

# BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE 15

17/7/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Well we are here – the end of term...

As this very strange academic year comes to an end, we hope this final update finds you and your family well. We would like to start by thanking all parents/carers for their ongoing support this year and we know it has been challenging to juggle work, running a household and home-schooling your children. We would like to share something written by a parent on Facebook recently:

“I want to know who my child’s teacher is next year... I just hope it’s not me!”.

The government position is that returning to school is vital for children’s education and for their wellbeing and should be in place for September. Therefore hopefully you will not need to be your child’s teacher.

So many positive events took place prior to lockdown and the school was making great strides towards outstanding individual outcomes for students and was preparing to demonstrate to Ofsted that we are a good school. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and these plans were temporarily knocked off course. As you are aware, the school has submitted over 2000 centre assessed grades for our Year 11 and 13 students. These grades are what we as a school believe the students deserve for their effort and ability levels in their examination courses. We are hopeful that the examination boards agree with these judgements.

As for Ofsted, we have continued to work to improve on the development areas highlighted by the previous report and build on the clear strengths of the school. Throughout this lockdown period, we have received many emails and messages from students and parents/carers praising the amazing work teachers and pastoral staff have put in to ensure the wellbeing and safety of students remains a priority. This is alongside the challenge of still providing remote education to support the academic progress of each year group.

Earlier this week we published the Parents, Carers and Students Guide to our full reopening in September. If you did not receive a copy of this please click [this link](#). The document is as ready as it can be for this moment in the school year, but we will be working on our plans throughout the summer break and will be updating areas as and when we receive further government guidance. Any significant changes will be sent to you via schoolcomms.

One omission from the guide was regarding bus travel to and from school. We are still working with Hertfordshire County Council and school bus providers to ensure travel arrangements work with our plans and we will update parents/carers before the start of term.

September will be different for students and should you or your children have any concerns about returning to school or would like to inform the pastoral team of any changes to home situations, please use the following [online form](#).

Our safeguarding team will be available throughout the summer break and can be contacted via normal channels. During the weeks of 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk) will continue to be in operation.

There is still plenty to finalise before September, but we wanted you to feel reassured that behind the scenes, we continue to work to get September absolutely right for everyone, as far as we can.

## ONLINE AUDIO VERSION OF THIS UPDATE

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

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## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES - Holocaust Educational Trust's Outreach event

This year's Holocaust Educational Trust's Outreach event, involving a visit from a survivor to speak with our year 9 students, could not be held as planned due to the current Covid-19 situation. However, thanks to the Holocaust Educational Trust, the event was turned into a virtual event, held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, allowing a select number of year 9 students and staff, along with 400 other students and staff from schools across the country, to engage with a survivor from the comfort of their own homes.



It was an exceptional experience to listen to survivor, Eva Clarke, tell her family's story and of her mother's inspiring spirit to survive despite the odds. Listening to Eva's testimony of what her family went through and of her own survival, as she was conceived and later born in a concentration camp in defiance of Nazi rules, was a stark reminder that a survivor's testimony is never the same merely because they happened during the same event.

Students and staff alike were grateful for the opportunity and were in awe of and inspired by Eva Clarke and her strong-willed and determined mother. Our thanks to the Holocaust Educational Trust for making this possible and giving the Barnwell school community, its students especially, an opportunity to be a part of it.

## SUMMER READING

If you and/or your child is a member of Herts Libraries, you will be able to access free e-books and audiobooks through the library website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives) in the Borrow Box section. This is a great way to encourage our young people to enjoy reading. We have also included KS3 and KS4 suggested reading lists if they need some inspiration of where to start. Happy Reading!!

[KS3 Reading list](#)

[KS4 Reading list](#)

[KS3/4 Stretch and Challenge Reading List](#)

## WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

### ***Anna Freud Self Care Booklet***

Please find [the link](#) to a booklet on 'Self Care in the Summer' from the world-renowned Anna Freud Centre. You may find this useful for your son/daughter to support them with feelings around unexpected change and general anxiety. At the end of the booklet you will also find links for some sources of support over the coming weeks.

### ***Problem gaming and gambling support***

This website <https://parents.ygam.org/> provides parents/carers with information around problematic gaming and gambling to support their families, to help build resilience and establish a healthy online/offline balance.

Have a great summer and we look forward to welcoming all existing and new students back to Barnwell in September.

Regards

Mr T Fitzpatrick  
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Roberts  
Head of School