



Headteacher: Mr. R. Jenkins

19th June, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following my previous letter earlier this month, I wanted to contact you once more to provide further information regarding plans that are currently being developed for all Year 6 pupils. Within my first letter, I invited any parents/carers to contact me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have chosen to do this. This has already helped me to learn about individual pupils and their families and to establish an important initial connection between Brecon High School and the new intake of pupils that I am looking forward to welcoming into the school. Please could I ask any parents that still intend to do this to be sure that they contact me via e-mail (head@brecon-hs.powys.sch.uk) with any query you may have.

Transition opportunity

I wish to inform you that I have been liaising with the Headteachers within the Brecon cluster to discuss the possibility of hosting Year 6 pupils at Brecon High School prior to the summer holiday. I feel that seeking an opportunity for this to happen is very important for both pupils and their families. I am aware that the transition schedule for all Year 6 pupils has been disrupted since September due to a combination of an unplanned delay with moving into our new building in the autumn as well as the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Due to the above, within my return to school planning I have earmarked the 10th July for Year 6 pupils to visit Brecon High School. This date has been chosen as no other pupils will be in school. This date will provide pupils with a range of opportunities to meet new peers and several teaching staff. I would like to reassure you that all health and safety considerations have been risk assessed in order for this visit to take place. Parents/carers would be asked to drop off and collect their children as unfortunately transporting all pupils from each school for these experiences is very challenging due to current social distancing protocols. I have listed below some of the key pieces of information for you which I hope is useful:

- The day will run from 9.00 am – 3.00pm.
- Pupils will be asked to bring their own packed lunch and drinks bottle for the day.
- Depending upon the weather, it would be advisable for pupils to wear their school uniform or PE kit. During the day there will be various outdoor and sporting activities. There will be no opportunity for pupils to change in the school changing rooms due to social distancing protocols.
- Pupils will be placed within 'bubbles' of around 10 pupils. During the day pupils will experience a range of opportunities to meet new peers, members of their newly allocated form group as well as their new Year 7 form tutor who will be their form tutor from September.

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- An important emphasis will also be placed upon pupil wellbeing with opportunities for pupils to partake in personal development lessons as well as a range of subject experiences.

I appreciate that the above plans may concern some parents/carers who are possibly anxious about the thought of sending their children to the High School during the re-opening of all schools. I wish to reassure you that a thorough risk assessment has been completed and that all eventualities have been considered to ensure these days are as enjoyable, efficient and as safe as possible.

To enable me to plan the day sufficiently, I would like to ask all parents to confirm that they intend sending their child by e-mailing Jo Dover (Progress Manager for Year 7) no later than Friday 26th June (jdover@brecon-hs.powys.sch.uk). Please note that you will need to specify any particular information that you would like to share with the school to support the planning of this day. This would especially apply in the situation of any child having a medical or additional learning need.

In order to support all parents/carers during this transition I am also intending to host two information events during the week beginning 6th July. These sessions will run between 5pm – 6pm and will be an opportunity for parents/carers to ask any questions and receive further information about the High School. Two dates are currently being looked at to enable social distancing protocols to be adhered to. I will be able to confirm these dates in due course.

School Uniform

You may be aware that the High School chose to introduce a new school uniform and PE kit last year. This has been a huge success. Our pupils and parents/carers are delighted with how smart Brecon High School pupils now look and how well they have adapted to this change. This change was requested by pupils and is a source of great pride within the school. Pupil Voice is very important to me. You will see that when your son/daughter begins at the High School that their views and opinions are listened to and considered regularly. The school uniform supplier is Evans and Wilkins (8 Bulwark, Brecon, LD3 7LB; Tel: 01874 622922). Brecon High School pupils sourced this as the new supplier and oversaw the tender for the contract.

The full details regarding the uniform can be found at the end of this letter, along with all prices. Please note that if you are in receipt of Free School Meals, I will cover the full cost of your uniform purchase by providing you with a credit note that is issued to the supplier on your behalf. The value of this is a maximum of £100, which is considered a high enough value to purchase the uniform and PE kit, plus some additional items if required.

Important Information

Please find below a message from Jo Dover, Progress Manager for Year 7:

Firstly and most importantly, I hope that both you and your families are keeping well. In these challenging and uncertain times, I hope that this letter reassures you that we are doing everything we can to ensure that your move to secondary school is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Liaising with Primary Schools:

I have, as with previous cohorts of pupils, met with each primary school Headteacher and Year 6 class teachers in order to collate a variety of information which has been used to produce Year 7 form groups. Form groups will contain a mixture of pupils from various schools but will also have a proportion of pupils from your child's own primary school in order to ensure that they have familiar faces to help them feel at ease during this transition experience.

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Useful Information:

The school day: School begins at 8.50am and ends at 3.30pm. There are five, hour long lessons within the day. Break time is at 11.15am and lasts for fifteen minutes and lunchtime is at 1.30pm and lasts for fifty minutes. Pupils typically arrive anytime from 8.00am and are asked to base themselves in the Dining Hall until the beginning of the school day. Toilets are located on the ground and first floor with designated girls and boys blocks.

Lockers: Lockers are available in our school for any pupils that wish to use one. They are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Pupils will need either a combination or key operated padlock to secure a locker. Please register your interest for a locker at the main office on your first day. There is no charge for the use of a locker.

Equipment: Typical equipment for all pupils will include a school bag, a pencil case with a pen, a pencil, a rubber, a pencil sharpener, and a ruler as the basics. Pupils may wish to also have colouring pencils, a calculator etc. A reading book is also advisable to encourage pupils to read for their pleasure during their social time. Specific equipment for identified subjects will be shared from September.

