



Blatch June Mailshot

Hello!

We hope that you're beginning to get excited about your child joining us at Blatch – we are! Even if we don't yet know exactly what the circumstances will be for their start at Blatch, please be reassured that we are currently thinking really carefully about how to make them feel welcome and have a successful start to secondary school.

We are also talking closely to their primary Headteachers and will receive feedback on how the Year 6 returns to school go this week and beyond. We are very aware that for some students this will make them very anxious, whilst for others it will be a relief to be back. Our plans for September will respond to how the final experience of Year 6 maps out.

It is important that your child looks forward to starting at "big school". They may well be feeling a mixture of emotions on the lead up to transferring from Primary to Secondary School, on top of those they are already feeling about going back into Year 6. And we are aware that as parents/carers you may well be experiencing a similar range of emotions and apprehensions about the forthcoming change. We hope that the videos and other communications we will have with you over the coming weeks will help with these, but if you still have concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Year 7 to 6 messages

To help your child with some of the questions they may have about starting at secondary school we have attached [here](#) a **Year 7 guide** to BMS for your child, written by Year 7s already at Blatch. We asked the current Year 7 for help writing this before lockdown started. We have since asked them again to give advice to your children on starting and will be sending this information out to you and your child in the forthcoming weeks. And after that we will be sending short videos from Year 7. So we hope your child will feel very well informed by the end of this process!

Important People

For many students, even in "normal" circumstances, a visual reminder of who everyone is, proves useful. We have attached a useful prompt sheet [here](#) detailing the Year Team and SEND lead amongst others.

Year 7 Form Tutors

We are also in the process of filming video messages from all the new Year 7 Form Tutors to send out to you next week. We will send these to your child's primary school, so there is a chance they will be able to view these whilst in school in one of their "bubbles". And we will shortly start communicating with your children using their BMS email address- we normally arrange this with them in September, but it makes sense for them to have this now. (More on this later in this letter).

A personalised version of this letter was sent home

At the moment we are pretty sure that we will not be able to offer the Induction Evening on 6 July for parents and carers in the same way as we would normally; with over 300 people in the theatre (school hall) at the same time, sitting well within half a metre of each other, let alone 2m apart. Nor the Year 6 Taster Day.

However we will make sure that we find ways to give you all the details you need ahead of your child arriving at Blatch in September. Mostly we plan to do this by sending you out mailshots such as this one, a virtual tour and video messages. These will be sent to your email address (this one) that you gave us on your child's Pupil Registration Form. We will place the presentations online, and send some information to your child directly - on their BMS email address.

Your child's BMS email address

Please read the details on this link as to how your child can sign up to their school email address. [BMS Gmail Guide for Year 6 Parents](#)

From 22 June, Miss Edmed will begin sending a weekly assembly to your child and all students in Year 7 from September, on this email address. Some of you may already be receiving our Daily Dose of Calm and this will also be included. The focus of the assemblies this term will be to help students start to understand the Blatch ethos and feel part of the #BlatchFamily.

Those students who may be the only one coming from their primary school will use their BMS school email address as a way to communicate with their e-penpals.

Next Monday Miss Edmed will send your child a request asking them to write to their form tutor introducing themselves. We will have sent out short videos from the form tutors themselves by then, so hopefully this will give them ideas on what to write. There will also be some guidance in Miss Edmed's email. Their form tutor would *love* to hear from them, so watch out for this. It will be sent to their BMS email address. We will also send a copy to their primary schools, so there may be an opportunity to work on it whilst at school if they are going in.

Once we reach July, we will be sending an email (again via yourselves, your child's BMS email address and their primary schools) asking for them to complete an English task to then bring with them on their first day at Blatch. We do this every year and it is a really useful bridge between primary school and secondary, giving us an indication of your child's writing.

School lockers

Information regarding hiring lockers will be available later in the year.

School Uniform

Information can be found here [Uniform](#) This is on the school website and includes clarity over shoes, which some may find helpful. We will hold a second hand uniform sale as well as a Khalsa (our providers) school uniform sale before students join us in September.

The second-hand uniform sale will be from **3.30-5.30pm on Monday 6th July**, with social distancing rules observed. More details of routes into the school site and safety guidelines to be followed, will be sent in a couple of weeks' time. This will be an occasion to purchase clean uniform items at discounted prices. Please note that only **card and paypal payments** will be accepted.

The online uniform shop is available through a link on the website or via www.khalsaschoolwear.co.uk .

If you have any technical difficulty with online purchasing please contact Khalsa directly on 020 7729 3286 or on info@khalsaschoolwear.co.uk .

Khalsa Schoolwear will also be coming to the school **on Sunday 16th August** during the school holidays and it will be possible to both purchase new items from them and return any items you may have purchased online that are the wrong size. We are currently liaising with Khalsa in regards to a discount for online sales. Further details of timeslots and where to come into the school will be issued nearer the time - in a similar way to how we will let you know about the second hand sale.

The school has a hardship fund to support families who may experience financial difficulty in the purchase of a new school uniform. If you would like to apply for this assistance please email Ms Capranelli, our Operations Manager directly on vcapranelli@blatchingtonmill.org.uk

Term dates for 2020 – 2021 are available on the school website. [Term Dates](#)

SEND queries

For any of our families with students with special needs, we have the opportunity for you to book a 10 minute catch up session with Ms White, our SEND-Co. This will be on **2nd July 1.30 - 3.30 pm** and details in regard to how to book will come out nearer the time.

And finally... questions?

There is a lot of information here. Whilst there are facts and ethos thoughts to impart, we are still mindful of the importance of putting you all at as much ease as possible. If you have any questions at all please send them in to BMSAdminHub@blatchingtonmill.org.uk. We will group them by theme and try to cover as many as possible in future communications.



Yours sincerely,
Ms R King
Deputy Head Teacher