



## Newsletter - January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome you back to a new term and take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy New year. This term we are delighted to introduce our new Deputy Headteacher Miss Maria Townsend who has joined Barnwell this term following the retirement of Paul Barnett last summer. Miss Townsend's role is to run our Upper School Campus and oversee all student outcomes and progress. Mr Matt Roberts has moved to be primarily based on the Middle School Campus and whilst I am undertaking work on behalf of the Local Authority for two days per week, Mr Roberts has become Head of School.

As always the aim of our termly newsletter is to provide you with relevant useful information and reminders for the coming year.

*Tony Fitzpatrick - Headteacher*

### **An introduction from Miss Townsend**

My name is Maria Townsend and I am the new Deputy Headteacher here at Barnwell School with responsibility for The Upper School.

I have been teaching since 2002 in London Schools and have been a Senior Leader since 2008, I bring with me a wealth of experience. My educational philosophy is that all children have the right to a safe and nurturing learning environment, where they have abundant opportunities to aspire, achieve and develop. I have high expectations with a relentless but collaborative approach to raising and maintaining standards for all. This year I will be focusing on pupil progress and standards to ensure that all pupils receive the guidance and support that they need to achieve their full potential. We need to ensure that we work in partnership as a community to overcome any barriers that may present themselves over the course of the year; this will mean regular contact between school and home and we know that your role as a parent/carer is crucial to the success of our students.

## **Uniform and mobile phones**

In order to clarify our expectations and to support us in continuing to ensure that we have an appropriate Climate for Learning across the school, we would like to politely remind parents of our Uniform Policy.

The correct uniform must be worn at all times including on the way to and from school and when representing the school off-site.

When students choose to wear non-uniform items to school such as hooded tops they may be confiscated and parents/carers may be asked to collect them from school.

No facial and visible body piercings are allowed and students will be expected to remove their piercings without exception. A reminder that it is permissible to wear the following:

- 1 earring in each ear – a small single stud
- 1 watch

Barnwell School has a very clear policy on mobile phones – ‘not seen, not heard’. Whilst we appreciate that parents/carers may wish their children to have their mobiles on the journey to and from school, mobile phones are not allowed to be used on the school premises unless directed by a class teacher. Mobile phones should be turned off and placed in the students’ bag when entering the school site. If a student brings a mobile phone into school it is the sole responsibility of that student. If a student has their mobile phone out during school time then it will be confiscated and only returned to a parent/carer. If a student needs to contact their parent/carer for any reason they need to go to the school office and seek assistance from a member of staff. Students are not allowed to contact their parents on their mobile phones and we would ask parents/carers not to contact their children in this manner, but contact the school and request a message is passed on.

Please note that defiance towards a member of staff is very serious and that students defying a member of staff can expect to face serious sanctions up to and including a fixed exclusion from school. This includes refusing to hand over a mobile that has been 'seen or heard' as per our climate for learning policy.

## **Ofsted**

This term we expecting to receive a visit from Ofsted as it has been two years since our last inspection. One of the things Ofsted will check is parent view responses provided by our parents at the following website <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> we would therefore be grateful if you can find the time to complete this short questionnaire for the School.

## **How to use Parent View**

### **Log in / Register**

You need your email address and password for the simple log-in process. Just follow the on-screen instructions.

They will send you an email with a link to activate your log-in.

## Questionnaire

There will be 12 questions to answer, for example, 'My child is happy at this school' with a choice of responses:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Use the 'Next' button to move to the next question. If you change your mind you can use the 'Previous' button to go back.

Once you have completed all 12 questions, click on 'Finish the survey' and the questionnaire is complete.

## Student Drop off at Middle Campus

We would just like to remind you that there is no facility to drop students off on the Middle School Campus. There is a high level of congestion around the entrance of the Middle School alongside local residents there are buses and taxis who need access to Greenside School at drop off and collection time. If you drive your child to school it is easier and safer to drop students off on Hydean Way, please do not park in front or opposite the school entrance as this restricts access along the road.

## School Closure Notification System

Hertfordshire County Council operate a Schools Closure Notification System for advising parents should schools have to close for any reason, such as heavy snow. The system is operated by Everbridge and parents are able to register with Everbridge to receive emails and/or texts sent by schools in the event of closure.

