



Headteacher: Mr Paul Greig

The Becket School
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Dear Parents/Carers

We write to offer some updates on our transition programme and to inform you about the plans we have put into place to ensure our school reopens fully in September. We have spent a great deal of time since the release of the government's guidance on the reopening of schools planning to ensure we can do so with the safety, welfare and education of everyone in our community in mind. **This does involve some changes to the information we have previously released.** We trust that you will understand why these changes need to be made and that you will support us in making sure your child's transition to The Becket School is as smooth as possible.

Term dates:

Due to huge changes in the way we operate as a school and the fact that staff must become familiar with new procedures and health and safety requirements, an additional INSET day is being scheduled on Wednesday 2nd September. This means that the school term will start for Y7 pupils on **Thursday 3rd September**. *If you have children in other year groups the start date may be different – separate correspondence is being issued.* It remains the case that our Y7s will be the only main school pupils in, in order to support their transition and ensure they can begin to find their way around the building and grounds.

Start and end times:

In order to ensure we can stagger start times for pupils, please note that Y7 will be expected to arrive in school for **8.50am**, which is ten minutes later than our regular start time. It is important to note that this will run until further notice; this is not for the first day only. For Y7 pupils, the school day will end at the usual time of 3.05pm. *If you have children in other year groups the start and end times may be different – separate correspondence is being issued.*

We ask that pupils arrive in school as close to the 8.50am start time as possible so that opportunities to congregate in the surrounding areas are limited. If your child needs to be in school at an earlier time for a specific reason, please make us aware by emailing us on transition@becketonline.co.uk by Friday 24th July.

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The Becket School is part of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Zones:

In accordance with government guidelines, we have planned the timetable so that it protects pupils' access to the curriculum whilst creating year group 'bubbles'. We have therefore designed colour-coded zones within the school. Our Y7s have been allocated a suite of rooms on C floor, with their own staircase; this is the blue zone. Pupils will be taken from the plaza on the first day to their form room, so there is no need to worry about where this is or how to get there. Each year group has also been assigned a zone for food, toilets and recreation during social time. Pupils will be given a tour on their first day to show them all of these areas and the procedures they will need to follow: we will send this information home to you with your child.

Although this differs from the experience pupils usually have when they enter secondary school, and has primarily been organised to prioritise safety, we firmly believe that this will provide our new Y7s with a lovely space in which to get to know one another, to get to know our staff, to familiarise themselves with our routines and to transition effectively. Staff will always be on hand to direct and support the pupils as they settle in with us.

Catering:

Please note that the canteen will NOT be open at break time so your child will need to bring a snack and a drink of water in a plastic container. Canteen facilities will be available on a 'grab and go' basis at lunchtime, although we are strongly encouraging all pupils to bring a packed lunch in the short term to minimise queuing and waste produced by disposable cutlery and cartons. **Pupils in receipt of free school meals should still access the catering services each day.** To assist the catering staff in planning, please complete the online survey by Wednesday 22nd July. The survey will include an option to **request** a lunch card for Thursday 3rd September as pupils' SQUID accounts will not be set up at that point. **Please note that this is an amendment to the provision outlined in our original letter.** If grab and go sample menus are available prior to September, we will add them to the transition area of our website.

You will find the survey in the 'information for parents' section of the transition area on the website. The link is: <https://forms.gle/f1di9bRru6nRkGCe8>.

Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform to school. However, to minimise use of the changing rooms on the days they have PE they are expected to arrive in school in their PE kit for the day. Please ensure pupils wear their jumpers and school leggings or plain navy/ black tracksuit bottoms / leggings to travel to school and when not in PE. PE lessons will start from Tuesday 8th September. Please see your son/ daughter's timetable from September to note the days when uniform or PE kit should be worn. If the weather is wet, indoor facilities will be used for PE due to students not having a change of clothes.

Equipment and classrooms

Pupils need to bring their rucksacks to keep all their equipment safe. The advice given is to minimise any sharing of equipment or resources. We ask that pupils bring pencil cases with several pens, pencils, a ruler, rubber, compass, protractor, scientific calculator, a highlighter and a glue stick.

If students can have several colouring pencils and a sharpener this again will minimise any equipment sharing. If this is an issue, please contact us via transition@becketonline.co.uk. Please note that we provide all Y7s with a welcome pack which includes some basic stationery items.

Pupils will be expected to wash their hands regularly and hand sanitiser will be in all classrooms. Should you wish for your child to carry their own hand sanitiser, please ensure it is NOT one with a pump dispenser to avoid leakages in bags.

Lockers:

The company that supplies and administers our lockers have just informed us that they will not be releasing lockers for use at this time. They intend to review the situation at appropriate points. With this in mind, please do NOT reserve a locker. If you have already reserved a locker, it will not be accessible at the start of term and this will be reviewed at half term. We are liaising with the locker company and will review this and update you.

Travel to and from school:

Government advice is still to avoid use of public transport. Although we appreciate that this may be unavoidable for some pupils, we strongly recommend walking, cycling or travelling by car. If arriving by car, please note that the school has a long-standing arrangement with the Harvester on Wilford Lane – this is the best place to drop off children. The Becket Way is not a good place for drop off as it is small, becomes congested easily, can obstruct the school buses and causes hazards for pupils arriving on foot or on bikes. School buses will run.

If pupils do travel on the bus/tram, they **MUST** wear a face covering.

Dedicated school buses: we will be working with the local authority and the bus providers to minimise the mixing between year group bubbles and to ensure that all pupils wear a face covering. The local authority is working on a plan to provide hand sanitiser and the deep cleaning of vehicles overnight, as well as cleaning between runs.

Public buses: we are in contact with the local authority to identify any routes that our pupils use where capacity is likely to be an issue and social distancing difficult.

Trams: we are in contact with the local authority and the tram network in order to work through how students can safely travel to/from school. We hope to provide more information on this in the coming weeks.

Travel arrangements are included in the online survey.

Arrangements for the first day:

On **Thursday 3rd September**, Y7 pupils will enter through the Atrium (staff will be on hand to direct) and will meet in the plaza as mentioned in previous correspondence. During the course of the day, pupils will be shown the Sports Hall, which is where they will meet and be registered on all other days. Pupils will also be shown to their form rooms by their tutors. There will be plenty of time for pupils to spend in their form room with their tutor and they will also participate in sessions introducing them to our community culture: The Becket Way.

Thank you for your continued support in making sure our new Y7s have a safe and enjoyable start to their time with us at The Becket School. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via transition@becketonline.co.uk. Please keep checking the website for information and activities. We are very excited to be welcoming you in September but, in the meantime, we wish you a safe, happy and fun summer holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Chloe Quirk
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Anne-Marie Vaughan
Y7 Progress Leader