



# Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Headteacher: Mr David Bailey Deputy Headteacher: Ms Eleanor Grylls

## Key Stage 3 Newsletter

March 2019

Ref: Parent communication

Dear Parent / Carer

As a school we have been working hard to try and find the balance between our students showing independence and organisation through the use of the planner which is checked weekly by tutors and yourselves, but also allow an opportunity for teachers to communicate with you through setting work on the google classroom.

As a parent of a student in year 7 & 8 we understand that it can sometimes be a struggle to receive information about what is going on at school and what the expectation is as a parent to ask your child to complete at home.

### **The school planner**

This is the best way to communicate with a class teacher or their form tutor. If it is in relation to a specific lesson we advise that you write the note to the tutor and they will make contact with the class teacher, they can either respond in the planner or inform your child of the best method for communication. This would usually be with a phone call or email. It is important to note that staff do have a large workload so please allow at least 48 hours to receive a response. If you have an urgent request for the tutor you will receive a more prompt response if it is affecting the wellbeing of your child.

### **Text messaging service**

Every parent in the school has access to our text messaging service which includes communication about the following:

- Closure days
- Parents Evening appointments
- Letters
- Lateness or behaviour incidents that have occurred during the school day
- Praise for good work or attitudes to learning

### **Google Classroom**

In addition to the text messaging service you also have access to a google classroom summary. The google classroom summary will give you clear information about what your child is covering in lesson and any homework that has been set. It also gives clear deadlines that will support you in knowing the bigger picture of what homework or study your child should be doing. You are able to opt for these updates daily or weekly. More information about the google parent and guardian can be found using this link:

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6388136?hl=en> if you currently do not have access to this it could be due to the school not having up to date information so please contact [enquires@mybiddenham.com](mailto:enquires@mybiddenham.com) to request access to parent classroom and we will be happy to add you and update your details.

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Tel: 01234 342521

Fax: 01234 334530

Email: [enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Website: [biddenham.beds.sch.uk](http://biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Homework can be one of the best ways to see how your child is progressing. Observing work they are completing at home and the attitude they have towards that work can be a clear indicator of the effort they are giving when in school. As a Parent/Carer it can be hard to know what to expect or the duration of time that needs to be spent on a task or subject. Attached to this letter is an estimated overview of the homework your child should be receiving. We offer a wide range of subjects at Key Stage 3 and we are conscious of the volume of homework that it could create at certain points in the year. We also really want our students to be rounded individuals by getting involved in extra-curricular activities inside and outside of school. It is therefore important to get the balance right between extra-curricular and homework. In order to support our students we have homework clubs that run after school in the year 7 block on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 2:30 pm - 4.00 pm and your child is encouraged to drop in when needed.

At Key Stage 2 (year 6) students can spend a lot of time having assessments to prepare them for their SATs. Assessment in 7 and 8 can take a variety of forms, for example short tests at the end of a lesson, ongoing work in lessons or a larger assessment piece or project that informs the overall assessment grade that is shown on the school report. All big assessment weeks can be found on our whole school website that outlines all of the parents evenings and extra curricular fixtures. Please find the calendar here for quick reference <https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/calendar/>

[Please click here to download the KS3 Homework and Online Platforms.](#)

I hope you have found this letter useful and feel informed about the best ways to build the bridge in communication at secondary school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Simpson', written in a cursive style.

Miss E Simpson  
Assistant headteacher of Key Stage 3