Once registered parents can sign up for any school in Hertfordshire, primary or secondary. To register please copy and paste the following link into your browser:

**[member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489](https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489)**

This link will direct you to the sign up page where you should click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip and from there follow the instructions. It should take no more than five minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change your mobile number or email address.

Parents/carers are urged to sign up for this service as we will be contacting Everbridge as soon as a decision is made to close the school for whatever reason, it may not be as obvious as heavy snow. The system will only be used for School Closures or other serious issues and is a supplement to information currently provided via the Herts Direct website and local radio stations. Our website will also be updated regularly.

Information on Everbridge can also be found on our website at, <http://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/Weather-Closures>

### **School Website Updates**

This term we will be working on reorganising the School website to make it easier to navigate and find relevant information. We would welcome any suggestions from parents on what they would find useful to be incorporated in the website in the future. Please email Mr Smith with any suggestions at [d.smith@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:d.smith@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

*Dave Smith – Senior Leader*

### **Parental Workshops**

As a school we value the joint work we are able to do with parents and carers to support our students. To this end we would like to put on some workshops for you to attend if you wish which will give you a better understanding of how we deal with certain issues in school and also give some ideas of how to carry on with this support at home.

The first workshop is entitled " Dealing with peer issues - friendships, bullying and online safety" . The date for this workshop is Thursday 1st February 6pm -7pm on Middle campus. If you would like to attend or require further information please contact Mrs Latta at [r.latta@barnwell.hert.sch.uk](mailto:r.latta@barnwell.hert.sch.uk).

We plan to also put on a workshop for parents and carers before Easter looking at supporting emotional and mental well-being. Further details will be available shortly.

*Rebecca Latta – Assistant Headteacher, Inclusion*

### **PRIDE**

Have you seen our new PRIDE slips, celebrating the successes of our students? These new PRIDE slips should be making their way home to the deserving students over the coming months. Quite a few have already made it! When students show one of our five PRIDE traits in school they have always been able to be awarded a PRIDE point, we have now become 'old school' and returned to paper to allow us to easily celebrate this success with you as parents.

Students are given PRIDE slips for showing Passion, Resilience, Innovation, Determination or Empathy. We are always looking to encourage as many students as possible to exhibit these traits to develop the rounded individual. We will be holding celebratory events later in the year, in the meantime, if one of our new PRIDE slips makes it home to you, please celebrate this achievement with your child as they work on their journey to achieve all five.

*Andy Reavell – Senior Leader*

### **Student Aspirations**

Barnwell School is taking part in an exciting Aspirations programme this year, the purpose of this is to raise student aspirations and outcomes. A starting point for the programme is for all students to take part in a student voice survey. During the autumn term our Key Stage 3

students have completed the survey in their Ethics lessons. So far the surveys are providing some interesting data:

- Over 75% of students think tests are important
- Over 77% of students believe they can be successful at school
- 92%% of students say their parents care about their education
- Two thirds have a teacher who is a positive role model
- Three quarters of our students consider that they push themselves to do better academically and enjoy learning new things
- Over half of our students are not afraid to fail, and learn by trying something new
- Over 85% of our students believe that Post 16 education is important to their future
- Nearly a third of our students would like their parents to attend more school events

To utilise this data, our next steps are that the newly formed student aspiration team will meet to discuss the findings and identify areas for development. The students will then feedback their findings to the full aspirations team.

The survey will then be used to gather data at KS4 and KS5, a staff survey will also take place this term.

If your child is interested in getting involved, please come and talk to or email Mrs Dobbs [j.dobbs@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:j.dobbs@barnwell.herts.sch.uk) at any time.

*Jen Dobbs – Senior Leader*

### **D.E.A.R. -Drop Everything and Read. Promoting literacy across the school**

This year, KS3 students are taking part in Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.). The initiative is designed to encourage students to foster a love of literature, as well as developing reading skills. Each day for twenty minutes, pupils and their teachers stop their lessons to read. DEAR has had a fantastic response from both staff and students. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that all students develop not only their understanding of reading, but also their knowledge and empathy towards other cultures, and the world in which we live.

