



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to Biddenham on Friday 3rd September. In this letter there is some key information that you need to know before your child comes to join us.

- Take some time to go through the [letter](#) sent to parents, carers and students at the end of last term from Ms Grylls, Head of School and Mr Bailey, Principal that explains all of the extra special measures we have put in place to keep us all healthy.
- Please make sure your child brings a face covering to school. Last year we had a very good track record at keeping students in school, due to our safety measures and we wish to continue this. Therefore we are strongly recommending that students and staff bring masks to school to wear in corridors, more confined spaces and in close contact situations. If you need any support with this please contact enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk.
- Remember to go through the videos and information to prepare your child for [secondary school](#).
- Please bring in your transition information packs with you on the 3rd September. Information is needed to contact you in an emergency. Chromebook form must be completed so you can take it home on Friday 3rd September. If you have misplaced this email transition@biddenham.beds.sch.uk We will be unable to distribute chromebooks without the completed forms.
- Lockers can be purchased week commencing 13th September via the school office
- Parentpay - Please activate your account. Every parent needs to do this even if your child is in receipt of free school meals. If you need support with this please use this [link](#) or follow the [FAQ's](#). Please contact bernadette.burnage@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

We have taken real care in making sure new year 7 students have the secondary school transition they deserve. There will be lots of opportunities to get to know students and teachers - and learn how to use the new chromebooks. Have a look at the brief synopsis of what each session will cover. You will notice that there will be sessions to show and share the '[Be Awesome' Go Biddenham Diploma](#)' and the final deadline for this will be 13th September ready for our awards ceremony on 22nd September.

Arrangements for Friday 3rd September

- Arrive at 7:45am
- Parents please stay in the car and your child will be greeted and directed by a member of staff to the Eitteine Stott building
- Students will sign in and be given a sticker with their name, tutor group and classroom
- A summary of the sessions is listed on page 2
- Please collect your child at 2:20pm
- Please find the link to the times of the school day [here](#) (different timings on Tuesdays)
- There will be lots of teachers available to meet and greet all of our new students and guide them to where they need to be. Take a deep breath and enjoy every second!

Yours sincerely,

Ms Emily Simpson
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Abigail Speight
Head of Year 7

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Synopsis of sessions in transition week

All of the sessions build on the transition ‘Go Big’ Activities as well as building on skills learnt at primary school so we really can show how ‘Awesome’ we are. The sessions are as follows :

Organisation and safety

These sessions will be integral to the transition back into a school life routine and developing healthy respiratory hygiene and organisation skills. The sessions include:

- Tour of the school
- Safety briefing
- Virtual assembly
- Timetable and planner

Wellbeing

We all need to focus on ourselves from time to time and these sessions are an opportunity for us to explore who we are and how we cope when in different situations. The sessions will involve discussion work and the opportunity to get to know your peers and support each other.

- Online etiquette
- What is change?
- What is normal anyway?
- Wellbeing
- Living well

Establishing our Biddenham Values

These sessions will support you in building a growth mindset ready for the new learning journey you have ahead of you. The sessions will involve discussion work, evaluation of yourself and offer opportunities to problem solve to show the Biddenham Values together as a new established tutor group. The sessions will explore:

- Friendship
- Bouncebackability
- Unlocking your mind
- Icebreaker activities
- Ready Respect Reward
- Team building

Becoming secondary ready

These sessions will involve you working with your tutor group to learn new ways of working. Clear guidelines will be established to prepare you for learning not just in the classroom but for the wider world establishing independence and a confidence to explore a wide range of resources you have at your fingertips. The sessions will include:

- ‘Be Awesome’ exhibition sharing all the wonderful work you have been completing at home
- Chromebook distribution (it is important to complete and return the forms)
- Introduction to chromebooks giving you the basics on how to work your chromebook and how you can use it to add a new dimension to the learning you receive in the classroom
- Library induction re-establishing or continuing to find that love for reading by exploring all the books and online resources we have to meet the interests of everyone
- English, Maths and Science progress quizzes; we all know you all worked so hard to prepare for your SATs and didn’t get to celebrate your success so we have put together some quizzes so we can identify who needs support and who needs to be challenged to reach their full potential. It is important to emphasise that these quizzes are here to help us improve and personalise our teaching and we are really keen that students should not find them too stressful. It is important you try your best so we know what you are capable of. Please remember to have headphones for these sessions which will be given to you when you receive your chromebook. Keep these very safe!