KH/EBG/TM/SettingInNonAttenders

20th October 2026

Dear Parents/ Carer,

**Year 7 Settling In Evening – Important Information for Parents and Carers**

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

We were sorry that you were unable to join us for our recent Year 7 Settling In Evening. The evening provided an opportunity for parents and carers to meet key members of staff, understand our school expectations and learn how we can work together to ensure that every pupil has a successful start to their journey at Barr Beacon School.

We recognise the importance of maintaining strong communication between home and school and therefore wanted to share a summary of the key information covered during the evening.

**Safeguarding and Pastoral Support**

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remain our highest priorities. Our safeguarding team, led by Mr Crumpton (Designated Safeguarding Lead), alongside Miss Barber (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs Steel (Safeguarding Manager), works to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and listened to.

Our pastoral system is designed to ensure that every pupil feels a sense of belonging and has access to the support they need. Form Tutors and Heads of House play a central role in monitoring pupils' wellbeing, behaviour, attendance and personal development. We encourage parents to maintain regular communication with their child's House Office should any concerns arise.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance was a key focus of the evening. We are delighted that our Year 7 cohort achieved 97.5% attendance during the first reporting period, demonstrating an excellent start to secondary school.

However, we also highlighted the importance of maintaining this standard throughout the academic year. Research and our own school outcomes demonstrate a clear relationship between attendance and academic achievement. We ask parents to support us by ensuring that their child:

- Attends school every day unless genuinely too unwell to do so.
- Arrives at school on time and ready to learn.
- Attend medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
- Develops resilience when managing minor illnesses and everyday challenges.

Every school day matters, and even occasional absences can quickly add up to significant amounts of missed learning.

**Behaviour, Expectations and Detentions**

At Barr Beacon, we have high expectations for all pupils. Our Behaviour Curriculum and Learning Routines provide clear guidance on how pupils should conduct themselves both inside and outside the classroom.

Where expectations are not met, pupils may receive a 20-minute, 40-minute, or 60-minute detention. These are recorded on Class Charts, allowing parents and staff to monitor behaviour.

Failure to attend a detention will result in further consequences, including escalation of time for their detentions. We ask parents to reinforce the importance of following school expectations and taking responsibility for behaviour.

**Organisation and Readiness for Learning**

Developing independence, organisation and resilience is an important part of the transition to secondary school.

Pupils are expected to arrive each day with:

- The correct school uniform.
- A fully equipped pencil case.
- A reading book.
- Their school planner and any other required learning materials.

During form time, staff regularly check uniform, equipment, planners, attendance and punctuality.

We also reminded parents that if a pupil needs to speak to a parent, they should report to their House Office, where staff will assess the situation and contact home where appropriate.

If a pupil feels mildly unwell, we will support them to remain in school wherever appropriate. If there are concerns about their health, a member of staff will contact parents directly.

**Homework Expectations**

Homework is an essential part of consolidating learning and developing independent study habits. At Barr Beacon, homework is completed through the Sparx Learning platforms, including Sparx Maths, Sparx Science and Sparx Reader.

Key expectations include:

- Homework is released every Monday at 8:30am and must be completed by 8:30am the following Monday.
- Homework tasks and deadlines are available for both parents and pupils to view on Class Charts.
- Pupils who complete 100% of their homework each week receive positive recognition.
- Incomplete homework results in a 20-minute detention.

We encourage parents to regularly check Class Charts and support their child in establishing a consistent homework routine.

**Praise, Rewards and Recognition**

Recognising pupils' achievements is an important part of school life. During the evening, we shared information about our praise and rewards system, including Praise Points, Praise Awards and opportunities such as Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher.

We believe that recognising positive behaviour, effort, achievement and contribution to school life helps pupils develop confidence and pride in their accomplishments.

**Working Together**

We firmly believe that the strongest outcomes for pupils are achieved when school and home work in partnership.

We ask that you continue to support us by reinforcing our expectations around attendance, punctuality, behaviour, homework and organisation. These routines will help your child build the foundations for a successful secondary school experience.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working closely with you throughout your child's time at Barr Beacon School.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher