



# Barnwell School

**'The Barnwell Way'**

2022/2023



## **Introducing 'The Barnwell Way'**

We know that choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. We pride ourselves on being the first choice for many families across Stevenage and the surrounding area. We are graded 'GOOD' by Ofsted and recognised as a *'Warm, welcoming and friendly school'* (Ofsted 2021)

We are a successful school, with unique features and benefits, central to our success is **'The Barnwell Way'** a holistic approach to student success.

**'The Barnwell Way'** stems from our vision and values.

Our Vision is to create and deliver an outstanding educational experience for every student at Barnwell School.

By setting high expectations, we expect all students to progress and maximise their potential by seizing the opportunities provided and valuing their education. This will enable them to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world.

Our values are to:

- Support student growth and development through our community ethos of respect and tolerance
- Provide a learning environment which is both stimulating and supportive
- Provide an aspirational and engaging curriculum
- Deliver the highest standards of teaching and learning
- Make sure that outstanding progress is achievable by all
- Inspire a culture for lifelong learning
- Build positive partnerships with parents and the local community

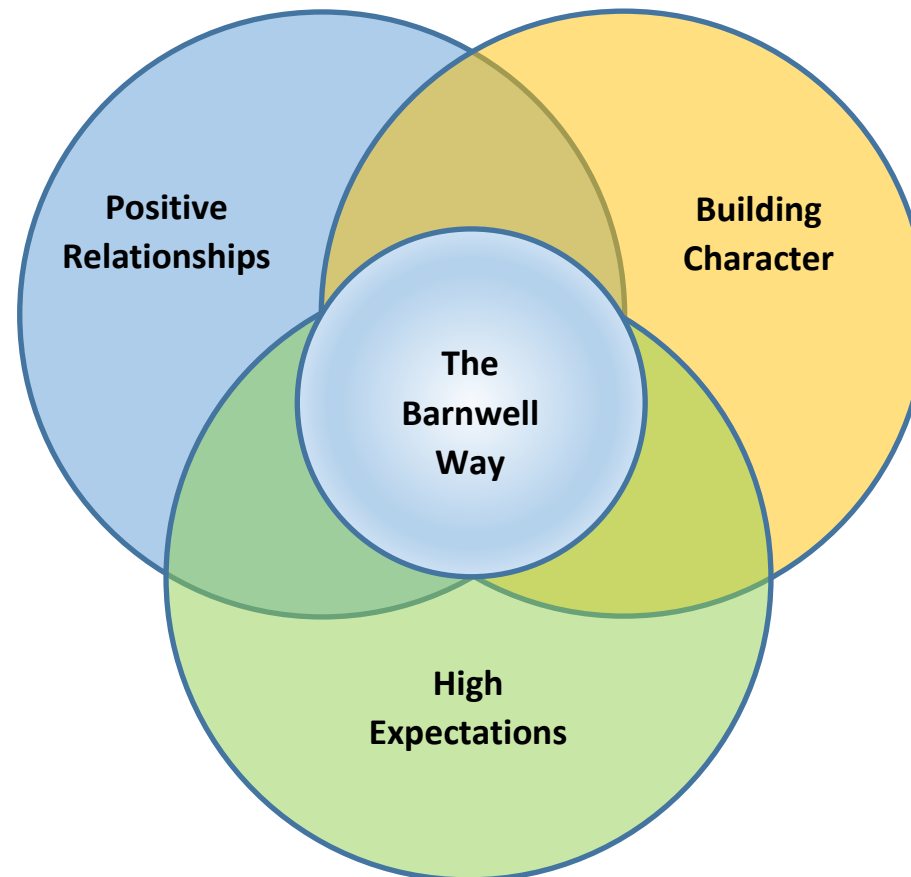
We encourage you to read our most recent Ofsted Report, it captures the essence of the school, quotes from the report are used in this publication.

## **Making the difference - 'The Barnwell Way'**

'The Barnwell Way' is our holistic approach to education, we know that this is highly effective, it is based on three interconnected foci, that work together to provide the conditions, opportunities, challenge and support for a successful education.

The difference at Barnwell is that we focus equally on providing the right conditions and support, developing student character and excellent student outcomes.

At Barnwell we believe in setting high expectations, there is no tension between providing the right conditions to learn and a rigorous and stretching academic education coupled with outstanding wider personal development. We know that when these components work together, they contribute to well educated, and rounded young people who achieve positive outcomes.



## **Positive relationships:**

Relationships are integral to successful learning; this is our starting point and the key to igniting student growth and learning.

*'For a person to 'grow' they need an environment that provides them with genuineness, acceptance and empathy. Without these, relationships and healthy personalities will not develop as they should, much like a tree will not grow without sunlight and water'*

*Carl Rodgers, Simply Psychology, 2014*

An absolute strength of Barnwell is the building of strong and positive relationships and understanding between staff and students, acceptance and empathy foster mutual respect and contributes to providing the right conditions for our students to flourish and grow in a safe and positive environment.

