

# Barnwell School

MIDDLE & UPPER





# Welcome to Barnwell School



Choosing the right school for your child is a vitally important decision. We are a school that inspires achievement in our students, allowing them to discover and develop their abilities whilst belonging to a supportive community.

Our school is unique in Stevenage, located on two adjacent sites, Barnwell Middle and Upper Campus which provides students with a high quality teaching and stimulating learning environment to ensure that they achieve and reach their potential whilst enjoying their studies.

The school promotes a '*can do*' attitude through our '**Challenge and Aspiration**' culture, students are encouraged to challenge themselves and aspire to be the best they can be. Our progressive and broad curriculum places emphasis on challenging students to build skills and knowledge for a successful career in the future.

We also place great emphasis on the importance of our students taking part in the school's extra-curricular activities to develop qualities and skills that are valued in the workplace and the community.

In order for potential to be realised, we have a strong partnership between student, school and home. This partnership allows us to '**Achieve Excellence Together**'. Mutual respect, a readiness to learn and high expectations are shared by everyone to create an environment where every student feels secure and is inspired to achieve or exceed their potential.

Visitors are impressed by the friendly, respectful and purposeful atmosphere at the school and by our proud students who are always happy to show visitors around our school.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Barnwell to experience, for yourself, the positive atmosphere and outstanding opportunities it offers our students.

**Mr A Fitzpatrick - Headteacher**



## Ethos

Through '**Challenge and Aspiration**' we instil in our students an understanding and drive to secure the highest levels of academic achievement and progress. We focus on the individual needs, strengths, skills and talents of each and every student. The relationship between students and staff is excellent, ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to thrive and learn in a respectful atmosphere.

Students feel safe and confident at Barnwell; the school sets high standards especially in terms of appearance and behaviour.

We know that students who realise and surpass their individual academic targets have some key characteristics that have enabled their successful learning journey. These characteristics we encourage and develop in all of our students through the **PRIDE** ethos. **PRIDE** is an acronym for **P**assionate, **R**esilient, **I**nnovative, **D**etermined and **E**mpathetic.

Throughout their school life **PRIDE** characteristics are highlighted to our students and opportunities to develop them are planned into lessons in order for our students to show **P**assion, **R**esilience, **I**nnovation, **D**etermination and **E**mpathy. We challenge our students every year to earn **PRIDE** recognition and teachers reward exceptional performance by nominating students who consistently show **PRIDE** characteristics. Successful students are recognised at our annual **PRIDE** celebration evenings.

**'Achieving Excellence Together'** underpins all of the work at Barnwell School; we are committed to ensuring that all of our students fulfil their true potential and that they are given all the support that they need to become active life-long learners. Together, our students, parents and staff can make a difference by **'Achieving Excellence Together'**.



## Caring Transition

We understand that the move to secondary school can be both exciting and potentially stressful for parents and students alike, so we do run a highly acclaimed transition programme to ensure a smooth and trouble-free transition to Barnwell School. We want the experience of moving to a new school to be an exciting time for our new families, therefore we communicate effectively and are always happy to answer questions and any concerns you may have.

Our school has a very positive relationship with all of our feeder Primary Schools, we organise many events during the year for our local schools, we believe this is critical to a successful transition.

During their final year in primary school Year 6 students have the opportunity to explore the school, meet teaching staff and enjoy a range of after school activities.

## Pastoral System

Students at Barnwell tell us that they feel part of a community and enjoy coming to school. Key to this is high quality pastoral care and support, we therefore make this a priority to ensure that our students quickly become involved in the life of the school in order to feel secure and settled.

On joining the school, students become a member of one of our three Colleges – Ennis, Hoy and Redgrave, our highly experienced and aspirational Heads of College quickly get to know every child. Form Tutors provide daily support and are there to ensure that their students are settled and making good progress. Our College system ensures that students are part of a small and distinct group along with being a member of the wider school community. Students remain in the same College throughout their school career.

Our College system provides students with many excellent student leadership opportunities. Many aspire to become College Ambassadors and challenge themselves in a wide range of leadership roles. The Colleges are very competitive, competitions run throughout the year. The College Cup is fiercely contested; students earn points not only for their work in lessons but also in many other ways that allow for every student to represent or contribute to their College. We aim to offer our students new opportunities which inspire them and open up their future. Throughout the year there are many occasions where we celebrate and reward the many successes of our students, the most popular are the College reward trips and celebration evenings.



# A Positive Space for Learning

Our school is situated across two campuses, Barnwell Middle and Upper Campus where students enjoy the benefits of outdoor areas, state of the art IT facilities, swimming pool and a leisure centre. Although on two Campuses, Upper Campus students move securely and easily between the campuses for lessons whereas our younger students remain on our Middle Campus. We have been fortunate to attract funding to improve facilities across both campuses, we remain ambitious for our school and are always actively seeking further funding to enable us to continue with our planned developments of new enhanced aspirational learning environments.

