

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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HOW WILL I KNOW WHERE TO GO?

- A. On your first day, you will all meet in the Main Hall where staff will meet you. There will be plenty of staff and students to direct you. We are a small school and you will know your way around very quickly.

Q?

CAN I BE WITH FRIENDS IN LESSONS AND FORM TIME?

- A. Your primary schools will have told us who works well together and we use this information to help us put tutor groups together. Remember you are not taught in your tutor groups and lessons are about learning. You will get to know new people quickly and hopefully make a wide range of new friends. Social times are break and lunch, when you are free to be with your friends.

Q?

HOW DO I BUY MY LUNCH AND WHAT FOOD IS AVAILABLE?

- A. Students use an online payment system called SCOPAY that their parents are able to 'top up' on line. You can use your fingerprint to purchase food so no cash is required. There is a wide variety of hot and cold food options to suit all dietary requirements and the menu changes on different days.

Q?

HOW DO I GET TO SCHOOL?

- A. We encourage students to walk or cycle to school where possible. Use a bike lock and a helmet and stay safe by making sure you have lights for the winter months. The roads around school do get busy at the start and end of the day. Some students do use public transport or parental transport to come to school as there are no school buses.

Q?

CAN I GET HELP IF I NEED IT?

- A. Yes – ask your Tutor, Teachers, Head of Year, Learning Support Assistants and Senior Students and School Prefects. There are many people in school who will support you.

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HOW WILL I MAKE NEW FRIENDS?

- A. In your tutor group you will do “getting to know you” activities. You will also do things in your House to help you. Getting involved in clubs and activities is another way of making new friends. You have Summer School, which will also help you to make friends.

Q?

WHAT TIME DOES SCHOOL START?

- A. You will get this information in the blue information pack and on your timetable. You need to be in your form room for registration at 8:40am. To encourage punctuality, we encourage students to arrive in school for 8:30am. There is a warning bell at 8:35am to help students arrive to their form room by 8:40am. During Form time, your Form Tutor will check your uniform and equipment to ensure that you are ready to learn.

Q?

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE THERE IN A CLASS?

- A. Usually between 27-30 students for most subjects. Practical subjects like Art and DT will be smaller with around 20 students per class.

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WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS ON ME IN LESSONS?

- A. Teachers have high expectations of you and will want you to try your best in all that you do. Every student has the right to come to school and learn so you need to ensure you are working hard in lessons and not disrupting the learning of others.

Q?

ARE ALL YEAR GROUPS OUT AT THE SAME TIME E.G. AT LUNCH?

- A. All year groups have the same break time. We operate a split lunch to ensure that everyone has enough time to eat and so that everyone can be accommodated in the Canteen and Main Hall. Each group has the same lunchtime each day.

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ARE TUTOR GROUPS MADE UP OF YEAR 7 STUDENTS ONLY?

- A. Yes. We do not have vertical tutor groups.

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HOW IS LATENESS DEALT WITH?

- A. Attendance is vital to successful learning and you need to be punctual. If you are late to school or to a lesson, you can expect a 20 minute detention afterschool. To avoid lateness in the morning, we encourage students to arrive in school for 8:30am. There is a warning bell at 8:35am with all students expected to be in Form time at 8:40am. To avoid lateness to lessons, there is movement time built into the school day.

Q?

HOW MUCH IS THE UNIFORM & HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO WEAR?

- A. All of this information is in the blue information pack and can be found on the website. You will wear a different colour tie depending on your House and we will let you know your House before the summer holidays. You can purchase uniform online at www.monkhouse.com

Q?

WHAT ARE HOUSES?

- A. We have the following Houses – Attenborough, Jenner and Parks. Houses are made up of tutor groups from Years 7 – 11. Houses feel like smaller schools within our bigger school. We have lots of house competitions and events where you can score your House points to win the House Cup such as by participating in spelling competitions or Sports Day amongst others.

Q?

HOW ARE TEACHERS ADDRESSED?

- A. By their title and surname. For example, Mrs Clinton or Mr Gardner. Male teachers are usually called “Sir” and female teachers called “Miss”.

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ARE STAFF ON DUTY AT BREAK TIMES?

- A. Staff supervise break and lunchtimes. There are plenty of people around to support you and keep you safe. Before and after school, staff are also present on the school gates.

Q?

HOW MUCH HOMEWORK IS THERE? WHAT IS EDULINK?

- A. Edulink is the school’s online Homework Diary and a way in which school communicates with parents. Edulink allows you to see your child’s timetable, teaching groups as well as achievement and behaviour points. You can get it as an app and many parents find it helpful as they can check what homework has been set to help organise their child. Most subjects set homework once a week

to consolidate learning and support your child to make good progress in their learning. We will go through it in more detail when your child starts at Barnwood Park.

Q?

LESSON STRUCTURE – LENGTH, NUMBER IN DAY?

- A. This information will be on your timetable. You can see an example on the website. There are five, one hour, lessons per day and we operate a two week timetable. You will have form time every morning.

Q?

HOW IS BULLYING DEALT WITH?

- A. Any form of bullying is taken very seriously at Barnwood Park and it is not a common occurrence. The important thing is to report it to a member of staff. We will deal with it and we have an Anti-Bullying Policy. It is hard to say exactly how we deal with each case, because no two cases are the same. Our aim is always to make it stop and we will take whatever actions are needed to make this happen. Our policies are on our website for you to look at.

Q?

WHAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS DO YOU PROVIDE?

- A. We have a comprehensive programme of activities that changes each term to provide students with more opportunities to develop their skills beyond the classroom. Activities include The Duke of Edinburgh Award, Football, Rugby, Dance, Drama, Homework Club, Maths Clubs, Young Writers Club, Art Club and Robotics Club to name but a few.
We also provide lots of trips and visits that link to the curriculum and look to provide our students with as many opportunities as possible.

Q?

WHAT SEND SUPPORT IS THERE?

- A. We are an inclusive school but operate with limited capacity for SEN students.

Q?

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED?

- A. You need to bring with you a few black pens (in case they run out), green pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, calculator but a list is shown on page 4 of your blue Information Pack.