

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the end of a school year that has challenged us in many new and unusual ways. I am pleased to share though that the school community has come together and persevered against the challenges. We have experienced many successes in this time and many staff and students have shown tremendous determination and courage. We must all remember though that many families have lost loved ones to the virus. Our thoughts and best wishes are extended to all so affected, and we must remember that in such times our support is always of the most help.

### The new school year

The present government guidance is that all students are expected to return to school in September. At Barnhill, we are currently planning to maintain the highest levels of safety when all students and staff are present. We are planning for year groups to occupy designated areas of the school to minimise movement and are looking to make use of double lessons to further reduce the need for staff and students to cross over. Full details of the return to school plans will be finalised in August and these will be communicated to you at that time.

Please see the start times for all year groups in September:

Year group (new from 2020)	Start date	Start time	Finish time	Student entrance
New year 7	Friday the 4 <sup>th</sup> September	08:15	14:50	Owen Road gate
New year 13	Friday the 4 <sup>th</sup> September	13:15	14:50	Main entrance

*Year 7 and 13 will attend as normal from the 7<sup>th</sup> September from 08:20 until 14:50.*

Year group (new from 2020)	Start date	Start time	Finish time	Student entrance
New year 11	Monday the 7 <sup>th</sup> September	09:30	12:00	Main entrance
New year 10	Monday the 7 <sup>th</sup> September	10:30	13:00	Main entrance
New year 8	Monday the 7 <sup>th</sup> September	11:30	14:00	Owen Road gate
New year 9	Monday the 7 <sup>th</sup> September	12:00	14:30	Main entrance
New year 12	Monday the 7 <sup>th</sup> September	13:30	14:50	Main entrance

### **Free school meals during the summer**

It has been announced that, following a national campaign, the government will continue to support families with free school meals payments during the summer. However, new applications (for families not already receiving free means) will close very soon. If you believe your child is entitled to school meals – and is not already receiving them – please consult our [website](#) as a matter of urgency. I have heard of the many difficulties that families have experienced with the national scheme, so please do check as soon as you can.

### **GCSE and A Level results days**

Sixth Form student can collect their results from 09:00 on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> August and GCSE students from 09:00 on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> August. There will be a great deal of support available for Sixth form students regarding university applications and for GCSE students regarding Sixth Form applications. Further details will be sent to all students. I wish all students the best of luck.

### **2020 – A year of challenges**

While 2020 has been a year of significant challenges, my mind is drawn to the many successes that we have achieved – many of them in the face of adversity.

The school's successes have been made possible by the hard work of students and staff, and with the support of all families. We will manage these difficult times and go on to achieve further successes next year and I very much look forward to working with you. Have a very happy summer.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Jones  
Head of Barnhill Community High School