Staff have their own teaching rooms with inspiring and relevant displays of student's classwork and homework giving students a sense of **PRIDE** in their achievements. All classrooms have ICT equipment which is part of our state of the art ICT network which provides staff and students safe access to on-line teaching and learning materials.

There are Learning Resource Centres on both campuses which offer a comfortable and aspirational environment for students to learn and study independently during social times and at the beginning and end of the school day.

The school's catering facilities provide an excellent and efficient service at breakfast, break and lunchtimes. Both serve a good range of hot and cold food all within government health guidelines. Facilities on both campuses benefit from a biometric finger recognition system which provides a totally cashless environment for students via accounts being credited on-line.

Our Post 16 Centre facilities are excellent. The teaching, study and social areas provide an aspirational environment for students. In addition to teaching facilities, there are spacious study areas equipped with many computers to support students in their study. Students have access to a member of staff at all times for advice and guidance where necessary.

Barnwell actively encourages students to participate in a wide range of enrichment opportunities. These opportunities are designed to allow students to develop skills and qualities in addition to their academic achievement. Older students regularly organise and lead events with the younger students, demonstrating tremendous leadership and motivational skills. Our Head students, along with committee members, play a key role in the school and competition is fierce for those aspiring to hold positions of responsibility.



## Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning is at the heart of all that we do. We are proud of our teachers, they are highly experienced skilled in providing effective lessons for all of our students.

Based on a progressive and inclusive curriculum, our teaching is innovative and aspirational, aimed to challenge and engage all students. Students achieve most when they enjoy what they are learning, so we encourage active participation in the classroom and the involvement of parents and carers at home.

In English and Mathematics additional challenge and support are provided through smaller classes thus ensuring all students are able to achieve successfully.

We strive to make our curriculum appropriate to students' needs with teaching styles that develop positive attitudes to learning, the understanding of concept and the acquisition of knowledge and skills.



## Curriculum

Meeting all of our student's needs, the curriculum is broad, balanced and engaging, offering personalised opportunities for all students. Our curriculum builds on learning experiences at primary school working towards the mastery of skills, knowledge and understanding that prepares students for their public examinations and future careers.

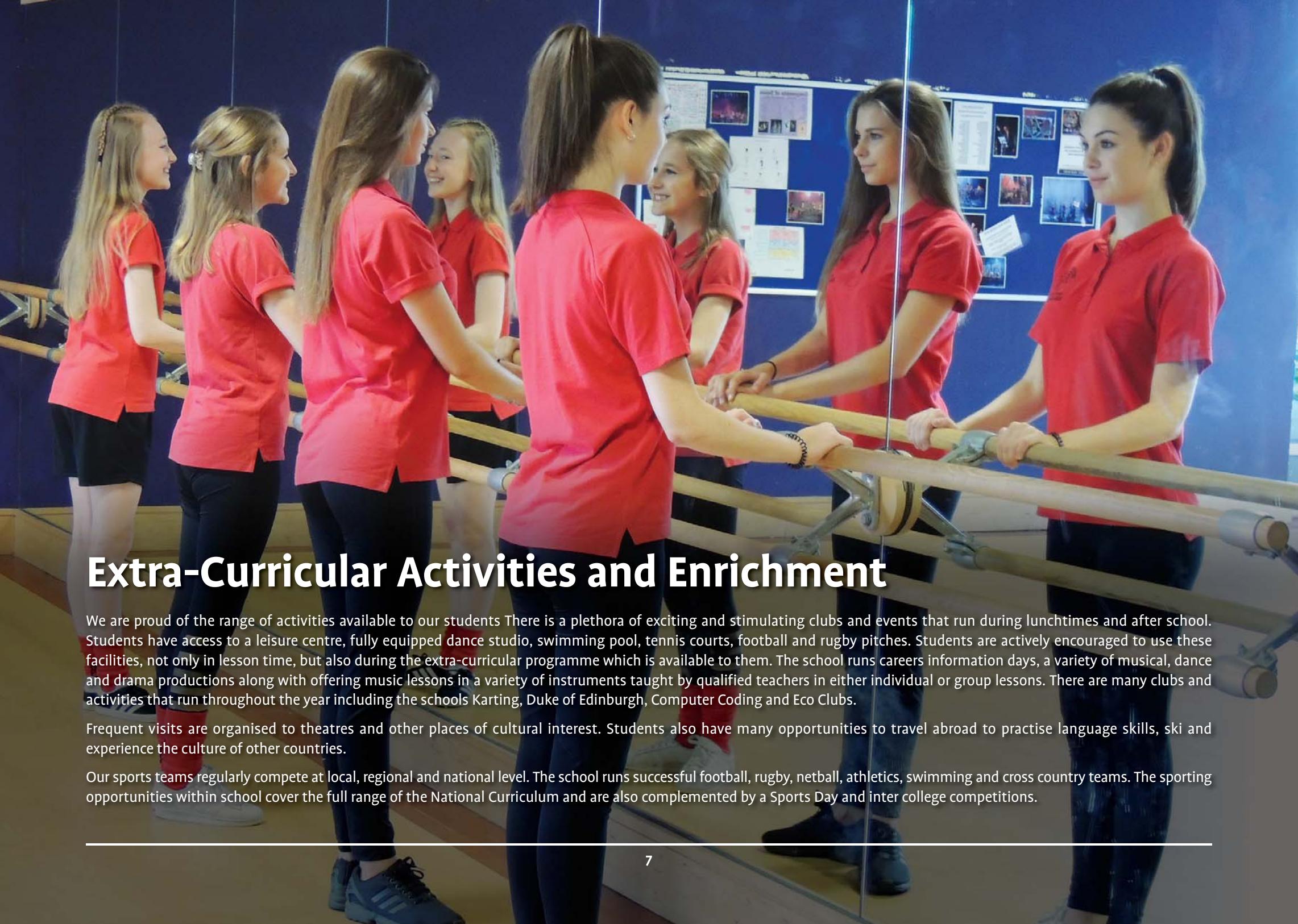
At Key Stage 3 some subjects are taught in grouped ability groups, for other subject's students are taught in mixed ability groups. Barnwell's curriculum is designed to develop student knowledge, understanding and skills. It also helps to shape and grow students personal and thinking skills through the application of **PRIDE**, Aspiration and Challenge which aims to make students confident individuals and life-long learners.

