

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 Sports Hall, there will be lots of staff and student prefects around to direct you. You will have form tutors, teachers, the Pastoral Team and other students to show you the way. Student buddies and mentors will be on hand to support 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.

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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.

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CAN I GET HELP IF I NEED IT?

- A. Yes – ask your Tutor, your Teacher, your Pastoral Leader, Teaching Assistants and senior students, student prefects and student parliament representatives.

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HOW DO WE 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, ready to register, correctly uniformed and with the right equipment ready to start for 8:40am. So it is sensible to get to your form a few minutes beforehand.

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HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE THERE IN A CLASS?

- A. Usually between 27-30 students for most subjects, though practical subjects like Art and DT will be smaller than this at around 20 students.

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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. We have 3 guiding principles of Do no harm to others, Do acts of kindness and Treat others with respect and expect everyone to display these in their actions at all times.

Q?

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

- A. All year groups have the same break time and lunch time.

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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 twice in a week you can expect a detention.

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 of students from Years 7 – 11. Everyone is in a tutor group with people in the same year group. 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 – so Mr, Mrs , Ms, Dr. For example, Mrs Clinton. Male teachers are usually called “Sir” and female teachers called “Miss”.

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ARE STAFF ON DUTY AT BREAK TIMES?

- A. Break and lunchtimes are supervised by adults. There are plenty of people around to support you and keep you safe.

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HOW MUCH HOMEWORK IS THERE? WHAT IS SACHEL ONE?

- A. Satchel One is the school’s on line Homework Diary. You can get it as an app and lots of parents find it really helpful as they can check what homework has been set to help organise their child. You will get homework from most subjects once a week and it is designed to support you to make good progress in your learning. We will go through it in more detail when you are here.

Q?

LESSON STRUCTURE – LENGTH, NUMBER IN DAY?

- A. This information will be on your timetable. You can see an example on the website. There will be 5 lessons and 2 form times and lessons are 60 minutes in length.

Q?

HOW IS BULLYING DEALT WITH?

- A. Bullying is not common at Barnwood Park. The important thing is to report it to the tutor or classroom teacher. 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 browse.

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 learn and grow. Such activities include Duke of Edinburgh, Football, Rugby, Dance, Trampolining, Drama, Homework Club, Maths Clubs, UKMT and Robotics amongst others.

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WHAT SEND SUPPORT IS THERE?

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

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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.