Every Monday to Thursday, students are expected to read their own books and every Friday, students take part in a reading discussion activity. Whilst completing these varied activities, students learn about what others are reading, and they share what they like about their own books under channelled guidelines. Other discussion activities are based around reading into meanings behind television advertisements or media articles. The discussion activities are specifically set up to match the criteria of the exam board, so students are engaging in assessment foci in a creative way. It is an interactive, engaging and enjoyable means to encourage the love of reading. The D.E.A.R. initiative has provided a strong focus for this and will continue to do so for the rest of the academic year.

I recently spoke to some year 7 students to see how they were finding the DEAR initiative. The feedback I received was extremely positive and students are undoubtedly enjoying it...

*“I love reading because it takes me all over the world on lots of different journeys. I like discussing this on Fridays with my friends.” (Verona Muzaci, year 7.)*

*“Sometimes I am a little hyper and I can’t focus on my work. DEAR helps me to focus, and as soon as I have done twenty minutes of this, it helps me to concentrate on my work” (Ruby West, year 7.)*

*“I like DEAR because it helps to strengthen my imagination. I use ideas from stories in my books when I am writing in English class.” Daijon Selby, year 7.*

*“When I first started reading, I didn’t really like it. But as I have been taking part in DEAR over the past few weeks, I have learned that once you get into a book, it creates a sense of adventure. It’s like having your own world at your fingertips.” (Baylie Braxton, year 7.)*

DEAR is an anagram for READ. We *dare* you to challenge yourself! Explore the world through a good book!

*Lisa Campion – Literacy Lead*

### **Attendance Update**

We are pleased to be able to yet again to comment positively about whole school attendance. Despite a term which is often plagued with illness we have still managed to improve on last year’s figure and also reach the national average of 94.8 %. Thank you for all your continued support in ensuring that your child attends each day.

If you have any queries or need support with school attendance please do not hesitate to contact our attendance co-coordinator Mrs Julie Allingham.

Just a gentle reminder about procedures if your child is unable to come to school - please ring the school on each day of absence as early as possible so we can put it on our system and alert pastoral and subject staff .

*Rebecca Latta – Assistant Headteacher, Inclusion*

### **Sixth Form Update**

72% of our Year 13 cohort have applied to University this year through the UCAS process. We are delighted to report that many, already, are receiving excellent offers. To date, students have also received an unprecedented amount of unconditional offers which is testament to the hard work and dedication of both students and their teachers here at Barnwell.

We will keep you informed of the destinations of all of our sixth form students in future newsletters.

We currently have over 100 applications from Year 11 students wishing to join our sixth form. We have begun the process of interviewing students and this will continue over the forthcoming weeks until half term. We have been incredibly impressed with the high standard of applicants and look forward to working, in partnership, with both parents / carers and students over the remainder of the school year.

If your son / daughter is currently in Year 11 and has not yet applied for a position within the sixth form and wishes to do so, please complete and forward an application form as a matter of urgency.

I am delighted to report that the following students passed their Emergency First Aid at Work course on 12th December 2017:

Madeline Hockey	Georgia Payne	Katy Tyler
Jacinta Kelly	Rachel Thornton	Chloe Simpson
George Ketcher	Alex Plummeridge	Hannah Awoyemi
Katie Walker	Austin Perkins	Rebecca Springall
Jacob Rowe	Rhys Cornish	Toula Stavropoulos

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017, 98 sixth formers from both Barnwell and Marriotts Schools made our annual trip to Winterwonderland in Hyde Park. As always, the students were a total credit to the school and it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate the end of the autumn term with them.



This term our Year 12 students will be beginning the process of planning their work experience placement which takes place during the penultimate week of the summer term (week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018).

The main objectives of work experience for Y12 are:

- To allow students to understand how commerce and industry operate
- To help students to see the relevance of school subjects to the world of work
- To help students gain greater self-confidence and independence
- To enable students to find placements that are related to the career/university course they are considering and also to their AS/ A2 subjects
- To allow them to talk about real experience in their personal statement for their UCAS University applications/CV for the workplace

We would be delighted to hear from any parent who can offer work experience, in their place of work, for our Year 12 students. Please contact Jackie Johnson, Assistant Headteacher – Post 16 on 01438 222500 or via email [j.johnson@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:j.johnson@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

*Jackie Johnson – Assistant Headteacher, Post 16*

### **New GCSE Grading reminder**

As you may be aware, there is a new grading system at GCSE level and I would like to give you some brief guidance on how the grading system works. Students in years 10 and 11 will be graded mostly using the new 9-1 GCSE scheme, although there may be some subjects that still use the old A\*-G system. Please see the guidance below for a comparison of the old and new grading structures. BTEC and NCFE grades remain the same. Students studying BTEC or NCFE courses will be awarded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*.

