



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Summer Term and Information for September 2021

Here we are at the end of the summer term and the academic year 2021 - and what a year it has been! Regardless of the disruption and restrictions that have come our way, our school community has pulled together to overcome obstacles and come out the other side with positivity. There is so much to be proud of and to celebrate and we have tried to encapsulate the range of student and staff achievements in our summer term [newsletter](#). It has been a delight to finish the year with our virtual transition programmes for the new Year 7s and 12s, a fun packed Day of Sport, Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' events and celebration assemblies for all year groups.

The use of chromebooks and google classrooms has continued to be a great asset this year in facilitating both in school and remote learning. Summer holiday projects for all year groups to help students prepare and 'Get Ahead' ready for September have been shared on google classrooms. Any queries please email:

Emily Simpson for KS3 (Year 7 and 8) at emily.simpson@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

George Foy for KS4 (Years 9-11) at george.foy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Alan Brown for KS5 (Sixth Form) at alan.brown@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

As you are probably aware, the government has made it clear that schools will be fully open from the start of the upcoming autumn term. The Department for Education (DfE) have also just announced that they would like schools to conduct another round of onsite mass testing when students return in September. As this is a fairly recent development, we will need a bit more planning time, but at the moment we are hoping that testing will take place on Tuesday 31st August, with follow up tests on Friday 3rd and Monday 6th September working around our 'return to school' arrangements. This should allow for a smooth start at the beginning of term and get students back into school as soon as possible. Further information about testing will follow over the coming weeks.

We are all looking forward to a school year with more opportunities for extra-curricular opportunities, trips and visits that fewer restrictions will bring. However, Covid-19 is not going away, and given the increasing levels of infection in the Bedford area, we will need to continue to be careful and some aspects of our safety measures from this year will be staying in place.

Health and Safety

The updated government guidance requires schools to keep some safety measures in place including good hygiene, appropriate cleaning, good ventilation and the importance of following public health guidance on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19. At Biddenham we will continue to organise the school site into 'zones' with each year group having a designated social space. Break and lunchtimes will be outside, except in very wet weather and we will be continuing with one way systems to minimise congestion in corridors. We will continue to have slightly staggered starts, breaks and lunchtimes, again to avoid congestion and our sanitising and cleaning routines will stay exactly the same. There may be a need to wear masks in more crowded spaces such as corridors and classrooms, but we will be guided at all times by local public health advice, and will update you again closer to the beginning of term.

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Website: biddenham.beds.sch.uk

The first day back

The first day back for our new Year 7 and 12 students will be Friday 3rd September. All other year groups will return to school on Monday 6th September. There will be some slightly staggered starts to the school day as mentioned above, however, this will be minimal in order to limit any disruption to families. The school day timings will be within the time frame of 7.45am arrival and no later than a 2.45pm finish time (timings of the school day are shown below). On arrival they should go straight to their Tutor room (see chart below). Staff members will be on hand to help support your child in making their way to the right classroom.

Travel to school

We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school if at all possible as this is the healthiest option. Should students need to travel by public transport they will need to follow the government guidance about wearing face masks. We ask that if a parent or carer is bringing their child to school they remain in their cars and use the drop off/pick up points marked.

Attendance

Attendance will be compulsory in September, as the government expects all students to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

Uniform

Students are expected in full school uniform from September, (sixth form stay in non-uniform). Students will also need a Biddenham branded PE kit to change into for PE lessons. Details are available on the school website and a link can be found [here](#). Our basic school uniform items of plain black full length trousers, plain black skirt, plain white shirt/blouse, black or navy blue shalwar kamiz/jalbaab can be purchased relatively cheaply from any high street or supermarket clothes retailer; however, if you are experiencing any difficulty, please contact enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk or call 01234 342521 and we will assist where we can.

Equipment

In order to prepare for the new term the following is a list of suggested equipment:

- A school bag - ideally a rucksack.
- Pencil case including pens, colours, pencils, ruler and highlighters.
- Calculator and geometry set
- Chromebook - charged and in the protective case.
- Earbuds/phones - to be able to hear sound on chromebooks.

Additionally, for health and safety reasons:

- Water bottle - filled, to reduce the need for using water fountains.
- Winter coat (waterproof with a hood) - breaks and lunches will predominantly be outside and windows will remain open in classrooms.
- Umbrella - in case of wet weather.
- Antibacterial wipes/gels and a pack of tissues - whilst we are providing antibacterial gels at every building entrance, we strongly recommend students have their own for personal use to ensure they stay safe in school.

Catering

We are looking forward to opening all of our food outlets fully in the new term. You will have been contacted already about the introduction of a new cashless system for payments that is being introduced. Please look out for letters over the summer break which will explain more about how the new system will work and provide individual account information. If you have any queries please contact us on bernadette.burnage@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Results Days

We are planning for Year 11 and Year 12/13 results days to take place in school. Year 12/13 results day is Tuesday 10th August and Year 11 results day is Thursday 12th August. Further details will be shared directly with students and parents.

There are still a few details that need finalising before we all return in September, and it is entirely possible that there may be changes that have to be put in place as a result of further guidance. We will need to continue to update you further over the summer, to ensure that you have everything needed to support your child's return to school. As ever, we encourage you to please send any queries through to enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk or call 01234 342521 and we will aim to address them as swiftly as possible.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received from our school community and are immensely proud of the way our students and staff have risen to all of the challenges this year. We'd just like to leave you with a bit of summer reading in the form of our student magazine entitled '[The Biddenham Discover Magazine](#)' of which we are very proud. It is our hope that you will have some time to relax and recuperate with loved ones, in some way over the summer break. We'll see you in September!

Warm regards,



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School

TUTOR GROUPS

Year 10		
HoY: Mrs F Stephenson Asst HoY: Ms C Drake		
Assembly day: Thursday		
Tutor Group	Tutor's Name	Base
10ARW	Ms Welstead	H14
10ALW	Ms Warden	H4
10DJL	Mr Loveland	T7
10MAB/JB	Mrs Browne	R7
10CAB/EMR	Mr Bowness	D2
10SA	Ms Ali	H7
10MNA	Ms Adjei	H12
10CJ	Ms Jones	H11
10CAM	Ms Mason	R4

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY SEPTEMBER 2021

Years 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form			
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday			
	Time	Mins	Break/ Transition
Tutor	8.00 - 8.20	20	
Transition			5
Period 1	8.25 - 9.25	60	
Transition			5
Period 2	9.30 - 10.30	60	
Break	Food available		10
Period 3	10.40 - 11.40	60	
Transition	No food available		10
Period 4	11.50 - 12.50	60	
Lunch	12.50 - 13.30		40
Period 5	13.30 - 14.30	60	

Tuesday			
	Time	Mins	Break/ Transition
Staff training	7.45-8.45	60	
PSHE	8.55 - 9.45	50	Sixth form attend PSHE
Transition			5
Period 2	9.50 - 10.50	60	
Break			10
Period 3	11.00 - 12.00	60	
Transition			5
Period 4	12.05 - 13.05	60	
Lunch	13.05 - 13.45		40
Period 5	13.45 - 14.45	60	