



# Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

18th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Information for September 2024

We hope your children have enjoyed a wonderful end to the term and their primary school years. It can be an emotional time, but it is important to mark these milestones and to look ahead to the future with positivity. We just wanted to write to you with a reminder of some of the details for the start of term and let you know how much we are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Biddenham in September.

You will know from the Home - School agreement that you have already received that we place a strong emphasis on high expectations and working together to best support your child. The role of the tutor within this is significant and will continue to be so throughout your child's journey through Biddenham. We are attaching a copy of the Home - School agreement to this letter and tutor details for further reference.

### The first day back

The first day back for our new Year 7 will be **Wednesday 4th September**. Students should arrive and go straight to the **main hall for 7.45am**. Pick up time will be **2.30pm**. They will have the whole day in school to familiarise themselves before the rest of the school return on Thursday. Please see the end of the letter for details about tutor group bases and this [link](#) for timings of the school day.

### Uniform

We believe in a 'Look smart - think smart' approach to school uniform. All students are expected to wear full school uniform as shown on this [link](#). It is important to note that the school blazer and tie are compulsory and the jumper is optional. Any head coverings need to be in the school uniform colours of navy or black. Students should wear trousers (not leggings) and shoes (not trainers). If students have [Dance on their timetable](#), then on those days they should attend school in PE kit. Please see the [link](#) for more details.

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. Uniform and PE kit can be purchased online [www.swischoolwear.co.uk](http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk). If you require preloved uniform items please contact [enquiries@biddenham.beds.such.uk](mailto:enquiries@biddenham.beds.such.uk) and we will be happy to help.

### Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory. There is strong evidence that tells us students who attend school regularly achieve better and are happier at school. Your support in ensuring students attend school is vital. More details regarding attendance will follow over the summer break.

---

Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AZ

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)

## Equipment

In order to prepare for the new term, and be ready for learning the following is a list of expected equipment:

It is very important that you have the following equipment with you while at school.

<b>PENS and Pencil (blue or black and green biro)</b>	<b>PENCIL CASE</b>	<b>RULER</b>	<b>RUBBER</b>
			
<b>SHARPENER</b>	<b>COLOUR PENS/PENCILS</b>	<b>SCISSORS</b>	<b>GLUE STICK</b>
			
<b>PROTRACTOR SET</b>	<b>SCHOOL BAG</b>	<b>COMPASS</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR</b>
			
<b>HEADPHONES (for Chromebook)</b>	<b>READING BOOK (these can be borrowed from the school library)</b>	<b>SHIN PADS (in addition to PE kit)</b>	<b>CHROMEBOOK AND CHARGER (provided by school)</b>
			

Your Signatory:

## Mobile phones

- Mobile phones are allowed in school for the acknowledged safety and contact reasons (before and after the school day only - **contact during the school day for any urgent communication should be through the school office on 01234 342521**)
- Mobile phones and headphones **MUST** be kept in a bag during the school day and not visible (this includes charging phones during lessons, phones out on the desks, or phones visible in pockets where they can distract students during lessons).
- Mobile phones must be switched off or on silent before the lesson starts and before entering the classroom (not on vibrate which can distract students during lessons)
- Students will not be allowed to listen to music during lesson time
- Mobile phones can be used (if required) during lunchtimes and break times. However, we strongly recommend that students engage in the school life around them and not their devices. We have plenty of extra-curricular activities on offer.

## Travel to school

We promote healthy lifestyles and encourage students to walk or cycle to school. Please remind students to cycle carefully, wear reflective clothing and a cycle helmet. For safety tips follow this [link](#). If you bring a child to school by car please drive carefully and use the drop off/pick up points marked on the drive.

## Cashless system (ParentPay)

All of our food outlets will be open fully in the new term and we will be continuing with our cashless system for food and all other school purchases including trips and visits. You will have already received information about our new cashless system for payments. If you have not already set up an account or will be new to the school in September you will receive your unique ParentPay Account activation letters shortly. If you would like to know more about this service please click on the Parentpay tab on our website <https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/>

If you have any queries please contact us on [parentpay@mybiddenham.com](mailto:parentpay@mybiddenham.com)

## Family support over summer

- [Free school meals vouchers](#). Bedford Borough Council are providing vouchers over the summer for all families eligible for income related free school meals. Voucher codes are sent directly by email to eligible families.
- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#). Eligible families should have received an E-voucher by email that can be used to book into a variety of activities over the summer holiday.
- A number of companies are doing free or very reasonable meals for children over the summer break. There is a link [here](#) to the full list of companies.
- In need of well-being support please see our [school website](#) or email [help@biddenham.beds.such.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.beds.such.uk)

## Student wellbeing

Summer holidays can be difficult for some young people. This is often due to a change of routine/structure, a change in social interactions and less cognitive stimulation. A range of summer self care activities are recommended here by our colleagues at [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#), [Shout](#) and more locally Bedford Borough Council have produced '[How you feel matters](#)'

Finally, remember that students have the Biddenham Diploma to continue working on over the summer with lots of interesting, creative and fun activities to complete. Look out for the Biddenham Transition magazine that will be sent home. This will give you even more details and top tips for starting secondary school. It is our hope that you will have some time to relax and unwind with loved ones, in some way over the summer break. We look forward to welcoming you to Biddenham in September!