As students move into Key Stage 4, they all follow individualised pathways that are designed for progression into Post 16 education, apprenticeships and further/higher education. Our Post 16 curriculum focuses on not only the most academic A Level qualifications but also Vocational subjects that allow students to gain places at the very best universities or to enter higher level apprenticeships. We are proud of our successful track record of high numbers of Barnwell students securing places to study at Universities across the country.

## Academic Progress

Proactive setting of challenging and aspirational targets and the monitoring of progress ensure that all students achieve the best possible outcomes. Through **PRIDE** we encourage all students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning journey. Setting in some core subjects allows students to work at the optimum pace. More able students are provided with additional challenging work to ensure they fulfil their potential. Those students who need support and intervention with their learning receive targeted help, both within and outside of the classroom. Through high standards of teaching, thorough preparation and extra revision sessions, our dedicated staff prepare students to achieve their best in examinations.

Recognising that parents play a key role in achievement, we work in partnership with our families. Parents and carers receive three progress reports each year and have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress at Parents' and information evenings. We ask for feedback from our parents at every evening as we know that to '**Achieve Excellence Together**' we need to listen and respond to the views of parents.



## Extra-Curricular Activities and Enrichment

We are proud of the range of activities available to our students. There is a plethora of exciting and stimulating clubs and events that run during lunchtimes and after school. Students have access to a leisure centre, fully equipped dance studio, swimming pool, tennis courts, football and rugby pitches. Students are actively encouraged to use these facilities, not only in lesson time, but also during the extra-curricular programme which is available to them. The school runs careers information days, a variety of musical, dance and drama productions along with offering music lessons in a variety of instruments taught by qualified teachers in either individual or group lessons. There are many clubs and activities that run throughout the year including the schools Karting, Duke of Edinburgh, Computer Coding and Eco Clubs.

Frequent visits are organised to theatres and other places of cultural interest. Students also have many opportunities to travel abroad to practise language skills, ski and experience the culture of other countries.

Our sports teams regularly compete at local, regional and national level. The school runs successful football, rugby, netball, athletics, swimming and cross country teams. The sporting opportunities within school cover the full range of the National Curriculum and are also complemented by a Sports Day and inter college competitions.



# Part of the Local Community

We have a long tradition of successful links with our local community.

Local businesses are generous in offering expertise and resources as well as widening students' understanding of the adult world by providing numerous work experience placements. Working in partnership with business helps to enhance the learning experiences of our students.

## Skills for the Future

The school is generously resourced with ICT facilities and computers throughout the school. IT is used to provide a wide range of enhanced applications which engage students in their learning.

Various vocational courses on offer at both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 enable students to gain qualifications that aid their future employment opportunities. To build their life skills, students receive lessons in Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. This programme helps students to develop the decision making ability and self-confidence to make informed choices in life.

Students and families receive comprehensive support in their Key Stage 4 pathways and career decisions. Connexions advisers visit the school regularly to provide one-to-one help.

Our students begin their careers education during Key Stage 3. This helps students learn about and reflect upon the world of work. We stress the importance of informed choice and provide impartial careers and guidance at all times through a student's time at Barnwell. We inform our students about the different career pathways available and help them make informed choices at key milestones in Year 9, 11 and 13.

Most of our students stay on to take advantage of the fantastic opportunities offered by our Post 16 Centre which also attracts young people from a number of local schools. Post 16 students benefit from a purpose-built centre, highly qualified teachers and a wide choice of academic and vocational courses at A Level as well as BTEC/CTEC courses. We provide an aspirational programme of University days and visiting speakers which support our students in making the right decisions about their future.





*Achieving Excellence Together*

### **Barnwell Middle School**

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