

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Year 6 into 7 Transition 2021

I hope you are well and staying safe in these extraordinary times. With the ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19, there are lots of unknowns and uncertainties regarding what we will and will not be able to organise in terms of transition activities. I am hopeful that we will be able to organise most of the key events and activities to support the transition process, but obviously we need to be sure that these activities can be done safely and without any undue risk. We are extremely hopeful that the situation will be fully resolved by September and your child will be able to begin their time at Barnwell as expected.

Year 7 Information Booklet

For you to further support your child with the transition process, we have published our Year 7 Student Information Booklet. The Student Information Booklet complements the school prospectus and provides information and advice to ensure the transition from primary to secondary education is as smooth and stress-free as possible.

Online Information Gathering Form

To gather information about each child coming to join us, we have set up an online form to survey all students (and parents). There are a total of 18 questions on the form ranging from hobbies and interests to friendships, worries and the things you like about your current primary school. None of the questions are complicated but they will need some thought given to them.

As a school we are very aware that the move from Year 6 into Year 7 can be a very daunting and worrying time for some students. In order to reduce this worry, we always try to set up our teaching groups and form groups around existing friendships, ever mindful of course that, for a small minority of students, a fresh start can be a better option. The form therefore asks for the names of four friends, these do not have to be from the same primary school, but obviously they do need to be students that are coming to join Barnwell in September, or students that are already at Barnwell in the current Year 7 or 8. We will do our best then to make things fit around friendship choices factoring in also the views of your current primary school teachers.

The online form can be accessed by clicking the link below or by copying and pasting the URL into a web browser. You will need the last 6 digits of your Application Reference Number to complete this survey.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pHPvZM7DxkCu2EYYyLkV5_dKcXzmp1VBkAPTas8tRvtUQktSNUNOSVhJMDI1WE5GR1U1TEzENzNaOS4u

Could I please ask that over the next week 'and a bit', you set aside some time to work through our online form with your child, allowing them a chance to give thought to their answers. We are asking for this form to be completed by Wednesday 28th

April. Apologies for the extremely short turnaround on this, as explained below this tight deadline is to allow us to make bookings and plan accordingly for our summer school.

Summer School

Due to the exceptional circumstances of the last year, the government has set aside a significant sum of money to support schools to run Transition Summer Schools during the six-week school summer holidays. As a school, we have historically always run a Summer School for a small group of students, but this year with the funding from National Government, we are able to offer a summer school place to every single student coming to join us in September.

Our Summer School will take place during the week Monday 26th to Friday 30th July and will include a range of activities to support students to catch up some of the missed content of Year 6, as well as activities to prepare them for their start in Year 7, and hopefully (subject to the lifting of COVID restrictions) some trips and visits. This is a fully funded summer school and therefore is offered free of charge to all students.

As this government funding has been set up for all schools across England, we are expecting that bookings for trips and visits will become very much in demand during the summer, we are therefore extremely keen to get our bookings made as early as possible. We do appreciate that there are likely to be several families that have booked to go away during this time and therefore will not be able to take up this opportunity, but we are also aware that there is likely to be a higher take up than 'normal' for this. Unfortunately, this leaves us needing a bit of a commitment as soon as we can. There is a question in the online form to gain an idea of the interest in our Summer School, it is not completely committal, but we would like to try and get a reasonably accurate number to allow us to make bookings and develop our plans for our Summer School.

I am very aware that the move from primary to secondary school is 'a big one' and that this can be a very worrying time for some students and parents. Please rest assured, despite these unprecedented and difficult times, we will do our utmost to make the transition as smooth as it can possibly be and will support students and their families throughout.

If you have any questions regarding the transition process, please do drop us an email at starting@barnwell.herts.sch.uk This mailbox is monitored by a team of staff and is the best way of getting the right people to answer the right questions quickly.

If you have not already visited our website and, most importantly at this stage, the transition pages, it is well worth spending some time looking at these. There are some useful video introductions and tours as well as other information about the transition process. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/parents-info/yr-6-into-yr-7-transition/>

I look forward to meeting you very soon.

Keep well and stay safe.

Kind regards

A Reavell

Andy Reavell
Senior Leader
Transition Manager