

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.” Viktor Frankl

## Barley Lane School

*Ready, Respectful, Safe.*

26.01.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sorry to have not been in much communication recently and so thank you for your support with the ‘Snow day’ last week. We were taken by surprise and had to act swiftly to ensure that both staff and pupils could arrive safely home.

Since taking over the headship, the team continues to work relentlessly hard. We remain understaffed in some staff areas despite ongoing recruitment drives, yet staff remain as committed as ever to ensuring that the children are effectively safeguarded and that teaching and learning is motivational, aspirational and engaging and seeks to contribute to your sons’ personal development and preparation for adulthood in line with their mainstream peers.

However, we have some **exciting** news to share with you!

### So, what is it that is so exciting?

We have recently secured funding for some perimeter fencing that will allow us to open up a **forest school provision**, which we plan to be **timetabled for September 2023**. Please take a look at the 5-minute video at the following link - [What is Forest School? | Forest School Association](#) – work begins on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

We have added a number of new initiatives to the timetable including, **catering, bike mechanics (linked to a local business), barbering and animal care**.

Thanks to a school council suggestion, The Duke of Edinburgh award has been successfully relaunched for some children in upper KS3 and KS4 and we hope they can secure their bronze award in the summer of 2023. [Do DoFE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

We are also in very early discussions about a **KS1 age range provision** being added to the site in the next couple of years and the possibility of some other building development which we will keep you informed about as we understand more.

We are planning a **KS 4 transition curriculum for year 11 leavers** post their final exam, and a **mini careers fair for them and parents** in June 2023. We will be inviting local colleges and businesses in so that you can talk some more about your son’s transition to college or employment next year. Careers South West (CSW) are visiting at the end of this month to support year 11 pupils. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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*‘Never look down on anybody unless you are helping them up.’ Jesse Jackson*

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[Careers and Guidance - Barley Lane School](#)

**Parent's evening** will be held in February and your son's tutor will be in contact shortly to arrange a time to call, have a meeting in person, or virtually with you to discuss their progress.

Please remember you can access the school website at any time for all additional information such as term dates, online safety, school timings and all latest updates:

[www.barleylaneschool.org.uk](http://www.barleylaneschool.org.uk)

**Finally**, at this point, we will be in contact about the potential for the school to move back to a **9am start on Monday mornings** from **September 2023**. In the meantime, please speak to your son's tutor or myself about this potential development and we will provide definite confirmation of our plans by Easter 2023.

Thank you for all your support, communication and help in all matters.

With warm wishes,

*Mr. Jones and the team at Barley Lane School*