

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE 12

25/6/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this twelfth update finds you and your family well. As promised the weather changed for the better and news of a relaxing of lockdown measures has lifted the spirits of many people. We do appreciate that for many families the uncertainty of the next few weeks and months remains a concern and we want to remind you that we are here to help all families if you need us.

ONLINE AUDIO VERSION OF THIS UPDATE

If you would like to listen to the update, please click [this link](#).

LAST FEW WEEKS AND INTO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The news of a relaxing of lockdown and the many headlines in the press speculating on what schools should be doing has certainly increased anxiety levels amongst students, parents/carers and staff. We would like to reassure our community that we are working to put a comprehensive plan in place to support transition and a return to a full provision in the new academic year. Official government guidance on expectations will not be announced until next week, but we are confident that the plans we are formulating will be able to be continually shaped to have the best interests of all parties moving forward.

Transition – Year 6 into 7

Mr Reavell has been in constant communication with primary schools during lockdown and has put together a full programme of activities and events in line with what we would normally offer to students and parents/carers joining us in September. The website is updated regularly with transition documents, videos and virtual tours to help students with the transition process.

Transition – Year 9 into 10

Option subjects have been setting transition work and we are pleased to report that engagement levels are very high, despite the extended lockdown and hot weather. The academic review meetings will further enhance this provision in the next few weeks and will provide support for students as the transition into Year 10. Mr Launay and Mr Neocleous have sent video updates, are preparing one for the final week of term and are looking at trying to organise a face-to-face opportunity before the end of term.

Transition – Year 11 into 12

It is with great pleasure that we can inform you that student numbers returning to our 6th form continue to increase. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Chapman have put a comprehensive transition programme in place that can be accessed via our website.

Years 7 and 8

We are conscious that alongside form tutor phone calls and regular feedback from teachers, Year 7 and 8 students need to feel reassured about the end of term, summer break and the start of the new academic year. Miss Hull is working with heads of college to attempt to provide face-to-face opportunities for our Year 7 and 8 students before the end of term. More information on these plans will be distributed asap.

September

As explained previously, as a school we are still awaiting formal guidance from the government on what is to be expected when we fully return to school. All we can say at this stage is that we continue to strive to ensure the best provision possible is in place for our students and that we maintain a safe environment for both staff and students. As soon as we know more and have a completed plan, we will inform students and parents/carers.

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ACADEMIC REVIEWS – YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10

Despite a few technical glitches, we are pleased to announce that the initial online face-to-face student reviews with subject teachers for students in year 10 have been a success.

A reminder for all Year 10 students that they must check their email and accept the meeting. Once this has been done, the meeting will appear in their Outlook calendar and in their Microsoft Teams calendar. At the time of the meeting, students should open the appointment and click join the meeting.

Could we please remind students that for a full experience, the device must have a camera and microphone. A smartphone or tablet is ideal for this.

If students do have issues connecting, please email Mrs Lewis and their teacher and a new appointment or a phone call will be made.

The purpose of the meetings (max 10 minutes) will be for Year 10 option subject teachers to touch base with their students in a face-to-face way, ensuring they are happy with the work and to provide guidance on what steps they need to take to continue to make progress through to the end of term.

The meetings will be conducted through our secure Microsoft School Teams application and will only require students to access a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or PC. No specific equipment will be required.

The reason we will be using Microsoft Teams is that in the same way as we are conducting Year 12 live online tutorials, we are able to record that meetings for safeguarding purposes. All recordings will be deleted at the end of term.

The meetings will be held over an 8 working day period and the meetings will be able to be booked between 9am and 5pm, depending on teacher and student availability. Ideally, we would like parents involved in the meetings, but understand that this may not be possible due to other commitments.

The booking system is now live for Year 9 appointments, and protocols, instructions and expectations for the meetings will be distributed on Monday 29th June.

Please remember, this is a new system and we would appreciate it if parents and students could bear with us as we launch it for the very first time.

REMOTE LEARNING

Mr Goodman has continued to receive outstanding science work from his Year 8 class. Congratulations to Ashleigh (cake), Imogen (model) and Kamila (drawing), all excellent examples of the great quality of work being produced by Barnwell students.



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ONLINE RESOURCES

As we continue to support students with their online learning ahead of their return to school in September we would like to promote additional resources available to our students:

- The online classroom, [Oak National Academy](#), will stay open for another academic year, supported by the DfE. Resources will remain free and accessible to support high quality teaching in the classroom and minimise any disruption for students who are not able to attend.
- [The DfE has published a list of independently quality assured online resources](#), all of which are currently free. This includes Isaac Physics, Hegarty Maths and a wide range of other excellent provision.
- [The BBC's expanded Bitesize offer](#) is attracting over 4 million users each week and they have plans for themed weeks over the summer term, in partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Science Museum Group.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Thanks to the amazing work of Marcus Rashford and many others, the government have agreed to provide additional funding for a COVID Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to claim vouchers for the 6 week holiday period. The school are already applying for this support and will be contacting individual families in due course.

KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SCHOOL PROVISION

The school will remain open through to the end of the summer term for vulnerable children and key worker children only. Please support the government lockdown measures by keeping your child at home wherever possible and encouraging stringent social distancing. If your situation at home has changed and you require your child to attend the in-school provision, please email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

WELLBEING, SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORT

In these difficult times, mental health and wellbeing should be at the forefront of our minds. As previously stated, education is important but the mental and physical health of children and young people is the priority. We have included new resources that may help to support parents and students during this current lockdown phase.

Face to Face contact with Children Services

Children Services have produced a leaflet to help prepare families for face to face contact with CS. The information leaflet can be accessed via [this link](#).

Thinkuknow

Thinkuknow is an education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command.

Since 2006, Thinkuknow has been keeping children and young people safe by providing education about sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Thinkuknow is unique. It is underpinned by the latest intelligence about child sex offending from CEOP Command.

Thinkuknow aims to ensure that everyone has access to this practical information – children, young people, their parents and carers and the professionals who work with them.

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Alongside the Thinkuknow website the programme provides educational resources, including films, cartoons and lesson plans, to help professionals raise young people's awareness.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

Domestic Abuse

If home isn't safe, we're here to help. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, call 0300 790 6772* for advice and support.

In an emergency, always call 999. If you are afraid to speak, call 999 from a mobile and press 5, 5.

For more information go to hertssunflower.org

FREE YCT counselling for young people 11-19

We would like to make you aware of the FREE counselling service for children and young people aged 11-19. As you know, YCT is a well-respected, local, mental health charity, operating in Harlow and close surround for over 30 years. They receive funding from Hertfordshire County Council to provide counselling to young people who may be struggling with a variety of issues including anxiety, depression, family breakdown, bereavement, relationship issues, school refusal, self-harm, low self-esteem and bullying. This counselling is provided in community locations in Stevenage, Ware, Hoddesdon, Turnford and Bishops Stortford. To find out more call 01279 414090 (option 1) or visit the website www.yctsupport.com

Finally, following recent events and as part of our continual review of equality and diversity policies and practice, we will be holding a staff conference next Tuesday. The purpose of the conference is to begin a body of work looking to shape the future of Barnwell school in terms of gender, race, disability, religion and sexual orientation, and will look at various aspects of the school including: role models, mentoring, leadership, policies, procedures and curriculum. Look out for more on this in the coming weeks.

Stay safe and please do not hesitate to contact the school on communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk if you require clarification or advice on any points linked to education or Barnwell School.

Regards

Mr T Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Roberts
Head of School