

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE 13

3/7/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Well another week has flown by and we hope this latest update finds you and your family well. The next phase of lockdown relaxation is due to be implemented tomorrow and we are pleased to inform you that we have received the long-awaited government guidance for the return to school next term. There are still many uncertainties in society and we do appreciate that for some families the next few weeks and months remain a concern and we want to remind you that we are here to help 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

Further to our comments last week, we are sure you will have heard that the government have now officially confirmed that schools will be re-opening to all students - full time from September. We are pleased that the guidance for schools was also published yesterday - this will allow us to plan in good time.

As a school we will be looking at the guidance over the next week and we will be working to put a comprehensive plan in place to support transition and a return to a full provision in the new academic year. We will share this with you as soon as we can.

Transition – Year 6 into 7

A full programme of activities and events has now been distributed, 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. We are looking forward to our online transition events over the next two weeks.

Years 7/8/9 face-to-face opportunities

Miss Hull and Mr Launay have been able to structure a series of Year 7/8/9 student face-to-face meetings in school over the next week. Appointments have been made and we look forward to welcoming more of our students back into school.

ACADEMIC REVIEWS – YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10

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

Having reviewed the process we have made a change for the Year 9 meetings and will now be using the video facility built within the Parents' evening booking system. Information about using the system for meetings and protocols have been distributed to all Year 9 parents.

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.

FUTURES AND ASPIRATIONS

We are delighted to launch our brand new careers information and guidance bulletin called 'Futures and Aspirations'. This regular bulletin will regularly highlight key websites and exciting opportunities for our students. All students have received this bulletin via their school email addresses. The first bulletin is attached and can also be accessed via our website [link](#).

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FREE SCHOOL MEALS

As previously announced, 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.

YC Hertfordshire Services for Young People survey

YC Herts are currently conducting a young people's survey telling us how the COVID-19 has affected them. The survey targets 11-17s and 3 people will be randomly selected to win **£30 Amazon vouchers** for completing it. Link to survey is: <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/35KVE7/>

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](#).

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. For more information go to hertssunflower.org

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

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

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