

21st July 2023

Dear families

Re: Information for parents regarding September 2023

The end of the academic year is upon us. Over the past few weeks, we have been celebrating this milestone in the usual ways. Sports day was brilliant despite the weather, and the KS3 Celebration Evening was a lovely opportunity to say well done to a huge number of our students. On Monday we also had the bands playing out to a packed audience.

On a slightly different note, but equally commendable, we had our first 'Lockdown' practice yesterday and considering it was the penultimate day of the school year our students were impeccable in the way that they conducted themselves, during what for many of our community will have been quite an anxious experience. When our school community pulls together as it did during these most recent events, it makes me immensely proud.

In the paragraphs below I will be explaining the following for September:

1. Changes to the School Day.
2. Pastoral, Re-Organisation.
3. School Communication.
4. Attendance.
5. Canteen Re-Development and Temporary Student Entrance.
6. Equipment Check for September.
7. Staggered Return in September.

Changes to the school day

In my letter on the 19th June, I explained that in September the school day will be the same everyday including Wednesdays, and students will start the day in form time with their tutors.

The school day will be as follows:

Session	Time from	Time to
Students Arrive by	8.45am	
Form Time	8:50am	9:15am
Period 1	9:15am	10:05am
Period 2	10:05am	10:55am
Break	10:55am	11:15am
Period 3	11:15am	12:05pm
Period 4	12:05pm	12:55pm
Lunch	12:55pm	1:25pm
Period 5	1:25pm	2:15pm
Period 6	2:15pm	3:05pm

Pastoral Re-Organisation

In September we will be moving to a horizontal pastoral structure which means that students will be within form groups, with students from their own year group. Year 7 will have a set team, whilst form tutors in Year 8 to 11 will follow their group through the school. The reasoning behind this was explained in my June letter to families. More information about the year group teams will be available on our website, soon. The teams are as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Head of Year	Mrs Edge	Miss Brookfield	Mrs Wright	Mrs Cousins	Miss Jervis
Assistant Head of Year	Miss West	Miss Dungey	Mrs Aver-Howdle	Miss Coffey	Miss Sigiel

School Communication

All families will have passwords for their MCAS account in September. On this platform families will be able to access timetables, get updates on rewards and reports. The biggest change though is that families will also now be able to message form tutors and teaching staff from this app rather than going through the website. This forms a large part of the form tutor/family link, and we encourage parents to contact form tutors in the first instance with any queries.

Attendance

Nationally, attendance this year has been way down on where it would normally be. BBS is no different. Attendance to school is the biggest factor in defining academic outcomes. If you attend, you learn. With that in mind, from September our Assistant Head of Year team will be completing home visits every day to support families and students to return to school promptly following a period of absence. Whilst we understand that illness is inevitable and requires rest, and that some students have other factors that impact upon their attendance, a swift return to school is essential when there are already such gaps in knowledge.

Canteen Re-development and temporary student entrance

In September our kitchen and canteen will not be available as we finally have the go ahead for our long-awaited canteen expansion. Apart from a new servery being implemented 20 years ago, no changes have taken place since the school was opened in 1957.

Unfortunately, this will mean that in the first term students will only have access to food from temporary sheds on the far playground, which will serve food at both break and lunchtime. This can only be cold food to start with, but as soon as we are in a position to introduce hot food, such as pasta pots etc. we will. While the sheds are being used, the canteen staff can only accept cash, but once we are up and running with our new facilities it will fully change over to a cashless system. We know that the sheds are far from ideal, but the disruption is essential as our school population expands. Works will start the first week of the summer holidays and is anticipated to take 22 weeks, which means they should complete by then end of the Autumn Term. We hope this is going to be the case as we are very much looking forward to giving our students a much better experience come the new year.

Please be aware with lorries and equipment arriving daily and building works taking place, the main entrance gate that the students currently use will be closed off. As from the first day of term, all students will have to access the school via the gate near the tennis courts.

We thank you for your patience during this time.



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



Equipment and Expectations for September

In September we will expect all students to arrive to school in the right uniform and with the right equipment. We want our students to take pride in their appearance and be proud members of the Newport community. Please take the time to carefully go through the list of uniform and equipment before the return. Having your shirt tucked in, wearing the correct footwear, and wearing your blazer are examples of the little things that matter.

Link to the website for details: <https://www.burtonborough.org.uk/parents/uniform>

Staggered Return to School in September

To help us settle Year 7 students, and also to trial our temporary canteen set-up we will be staggering the student return. Year groups will return on the following days:

- Wednesday 6th September - Year 7 and Year 11.
- Thursday 7th September - All year groups will return.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and devotion Miss Carter gave to our school community, I am sure that you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

From myself and the whole of the school team at BBS, we wish you all a pleasant summer.

Yours sincerely



Ben Morgan
Acting Principal