

In extreme weather conditions the school will undertake a risk assessment and communicate with parents when there is a temporary change to uniform.

For example, in snow and ice conditions students may be permitted to come to school in boots. When there are sustained high temperatures, students may be permitted to come to school without blazers and ties and when the temperature is above 30 degrees students may be permitted to wear PE kit.

When these changes are implemented students will be informed, and details will be published on the school website.

THE SCHOOL DAY

The timings of the day will be as follows:

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Form Time | 8.40am |
| Period 1 | 9.00am |
| Period 2 | 9.50am |
| Break | 10.40am |
| Period 3 | 11.00am |
| Period 4 | 11.50am |
| Lunch | 12.40am |
| Period 5 | 1.20pm |
| Period 6 | 2.10pm |
| End and Period 7 | 3.00pm |

Breakfast club will run from 8.10am on both campuses

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age.

At Barnwell School, we are very aware about the link between good attendance and good progress. Research has shown that the lower the attendance of a student, the lower the GCSE grade at the end of Year 11. Less than 95% attendance every year in school equals a 1 grade difference across ALL GCSE grades. As a result, we have set our school target for attendance at 96% and expect all students to achieve this. Additionally, this is useful preparation for the workplace, where an absence rate of 5% or above would be considered a cause for concern.

If a student does not attend school or is not taking part in an approved educational activity, they are classed as absent from school. This means that if your child is off school for any reason, even if they are ill or have medical permission to be off school, they are classed as absent.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

If you feel your child requires support for Special Educational Needs (SEND) and you have not had a conversation with our SEND Team, please complete [this online form](#) and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

LUNCH AND CASHLESS CATERING

The lunch break is 40 minutes. We will be using the cashless catering system and the preferred payment for food is by topping up the payment account on School Gateway. If possible, please do not give your child cash. If cash is used, there will be time limits for the cashloaders. If you need support, please contact the school finance team k.McCreadie@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

EQUIPMENT

Students must bring a bag to school every day, containing their essential daily items including:

- Their own pencil case with black pens, a green pen, pencils, ruler, eraser and sharpener
- Colouring pencils
- Their own scientific calculator

Students should bring their own water bottle.

Although students can store exercise books in their lockers, many will choose to bring them home in the evening. Please support your child and the school by ensuring they pack their bag the night before and have looked at their timetable carefully, so equipment and resources are not left at home.

SCHOOL THERAPY DOG

We are fortunate to have a special member of staff at Barnwell, our school dog Lacey. She is an 3 year old Cockapoo, who is undertaking her training to become a Hertfordshire Taking the Lead Therapy Dog. Lacey is in school to assist with her training while helping her to become accustomed to her working environment. Once fully trained, Lacey will work with small groups of students as part of our planned programme of interventions and to support those with social and emotional needs.

Lacey is a family pet, she is fully vaccinated, regularly groomed, insured, and has annual Vet checks. We have undertaken a full risk assessment and written a policy to support this work, both of which can be made available on request.

We recognise that some people may have an allergy to or a fear of dogs. If this is the case, please complete the form using the link below so we can ensure measures can be taken to avoid contact. Please be assured Lacey is hypoallergenic as she does not shed her fur which will help to minimize any issues with allergies.

LACEY THERAPY DOG FORM

CHANGES TO SACHEL ONE

From September, we will be utilising enhanced features through Satchel One. We will continue to use the homework calendar but will be switching our attendance, rewards and concerns reporting to this platform also. All of the new features will be accessible through the Satchel One app. Parents, carers and students will be able to see latest attendance, positive points and behaviour concerns through the app. Notifications will also come through the Satchel One app for positive points, concerns and detentions.

Students will be shown the changes in September but here is a link to a parent/carers video explaining the new features: <https://help.satchelone.com/en/articles/5472656-parent-video-guides>

TOILET BREAKS AND REFILLING WATER BOTTLES

Toilet facilities will be cleaned regularly throughout the day, but toilet breaks will be limited to break and lunch times unless for medical reasons. Teachers monitor the movement of students around the school during lesson time and change overs and ask that toilet breaks are not taken so we can maximise time in the classroom.

New water filling stations have been installed to allow students to refill bottles. Where possible, water bottles should aim to be large enough to last all day.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The school will be able to offer a full and rich extracurricular programme from September. We expect all students to get involved as much as possible.

CALENDAR UPDATES

Educational Visits - we will be able to run all planned educational visits from September and look forward to introducing new trips as the year progresses. We will update parents/carers as soon as possible.

Events - we will be reverting back to a full programme of events from September, including expressive arts shows, information evenings, sporting events, Barnfest and our Community Day. We will keep the calendar under review and will update parents/carers as soon as possible.

GETTING TO AND LEAVING SCHOOL

When collecting your child please arrange for a meeting point on Hydean Way (middle) or Barnwell Road (Upper) and do not enter the school site.

If you do need to use Shephall Green please treat it as a one-way road and turn right out of Barnwell Middle School.

As always, please be mindful of our neighbours and do not block driveways.