

Start of term update - 1

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to start by saying how lovely it has been to welcome all of our new and existing students back to school. Working in an educational setting is about nurturing and developing the lives of young people, and to finally have face-to-face engagement with our students has been re-invigorating.

Despite the alternative transition arrangements, the Year 7 students have made a great start and have settled well. Year 12 numbers have increased by 50% this year and we are delighted to see so many of our amazing students return to the 6th form.

As stated previously there have had to be lots of changes to systems and structures at school due to current COVID restrictions. Every school has their own logistical challenges and our own split site set up has certainly tested our strategic and operational planning. We are pleased to say however that after two days the majority of new measures have worked and students have responded in a very mature way. Any changes following our internal reviews will be communicated to students and parents/carers.

Obviously, we have staggered start times and we request that students only arrive at school for either:

- ***Breakfast club (8.00am-8.25am starting Wednesday 9th September) or***
- ***5 minutes before their first lesson***

School photos

We had our Key Stage 4 and 5 photo session today and everything went according to plan, with Mrs Johnson getting all photos taken in record time.

The Key Stage 3 photo day is next Wednesday (9th September) and I am sure the session will be equally successful.

Uniform and equipment

Again, this has been a very positive element to the start of term. Students have returned to school looking immaculate and fully prepared for learning. Thank you to all parents/carers for working with us to maintain our high standards.

LASS Testing

Each year, our Year 7 students all sit a 'Lucid Assessment System for Schools' test (LASS test). LASS is a suite of interactive computerised tests designed for the assessment of literacy and cognitive skills in the age ranges 8 to 11 and 11 to 15 years. The LASS suite for each age group comprises eight standardised tests of reasoning, reading, phonic decoding, spelling, memory (visual and verbal), and phonological awareness. These tests have been developed in order to provide teachers with an easy-to-use method for identification of dyslexia and provide useful standardised data to assess individual student learning requirements. These tests are absolutely nothing to worry about and it is not possible or necessary to revise for them. They are fun, interactive computer-based tests that will only take about 45 mins.

To find out more about the LASS Tests please click [here](#).

In the absence of the Year 6 SATS testing this year, it is more important than ever for us to obtain standardised learning information as soon as possible for us to use, in conjunction with information from our primary feeder schools.

Start of term update - 1

We have added the timetable below so you can see the day that your child will be sitting their LASS test. Your child will know what class they are in. 7H3 will be sitting their LASS tests in the Learning Support base throughout the week. The tests require students to wear headphones and due to current COVID restrictions, we cannot provide these for each class, **so could you please ensure that your child brings in their own wired headphones on the day of their test.** Wireless Bluetooth headphones such as the recent 'AirBuds' will not be permitted as they will not link to our computer system.

If you have any questions regarding the LASS tests please email Mr Patching (m.patching@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

Year 7 - LASS Testing							
Tuesday 8th		Wednesday 9th		Thursday 10th		Friday 11th	
P1		P1		P1		P1	
P2	7E1	P2	7E3	P2	7R2	P2	7H1
P3		P3		P3		P3	
P4	7E2	P4	7R1	P4	7R3	P4	7H2
P5		P5		P5		P5	
P6		P6		P6		P6	

Satchel One (Show My Homework)

All new parents will receive their log in details as a paper copy and via Schoolcomms early next week. Students log in to SMHW via the O365 link and using their school email and school password.

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts
Head of School