

5th May 2021

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

Regarding Move to Watling Academy, Barrosa Way site

I wanted to write to you to outline the plans for our physical move to Barrosa Way at the end of this half term and to highlight to you a couple of things we will need your support with to ensure the process goes smoothly for the students.

It was a pleasure to take the students on their tours of the new build and I know that the vast majority are very excited and can't wait to get in after half term. I also appreciate that, for some, the move from our close-knit environment at Fairfields to a very large new build is quite daunting and I can assure you that we will do our utmost to support those students with the move.

Behind the scenes we are working hard as a team to get things ready and organise the detailed plans for the removals but remain absolutely focused on continuing to provide the highest quality of care, education and opportunity for the students. There are a small number of the team, including myself, who have relocated for much of the week to Barrosa Way to ensure things are fully prepared in advance of the physical move and that the building is fully operational and equipped to support our systems and processes.

The plan is to continue with the curriculum and operation as normal at Fairfields until the end of the day on Wednesday 26th May with the exception of the two visits for Drama lessons and the two Acclimatisation days. Students will have their last day at Fairfields on Wednesday 26th May and then move across to Barrosa Way for one day prior to the INSET day and half term on Thursday 27th May. This is to allow us to begin the process of packing at Fairfields and being ready for the removals company who are coming the following day. On Thursday 27th May, students will need to make their way to and from Barrosa Way, there will be no access to Fairfields for students on that day.

There will be no after school clubs on Thursday 27th May as staff will be working across both sites to pack.

The Academy office will close at 3:30pm on Thursday 27th May and not re-open until Tuesday 8th June at 8am.

Belongings and Personal possessions

At the end of the day on Friday 21st May students are asked to bring home all personal possessions, belongings and work not being transferred to the new build. This will ensure that nothing is mislaid or lost during the following week when we begin to pack.

Lost Property

The final day for collecting any lost property will be Friday 21st May. We will not be taking any remaining lost property to the new build and it will be donated to a charity shop so if your son or daughter has mislaid an item it is important that they check lost property before the end of the day on Friday 21st.

Lockers

Any student who has been issued a locker at Fairfields will need to empty the locker of all their belongings and hand the key back to the Admin team at Reception by the end of the day on Friday 21st May. As long as the locker has not been damaged and the key returned then the £5 deposit will be transferred and a locker automatically allocated at Barrosa Way.

The lockers are remaining at Fairfields so any items not removed by the end of the day on Friday 21st May will be considered lost property (see above).

If there is any damage or the key is not returned then the £5 deposit will be retained and a new deposit will need to be paid in order to be allocated a new locker at Barrosa Way.

If any student who does not currently have a locker at Fairfields wishes to be allocated a locker at Barrosa Way then there will be an opportunity for them to pay a £5 deposit via SIMSPay and be allocated one at the new build on the first day in the new building. Further details will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

Acclimatisation days

A reminder of the two days on Wednesday 12th May and Monday 17th May. Students will need to be dropped off/make their own way to Barrosa Way and be picked up/make their own way home from Barrosa Way. The arrangements will be the same on Thursday 27th May.

The Number 1 bus drops right opposite the Academy building and the closest bus stop for the X60 route is the Crownhill roundabout, there is then a 15-20 minute walk under the underpass along the V4 and into Barrosa Way. There is a redway from Stony/Fairfields along the V4 but students must take care and get off their bikes to safely cross the H2 and H3 junctions with the V4.

I am still pursuing the situation regarding buses and safe cycle routes with the Council.

Address

Our new address at Barrosa Way will be Watling Academy, Barrosa Way, Whitehouse, Milton Keynes, MK8 1EP

The telephone number when we move will remain the same – 01908 794094.

Summary of key dates:

- Wednesday 12th May – Acclimatisation day 1; students to arrive and depart directly to and from Barrosa Way
- Monday 17th May – Acclimatisation day 2; students to arrive and depart directly to and from Barrosa Way
- Friday 21st May – all lockers at Fairfields emptied and keys returned to Admin team
- Friday 21st May – all lost property collected
- Friday 21st May – all personal belongings and school materials to be taken home by students

- Wednesday 26th May – last day for students at Fairfields site
- Thursday 27th May – Students spend the day at Barrosa Way site – there will be **NO** after school clubs on this day. Please note - the Academy office will close at 3:30pm on this day and not re-open until Tuesday 8th June at 8am.
- Friday 28th May – INSET day. Watling Academy closed to students
- Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June – Half term break; Watling staff undertake move from Fairfields to Barrosa Way
- Monday 7th June – INSET day; Watling Academy closed to students
- Tuesday 8th June – Students move in to Barrosa Way site

Many thanks in advance for all your support of the Watling staff team in managing the move smoothly. We know that the reward will be fantastic and all the hard work now will be well worth it!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mr I Bacon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr I Bacon
Head of School