New Grading Structure									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Old Grading Structure									

*Maria Townsend - Deputy Headteacher Upper Campus*

### **Supporting your Child with Examinations**

Examination time can be a stressful time for our students, some of the ways that you can support your son/daughter in preparing for their exams:

- Engage in your child's education as much as possible as this will improve their chances of success. Research shows that parental engagement is one of the key factors in securing higher student achievement
- The single most effective thing that you can do to ensure good GCSE results is to ensure your child is attending school every day on time as every lesson counts
- Come along to parents' evenings and ask questions and find out from subject specific teachers how you can best help your child at home
- Provide a quiet space and the necessary tools for your child to complete homework and revision
- Show an interest in your child's subjects, help with homework (but not doing it for them!), testing them when they ask you
- Agree the rules and a timetable for homework or revision, balancing work against social time, ensure they stick to the plan and keep revising the plans as necessary
- Be the go-between for your child and the school when necessary; making sure problems are nipped in the bud and asking the questions they can't or won't

*Maria Townsend – Deputy Headteacher Upper Campus*

### **Financial help for parents**

Your child could get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**



- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit.**
- **Music lesson costs** – you could receive 50% or 100% of your child's music lessons with [Hertfordshire Music Service](#), depending on your income and the benefits you get.
- **Bus travel** – a [SaverCard](#) lets a young person (11-18 years old) travel by bus for half price. You might be able to get one for free.
- **Train travel** – a TrainCard lets students in sixth form or college (16-18 years old) get 1/3 off their train tickets. You might be able to get one for free.

You may be able to get this extra help if you receive one of the benefits listed above or you get:

- Child Tax Credit, payable at a higher rate than the family element (more than £547.50)
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Support (not including second adult rebate).

For more information and to apply please go to [Hertfordshire County Council](#) website or by phoning 0300 123 4048.

For every child registered for free School meals, Barnwell School gets £935 this year. The School will only receive this money for those students who have been registered as eligible for Free School Meals. It is therefore important that, in order for the School to receive this additional funding, all those who think they might be eligible apply as soon as possible.

Please remember to inform Hertfordshire County Council if you change your home address as regular audits are carried out and if the home address held is incorrect it may result in your child being removed from their list of those eligible for Free School Meals.

## **Key Dates for 2018**

### **Parent information evenings this term**

Year 9 Options evening 30th January 2018 6.00-7.30pm

Year 9 Parents Evening - Wednesday 7th March 2018 – 4.00pm

Year 10 Parents Evening - Thursday 22nd March 2018 – 4,00pm

Year 11 Parents Evening - Wednesday 24th January 2018 – 4.00pm

### **Term dates reminder**

#### **SPRING TERM 2017**

Thursday 4th January to Thursday 29th March 2018

Half Term Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018

#### **SUMMER TERM 2017**

Monday 16th April to Tuesday 24th July 2018

Half Term Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018

Teacher Training days where students are not in school fall on the following dates:  
Wednesday 3rd January 2018, Monday 23rd July 2018, Tuesday 24th July 2018

**The summer term ends for students on Friday 20th July 2018 at 12.30pm**

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2018**

Wednesday 5 September 2018 – Friday 26 October 2018

Half Term: Monday 29 October 2018 – Friday 2 November 2018

Monday 5 November 2018 – Friday 21 December 2018

#### **SPRING TERM 2019**

Tuesday 8 January 2019 – Friday 15 February 2019

Half Term: Monday 18 February 2019 – Friday 22 February 2019

Monday 25 February 2019 – Friday 5 April 2019

#### **SUMMER TERM 2019**

Tuesday 23 April 2019 – Friday 24 May 2019

Half Term: Monday 27 May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019

Monday 3 June 2019 – Friday 19 July 2019

#### **TRAINING/OCCASIONAL DAYS (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS)**

Monday 3 September 2018

Tuesday 4 September 2018

Monday 7 January 2019

Monday 22 July 2019

Tuesday 23 July 2019

Wednesday 24 July 2019

**NB the school will close around midday for the end of term on Friday 21 December 2018  
and Friday 19 July 2019**