We know and understand our children, we use nurture principles to ensure that every child's needs are understood and met.

Student wellbeing is very important to us, throughout the year our pastoral team are there to support all students and ensure that they are happy in school, we work with our student ambassadors to learn and understand the needs and desires of our students. This important work shapes many decisions in school, we actively listen to our students and parents.

Across both campuses we provide consistency and routine, this creates a secure environment where our students know what to expect and what we expect of them. This provides security and a safe environment to take risks, learn from mistakes and grow.

*'Even though the school is based on two sites, it feels like one school. Pupils benefit from consistent routines and a strong induction programme' (Ofsted 2021)*

Forming strong relationships is the first step in ensuring that our students can fulfil their true potential, however this is not enough alone, we also need to foster student growth.

## **Building character:**

Even with the right conditions for learning, children still need motivation, encouragement and reward to be successful, we believe in intrinsic motivation rather than extrinsic, Through **Character Education** our students learn how to intrinsically motivate themselves from the desire to 'do the right thing' rather than needing extrinsic motivation in the form of sanctions or material reward.

We support our students to build self-belief and become socially confident to grow and build character.

*'Pupils want to do well in lessons, contributing well to class discussions, showing curiosity in the questions they ask. Pupils listen closely to their teachers in class' (Ofsted 2021)*

Our students develop the ability to remain motivated by long term goals, see a link between effort and achievement, overcome and persevere through and learn from setbacks by developing good coping skills.

This in turn ensures that our students are internally driven, self-regulated and not reliant on material reward or enforced compliance.

Learning and habituation of positive moral attributes/virtues, or as we refer to them at Barnwell as characteristics underpin this approach.

We know that students who realise and surpass their individual academic targets have these key characteristics, they have enabled a successful learning journey. Characteristics that we encourage and develop in all of our students, through **Character Education** are to be **Passionate, Respectful, Innovative, Determined and Empathetic - PRIDE**

Throughout their schooling **PRIDE** characteristics are highlighted to our students and opportunities to develop them are planned into lessons in order for our students to demonstrate passion, respectfulness, innovation, determination and empathy. We challenge our students every year to earn **PRIDE** recognition, students who consistently show **PRIDE** characteristics are recognised at our annual PRIDE Celebration evenings.

*'Through the curriculum, pupils learn the school values of PRIDE. This learning is interwoven with a well-considered curriculum for personal, social, health and economic education' (Ofsted 2021)*

Social confidence enables our students to make points and debate robustly and constructively, listening attentively to the views of others, behaving with courtesy and good manners.

*'Pupils are well mannered; they hold doors open for each other. Pupils behave well around the school' (Ofsted 2021)*

Extra-curricular or as we prefer to call it co-curricular opportunities sit alongside our taught curriculum, there is strong provision that is designed to focus on high quality activities across a wide spectrum of different interests. This provides our students with many opportunities to experience and master skills that complement or contrast their taught curriculum.

*'Pupils also have a broad offer of extra-curricular activities' (Ofsted 2021)*

### **High expectations:**

The final part of **'The Barnwell Way'** is an unrelenting focus on high expectations and excellent student outcomes. All students are challenged and supported to be the best they can possibly be, no child is left behind, every child matters at Barnwell.

A well-designed curriculum ensures that students grow incrementally, making progress in mastering complex content. Our Teaching and Learning strategies take into account the needs of every student, on-going professional development for our staff ensure that we remain at the leading edge of Teaching and Learning.

*'Pupils follow a broad and ambitious curriculum. Teachers deliver the well-designed curriculum confidently. Pupils enjoy their learning in a range of subjects. Curriculum planning is strong, and teachers consistently use teaching methods to help pupils remember key learning over time' (Ofsted 2021)*

Through challenge and aspiration, we instil in our students an understanding and drive to secure the highest levels of academic achievement and progress. We focus on the individual needs, strengths, skills and talents of each and every student.

Proactive setting of challenging and aspirational targets and the monitoring of progress ensure that all students achieve the best possible outcomes. Through Character and **PRIDE** we encourage all students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning journey.

Setting is progressively used across the school allowing students to work at the optimum pace. Quality first teaching ensures lessons are appropriately challenging, ensuring students fulfil their potential. Those students who need support and intervention with their learning receive targeted help, both within and outside of the classroom. Through high standards of teaching, thorough preparation and detailed analysis, our dedicated staff prepare students to achieve their best in public examinations.



Barnwell Middle School  
Shephall Green  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG2 9XT

Website: [www.barnwellschool.co.uk](http://www.barnwellschool.co.uk)  
Email:  
[communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01438 222500  
Fax: 01438 222501

Barnwell Upper School  
Barnwell  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG2 9SW