



**BIDDULPH  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**



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Headteacher: **Mrs E C Robinson BA (Hons)**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Re: Changes for September 2022**

I promised before Easter that I would write to update you of the results of our survey and changes for September 2022.

This is a busy time of year. Our Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students have internal and external examinations and Year 9 will also be sitting assessments. For our older students it is the first time in three years that we have had external examinations. External examinations began on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and will continue until 29<sup>th</sup> June.

We are now starting to look forward to September 2022. I feel that it is important to update you of the changes that we are planning so that you have plenty of notice. We have now established a Student Leadership Team who are working with all of our students, collecting opinions and ideas for how we can move forward. Ofsted recognised the fact that the school was on the right path to becoming outstanding and we are looking to build on the successful programmes that we already have in place.

**From September 2022:**

1. From September 2022 the school week will change slightly. The school day will begin every morning at 8.35am. Students arriving after 8.40am will be marked as late and will have a 20-minute after school detention, unless they have a valid reason for their lateness.

**The school day will end at 2.25pm every Monday. On all other days it will end at 3.15pm.**

On a Monday the school Library will remain open to students unable to go home at this time. The Sixth Form Study Room for BH6 students always remains open until 4.00pm. Both rooms will be supervised. On Mondays, after-school detentions will run as follows: 20-minute detention from 2.25-2.45pm and 45-minute detention from 2.25-3.10pm. The Hollinshead Coaches bus service will collect students at 2.25pm every Monday and at 3.15pm Tuesday to Friday. The morning collection time will remain the same.

We are adopting a common initiative in many schools to hold staff training for two hours every Monday afternoon. We will review the success of this at the end of the next academic year. This has been supported by most parents and agreed by Governors and the Trust. The school still meets the 32.5 hours required by the DfE.



This training is essential to make the improvements to our school. Many aspects of the school are already outstanding and this was supported by our personal feedback from the Ofsted Inspector. However, we need time to make sure that our curriculum is outstanding and our subject choices remain current at both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Some of you have asked about our INSET days and why training cannot take place in those. I will be putting an overview of all of our training, including INSET, onto the website to enable you to see how we are using the time.

2. **We have amended compulsory school uniform to make it more affordable.** You have received a copy of our updated policy. The school blazer and school tie remain the only item of main uniform that needs to be purchased from official uniform providers. In addition, the PE polo shirt is now the ONLY compulsory item of clothing for PE. However, all other items are available. Students may now wear PE shorts and training pants / leggings as outlined in the uniform policy. We will be hosting a uniform shop from our suppliers on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 9.00am to 3.00pm in our school Hall. Pre-loved uniform will be available from the school. An outline of uniform is attached to this letter. If you are unsure, please contact the school at [office@biddulphhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@biddulphhigh.co.uk)

**We would ask that if you are able to donate a school blazer, tie, or items of PE kit** could you please send these into school either to our front office or ask your child to hand it into their form tutor who will make sure that it gets to the right place. Any items in reasonable condition will be gratefully received.

**Uniform for Sixth Form** remains unchanged. The only compulsory item to be purchased from official providers is the school tie. Students who are joining our Sixth Form will receive all of this information over the coming weeks.

3. **Extracurricular provision will increase from September.** We already offer 61 clubs but we are aiming to make our provision more diverse. All students will have access to a 'Co-curricular Fair' when they return in September which will offer a range of programmes, activities and societies for students to join. Please understand that staff are not paid for additional hours (we don't get overtime) and extra-curricular is something that they are choosing to offer because they want to.
4. **From September there will be a renewed focus on attendance.** Students are expected to attend school every day. Holidays are not permitted, by Government, during term time, although the school will continue to consider individual requests. At this age, students are preparing for their future and external examinations. Every day lost puts them at a disadvantage and makes it harder for them to keep up with their peer group. The school will be aiming to return to a 96% attendance rate but we need your support in doing this. Students must understand that the school will be used as a reference by future employers, colleges and universities and attendance is a key part of this. The school employs an Attendance Officer who will be contacting students who fall below our expected standards.
5. **Parents' Evenings:** this received a very mixed response with some of you wanting in-person and others online. We will be looking to offer a combination through the year and have changed our reports to make them as user friendly as possible. We will also be creating 'How To' videos that you will be able to find on our website, from September, that will help you to read and understand your child's report and the data included within it.
6. **School website:** Ofsted complimented our website for its ease of use and content but we want to continue to develop this to help to support parents and students. We will be making sure that our curriculum sections are updated for September so that you can easily find out what your child is studying and, in response to your comments, the ways that you can help them.



7. **School will reopen for Year 9 on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and for all other students on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**
8. **School trips:** We have been running these now since last term and hope to continue to run more trips next year. We will always seek to get the best deals financially to enable as many students as possible the opportunity to attend.
9. **Requests for support in helping your child:** Many of you asked for help in supporting your child through this crucial stage of their education. The school website will contain the most current information regarding individual subject areas, including information on the most appropriate revision guides to buy. However, most of us do not understand subjects that we have not studied to advanced level. **The most important thing that you can do to support your child is to take an interest in what they are doing, praise them for making an effort and doing well and ensure that there is a space at home for them to study.** If you do not have a space, the school Library and Study Rooms are open every day and Biddulph Library provides an excellent resource within the town. For specific information you can contact the school on [office@biddulphhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@biddulphhigh.co.uk) identifying the member of staff, in the subject line, that you need to direct your query to.

**Our children need more support at this stage and it is often the time that, as parents, we tend to let them 'get on with it'. Supporting them with a positive mindset is as important as teaching them the information. Children who work hard and are well-supported succeed.**

Thank you to all of those who responded to our survey. We will be sending these out annually but I always welcome feedback at any time, so please email or telephone with your thoughts and ideas.

We would also like to invite any parents or carers to come to look around the school during the school day. We understand that many parents of Year 9 and 10 students have not really had this opportunity. Please contact the school by emailing [office@biddulphhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@biddulphhigh.co.uk) or by telephoning our Reception by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June and we will make the arrangements.

Thank you for your support this year. There will be an end of term letter but, until then, I wish all of our students sitting examinations the best of luck.

Yours faithfully



Mrs E Robinson  
Headteacher

