

15th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Autumn term draws to a close, it is a time to reflect on the past few weeks and consider the progress the students have made since the start of term, not just academically but also in their personal development.

The new year

We look forward to welcoming all students back on **Wednesday the 5th January**. The day begins at the usual time.

Covid tests

When we return to school, students will be tested per the schedule below. Please note that, although Tuesday 4th January is INSET day, testing will be conducted at the time stated for students in years 10 to 13.

| Year Group | Date | Time | Location |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Year 13 | Tuesday 4 th January | 08:30 | Assembly Hall |
| Year 12 | Tuesday 4 th January | 10:30 | Assembly Hall |
| Year 11 | Tuesday 4 th January | 13:00 | Assembly Hall |
| Year 10 | Tuesday 4 th January | 15:00 | Assembly Hall |
| Year 9 | Wednesday 5 th January | 08:30 | Assembly Hall |
| Year 8 | Wednesday 5 th January | 11:15 | Assembly Hall |
| Year 7 | Wednesday 5 th January | 14:00 | Assembly Hall |

If you have **not** given consent for your child to be tested at school, please complete the online form [here](#). More information regarding the testing arrangements will be posted on our website.

Covid safety measures

Stricter COVID measures have returned and we are back to wearing **masks** in communal areas. All students are expected to wear a mask. Re-usable masks are available from Student Services at a cost of £1 which should be paid via ParentPay. Students should bring proof of payment when they come to collect a mask.

Deep Learning day

I was delighted to see the wide variety of activities that took place last week for this term's Deep Learning Day. As well as trips, we had 7 different events incorporating 26 different activities and over 40 external visitors from a variety of backgrounds and careers including the police, army and paramedics. Students in years 7 and 8 went on educational trips to the Science Museum and Hampton Court. They had a splendid time experiencing science and history in the real world. Year 9 students were visited by members of the criminal justice system, including the police, prison service and judges. This session is designed to make sure all students are fully informed as to how the justice system works. Year 10 enjoyed a careers day, with visiting experts explaining their future options and how to achieve them. Year 11 had a mock interview day whereby visitors to the school and some current staff, conducted mock job interviews in preparation for university. Sixth form students completed their UCAS applications, enjoyed some wellbeing activities and English students were lucky enough to visit the Globe Theatre in London.

Newsletter and news and events page

You can see all of the events and activities that take place at school on the school's website. The news and events section can be found [by clicking here](#).

UCAS

We are very proud of our sixth form students who are applying to university in record numbers. We hope to exceed the record number (94%) of students going to university this year. Very pleasingly 8 students have been shortlisted for interviews at the highly prestigious Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Christmas Lunch

Years 10 and 11 enjoyed a Christmas celebration, with a full roast dinner, crackers and some party games.

The new school library

We have made significant investment in our **library** which has undergone a complete refurbishment and is now an even better place to study. We are looking at extending the opening times to give access to students wishing to complete homework or research in a quiet space which may not always be available at home.

School clubs

This term we established our **Character Curriculum** with a variety of clubs catering for a wide range of interests. The uptake has been tremendous and thank you to those staff who have given up their time to run them. Approximately 350 students on average are attending each week.

Student detentions

Please remind your children to be on time to their lessons. Any child who is late to class in January will be issued with a detention. Parents will receive a text message notifying them when a detention has been set.

End of term arrangements

The school breaks up for the Christmas holiday on **Friday 17th December**. We will stagger the dismissal of students by year groups as detailed below. Please do make a note of the timings for your child/ren.

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Year 11 | 10.50am |
| Year 8 & Year 10 | 11.10am |
| Year 7 | 11.30am |
| Year 9 | 12.10pm |

I very much look forward to working with all families of Barnhill in 2022. May I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break. Please do contact the school if you wish to discuss any matter regarding your child's education.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Jones
Headteacher