Warm regards,




Mr D Bailey  
Principal

Ms E Grylls  
Head of School

Year 7		
Asst Head of KS3 Ms E Simpson <b>HoY: Mr Massey / Mr Johnson</b> Asst HoYs: Ms C Clifton		
Assembly day: <b>Monday</b>		
Tutor Group	Tutor's Name	Base
7RY	Mr Yasin	V4
7SZH	Miss Hussain	E2
7TSC	Mr Chodha	T2
7LN/GCC	Ms Niro and Mr Coakley	E3
7WF	Mr Finney	T17
7HW/EJT	Ms Wiltshire and Mrs Thomas	E4
7OF	Mr Forde	D7
7ENK	Mr Kijika	P4
7SAR	Mrs Rehman	T13
7MCL	Mr Lewis	E7

**Biddenham International School & Sports College**  
**HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT**  
**Ready - Respect - Reward**

<b>Biddenham School will:</b>	<b>As Parents/Carers - I/we will:</b>	<b>As a student I will:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create and promote a respectful and inviting environment for students, staff and parents, free from prejudice and discrimination where difference is celebrated and valued.</li> <li>▪ Not engage in any forms of prejudice or discriminatory behaviour towards students, staff and all members of the Biddenham school community in all areas of life.</li> <li>▪ Make learning fulfilling and enjoyable for students of all abilities.</li> <li>▪ Create a secure, caring and purposeful learning environment with high levels of understanding and achievement.</li> <li>▪ Promote the personal, social, moral and intellectual development of each student.</li> <li>▪ Provide high levels of encouragement and support to meet challenging targets and high expectations.</li> <li>▪ Provide a rich and engaging curriculum with opportunities for varied extra-curricular activity.</li> <li>▪ Provide detailed reports on progress and a prompt opportunity to discuss issues that may arise.</li> <li>▪ Contact home promptly with both praise and concerns.</li> <li>▪ Adhere to the school's <a href="#">Data Protection Policy</a> and acceptable use of <a href="#">Social Media Policy</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support and adhere to the school's policies and procedures in terms of <a href="#">equality, diversity and inclusion</a>.</li> <li>▪ Not engage in any forms of prejudice or discriminatory behaviour towards students, staff and all members of the Biddenham school community in all areas of life.</li> <li>▪ Provide encouragement and support to my child in their work both at school and home.</li> <li>▪ Encourage my child to show self-respect, respect for others and a commitment to active citizenship within our diverse and inclusive community. As a role model, adhere to the school's values.</li> <li>▪ Ensure my child is in full uniform and equipped for school every day.</li> <li>▪ Ensure my child brings PE kit to change into for PE lessons</li> <li>▪ Support my child in following the Ready Respect Reward principles for behaviour, at all times in and out of school.</li> <li>▪ Ensure regular attendance and punctuality (including explaining absences and requesting permission for planned absences).</li> <li>▪ Inform school when there are problems which may affect learning and progress.</li> <li>▪ Commit to provide a quiet and comfortable area for working at home.</li> <li>▪ Commit to attend consultation meetings.</li> <li>▪ Sign the student homework diary/planner each week and check the Google Classroom.</li> <li>▪ Monitor my child's use of ICT and social media in relation to the school's <a href="#">ICT Acceptable Use</a> and <a href="#">Social Media</a> policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take full advantage of the opportunities available at the school for learning and personal development.</li> <li>▪ Not engage in any forms of prejudice or discriminatory behaviour towards students, staff and all members of the Biddenham school community in all areas of life.</li> <li>▪ Actively contribute to our diverse and inclusive school community by following the behaviour principles of Ready Respect and Reward.</li> <li>▪ Be polite, helpful and respectful to others.</li> <li>▪ Bring a fully stocked pencil case and the equipment I need each day, including a <b>fully charged</b> chromebook.</li> <li>▪ Attend every day and be early to school</li> <li>▪ Be focused in my lessons and work hard at completing all classwork</li> <li>▪ Complete all homework set and on time.</li> <li>▪ Wear the correct uniform and maintain a tidy appearance.</li> <li>▪ Contribute to maintaining a clean and tidy school environment.</li> <li>▪ Make appropriate use of ICT and social media in line with the school's <a href="#">ICT Acceptable Use</a> and <a href="#">Social Media</a> policies, using my chromebook for learning purposes only.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Signed:</b> </p>	<p><b>Signed:</b>.....</p>	<p><b>Signed:</b>.....  <b>.(Student)</b></p>
<p><b>(E Grylls, Head of School)</b></p>	<p><b>(Parent/Carer)</b></p>	<p><b>Date:</b></p>
<p><b>Signed</b> :          .....<b>(Tutor)</b></p>	<p><b>Date:</b></p>	