



10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable break over the summer. I would like to thank you for your overwhelming positivity and comments of support over the past few days. It has been fantastic to welcome back your children and we have already had some really successful days where the students have risen to the challenges and are focused on learning.

The students have settled in well, especially our new Y7s, and are already comfortable with their new school, the systems and finding their way around. All the year groups are modelling the 3 Guiding Principles in supporting Y7s and it is great to be back into our routines.

I want to thank you all for your part in helping us return safely with your COVID testing. This identified 11 cases of COVID within the students and allowed them to isolate, keeping the rest of the school community safe. We encourage you to continue with the twice weekly COVID testing support us in maintaining this safety.

I was hoping to be able to write this letter without mentioning COVID, but unfortunately not.

COVID-19 update

Like us, I'm sure you're keen that your children remain in school this academic year and we want to remind you of the ways you can help this happen:

- Cases of COVID-19 remain high in our county - the virus has not gone away. Remember, it remains a legal requirement that anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 stays at home and gets a PCR test.
- Please continue to use lateral flow tests on a Sunday and Wednesday (twice weekly) and record the results on the links below. This has already picked up 11 students that would have come to school on the first day back with COVID potentially spreading the virus further. These students are now isolating and continuing their education remotely and wish them a speedy recovery.
Please inform school of the test result using this link <http://bit.ly/studentcovidtestresults>
You will also need to log the test results with the NHS via the gov.uk website as well <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
Students who test positive in either of their lateral flow tests **should not attend school** and will need to isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. If your child is unable to attend school, please inform school using attendance@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk.
- Young people under 18 years and six months who have been identified as a close contact will continue to attend school –including if someone in their household has COVID-19 - provided they are symptom free. However, they should still get a PCR test and limit socialising until they know the results. This will help keep loved ones and the wider community safe.
- It is also recommended that face coverings are worn in busy and enclosed areas including on public or school transport. So whilst some measures have relaxed, we can all still work together to ensure our children get the education they deserve this academic year by limiting the spread of COVID-19 in school.

We have been busy preparing for pupils' return, to make sure all pupils can access face-to-face, high-quality education in the safest possible way. We have reviewed our risk assessments in line with national guidance and the approaches taken will depend on a number of factors such as whether a school is currently experiencing an outbreak, case rates in their community, on-site facilities, the size and layout of the school site and staffing levels.

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Schools will no longer be responsible for tracing close contacts of pupils who test positive for COVID-19 - this will be done by NHS Test and Trace – but in some circumstances we will be asked to support the process. Whilst restrictions, such as bubbles, have been eased to allow a full return to school activities, handwashing and regular cleaning across school buildings will still feature as part school life. In the event of a school outbreak extra action might be considered when cases reach a threshold, which could include face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for secondary school students; moving group activities outdoors or enhanced ventilation and deep cleaning. We will continue to work with the DFE and Local Authority to agree what action should be taken and we ask that you support us and the difficult decisions we may have to make.

Uniform

We have been very pleased with the smartness and quality of uniform, for all year groups, on their return to school and of how proudly they have been wearing it. A small minority are still awaiting delivery of a blazer – we are assured that this is imminent.

Attendance

We welcome a new Attendance Manager this year, Justine Cambridge. Building on from the success of last year, attendance remains strong so far at 97.96%. We know the impact attendance has on learning and outcomes and students with an attendance below 95% achieve on average a grade lower than their peers who attend regularly. Should you require any support from the attendance team, please email:

attendance@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk

Barnwood Park Charity Plan 2021 - 2022

| Term | Date | Charity |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 22 nd October 2021 | House Charities 1 |
| 2 | 12 th November 2021 | Children in Need |
| | 17 th December 2021 | Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children |
| 3 | 18 th February 2022 | House Charities 2 |
| 4 | 18 th March 2022 | Comic Relief -Red Nose Day |
| 5 | 7 th April 2022 | House Charities 3 |
| 6 | 1 st July 2022 | House Charities 4 |

At Barnwood Park we try to support our community and help to make a difference to people's lives and one way of doing this is via our charity work. Our chosen charities (House Charities) will be chosen by the students through their Student Parliament representatives and these will be shared with you once the Parliament representatives have been appointed. We also support national charity events such as Children in Need, Comic Relief/Sports Relief and Save the Children through the Christmas Jumper Day.

Reports and Parents Evenings

KS3 reports will remain twice a year and normally in Term 3 and Term 6. Both should include tutor comments. There will be no subject comments in KS3. Reports will also include information of GL Assessment outcomes. KS4 reports will be at Christmas, Easter and the Summer (Y10 only). With subject comments in Term 2 for the Christmas reports for Y11 and Term 4 for the Easter reports for Y10. Tutor Comments at Easter for Y11, and Christmas and Summer for Y10.

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Parents' Evenings

We expect Parents' Evenings to remain online at least until Christmas with COVID cases remaining high to help maintain safety of parents, students and staff.

Year 7: Tutors Evening in Term 1, all Subject Teachers Parents Evening Term 5

Year 8: Subject Teachers Parents Evening Term 4

Year 9: Subject Teachers Parents Evening Term 2 (launch of Options process) [NB Options Evening Term 4]

Year 10: Subject Teachers Parents' Evening Term 6

Year 11: Subject Teachers Parents' Evening Term 3 (following written report and PPEs in Term 2)

Staffing

We are delighted to announce the following changes to our current staff:

- Charlie Foster – Assistant Pastoral Lead Y9
- Sarah Lambden – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Steve Pugh – Teacher in charge of Music and Dance
- Justine Cambridge – Attendance Manager

We are also delighted to welcome the following staff members to our Barnwood Park family:

- Hannah Searle – Geography Teacher
- Hannah Hutchinson – Maths Teacher
- James Holliday – English Teacher
- Gareth Lewis – Maths Teacher
- Elise Saunders – Dance Teacher
- Danielle Lee – Business Manager
- Jade Turner – TA
- Ewelina Wlodarska - TA Apprentice
- Josh Fowler – IT Apprentice

Thank you again for your ongoing support and we wish you and your child every happiness and success this academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr Albon

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