

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE 14

10/7/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of the penultimate week of the academic year, we hope this latest update finds you and your family well. As explained last week, the Government position, which I am sure we all agree with, is that returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. We received information from the government and despite the guidelines not making it easy for schools, especially split site schools, we would like to reassure you we are working to maintain a high-quality provision for all. We will ensure we can deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, whilst maintaining all elements of health and safety. You can read the Government guidance in full by following [this link](#):

We have been considering staggered starts, breaks, lunches and ends to the day, the management of the canteen and toilets, practical subjects, movement around school and across sites and of course the continual cleaning of classrooms and communal spaces.

We are also working with Hertfordshire County Council and school bus providers to ensure travel arrangements work with our plans.

Next week, Year 11 and Year 13 students will receive a letter outlining the plans regarding results days in August. This will include the issuing of grades and the next steps for students.

September will be different for students and we are currently liaising with our pastoral teams and mental health specialists to ensure students feel they have a safe place to go and someone to talk to, should they find this helpful. Key policies regarding safeguarding and climate for learning have been updated to reflect the need for good sense whilst back in school, these are available on the website.

As you will be aware the school has been open to Keyworker students and supporting families continuously since March when we went into lockdown. The school will be closed for the holidays, families that are in receipt of free school meal vouchers will still receive support. Our safeguarding team will be available throughout the summer break and can be contacted via normal channels. During the weeks of 20th and 27th July we are encouraging all staff to take a break from electronic devices, therefore if you contact the school during this period there is likely to be a delay in us responding. communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk will continue to be in operation.

All staff have been outstanding in training themselves with the use of technology to support learning since lockdown. We will be taking many of the excellent online practices forward to develop our blended learning approach and to support us should we be forced into lockdown in future.

There is still plenty to finalise before September, but we wanted you to feel reassured that behind the scenes, given the time frames, that we have been working to get September absolutely right for everyone, as far as we can. We will issue organisational plans before the end of term and will provide updated information throughout the summer holidays.

ONLINE AUDIO VERSION OF THIS UPDATE

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

KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE STUDENT PROVISION

This provision will end on Thursday 16th July. We would like to thank all students, staff and parents/carers for their support with this provision.

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TRANSITION YEAR 6 INTO 7

A full programme of activities and events has now been distributed and we held several successful live online events this Thursday. The website is updated regularly with transition documents, videos and virtual tours to help students with the transition process.

YEAR 7/8/9 FACE-TO-FACE OPPORTUNITIES

Miss Hull and Mr Launay have led a well-attended series of Year 7/8/9 student face-to-face meetings in school over the last week. It was lovely to see so many of our students back in school – they have been missed.

YEAR 7/8/9/10 WELLBEING SURVEYS

Miss Hull and Mr Launay have sent student wellbeing surveys to all Year 7-10 email addresses. This is an opportunity for students to share their thoughts and feelings about returning to school in September.

ACADEMIC REVIEWS – YEAR 9

The second series of face-to-face student reviews with subject teachers for students in year 9 is proving to be another success. Students, parents/carers and staff have found the parents' evening system to be an effective tool to hold the online meetings.

Thank you to everyone involved for their patience with this new system.

FUTURES AND ASPIRATIONS

Following the launch of our brand-new careers information and guidance bulletin called 'Futures and Aspirations', we are pleased to attach our second edition and to provide [a link](#) to the web-based version. This bulletin will regularly highlight key websites and exciting opportunities for our students. All students have received this bulletin via their school email addresses.

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 (Thursday 16th July) 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

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