Canteen: During the first couple of days in High School pupils will have their thumb print scanned in order to be registered in the school canteen 'Parent Pay' system. This will enable pupils to purchase food and drinks using their thumbs each day and for parents/carers to be able to manager their accounts from home easily. There is always a wide range of choices available to purchase from a daily cooked lunch, pasta pots to sandwiches and snacks. The alternative to this is that pupils bring their own packed lunch and drink. Both options are popular within the school and our current pupils will often combine the two options during the week depending on any clubs they wish to attend.

Clubs: Lunchtime and afterschool clubs are popular at Brecon High School and more information regarding these will be made available in September. Our clubs typically include football, rugby, netball, drama, 5 x 60 (sports), athletics and language clubs to name but a few.

Homework club: This operates every lunchtime offering the opportunity to complete homework during school hours and is a popular club among all year groups. This is supervised by a member of staff.

A virtual tour: Please follow this link to have a look around the high school with your child before they attend their transition days if possible (<https://www.breconit.co.uk/BHS/index.htm>).

Please find below a message from Donna Watson, ALN Co-ordinator:

Brecon High School takes pride in its inclusive approach to learning. The Students' Transition, Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Centre provides a safe learning environment where individuals and small groups of pupils can access support and guidance from highly skilled and experienced support staff to help meet their academic, social and emotional needs. Pupils can access physical resources such as laptops as well as requesting rooms for independent study as they progress through to Key Stage 4.

Support is guided by the Local Authority's Graduated Response approach and is very much determined by the individual needs of pupils, with in-class support for larger groups of pupils where appropriate. Year 7 pupils are generally supported by Mrs Rhian Owen, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, who liaises closely with staff, parents and outside agencies in order to provide bespoke guidance and support for Year 7 pupils transitioning into Brecon High School.

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Individual ALN needs are discussed at length during transition meetings with your child's primary school teachers. This pupil centred approach allows us to get to know your child's strengths from the outset and enables us to identify any specific areas for support. However, we also take into consideration that high school is a very different learning experience to a primary setting, so we appreciate that time to settle in and adapt is a vital part of the transition process. The school also hosts the Local Authority's ASD Resource Centre. Mrs Nicola Price is the Specialist Teacher for the Resource, which supports pupils with a diagnosis of Autism, Aspergers or Social and Communication Difficulties.

We are blessed that our school community consists of children from a variety of religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and we welcome multiculturalism and diversity. Pupils for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) may access support from our EAL Specialist Teacher, Mrs Gillespie, and may also be encouraged and supported to work towards qualifications in their mother tongue if this is feasible.

We also welcome many pupils from Forces families and Mrs Leah Burnett, a Forces Families Support Officer (FFSO), is based on site to support transition and learning. The school also runs a Wellbeing Centre which is facilitated by Mrs Nikki Chilvers; this provides a safe space for pupils who may need to access counselling, support from the school nurse or access to other outside agencies. Pupils with medical needs are supported by both the Wellbeing Centre and the STAR Centre. If your child has any medical conditions (eg allergies, asthma, diabetes etc), it is vital that the school is kept fully informed of any diagnoses or changes in medication so that we can best support your child; if necessary, Healthcare Plans can be created alongside relevant medical professionals.

I trust that the above provides you with an important and valuable initial round of information to help you prepare for a tremendously exciting change for your son/daughter.

When the time allows, I very much look forward to meeting you and working with you to enable them to become the success we want them to be.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Jenkins'.

Richard Jenkins
Headteacher

Brecon High School – Uniform Information

The uniform supplier for Brecon High School is Evans & Wilkins. Please note that the school uniform has been designed in a way to enable parents/carers to purchase many items from a shop of their own choice to minimise cost. The essential items that will need to be purchased from Evans & Wilkins are the school blazer, tie and PE Kit. All other items can be sourced from other shops if this is suitable for parents/carers. A full outline of the uniform, along the price list, can be found below. If you have any queries regarding the uniform then please contact me directly at your earliest convenience.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



SHIRT: Plain white,
long or short sleeved

TIE: Blue and
gold clip-on tie

BLAZER: Blue
with school
crest

TROUSERS: Plain
black, tailored, not
skinny or leggings

SKIRT: Black, knee
length pleated

FOOTWEAR: Plain
black shoes that can be
polished, with sensible
heels, no canvas shoes,
trainers or boots

OUTER COATS: Sensible, plain black. These should be removed whilst inside the school

BAG: A strong rucksack or holdall

JEWELLERY: 1 wristwatch, 1 plain ear stud in each ear, 1 dress ring.

SCHOOL PE UNIFORM



BOYS:
Blue and gold reversible
rugby top.
Polo top
Shorts
Games socks



GIRLS:
Blue and gold polo top
Midliner top
Black leggings
Games socks





Brecon High - Official School Uniform Price List

Evans & Wilkins



Boys Day Uniform

Black School Trousers sizes 24 - 40 from £22.95

White Semi Fitted Shirts from £8.25

Boys Fit Blazer from £34.95, Tie £4.95

Girls Day Uniform

Pleated Black Skirt, sizes 22 - 36 from £20.95

Fitted White Blouse £11.95, standard fit £8.25

Girls Fit Blazer from £34.95, Tie £4.95



Boys PE Kit

Relaxed Fit Polo from £14.50, Sports Shorts from £ 11.99

Rugby Top from £21.95, Sports Socks £6.50

Girls PE Kit

Fitted Polo Shirt from £14.50, Girls Skort from £15.50

Leggings from £15.50, Sports Socks £6.50

**Unisex Fit ~Mid Layer 1/4 zip
both Boys and ~Girls £24.95**

Prices are Correct at time of Printing , but may be subject to change

07/05/2020