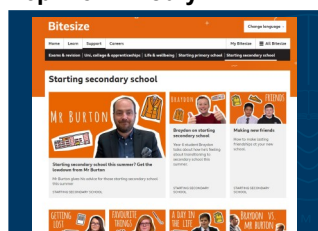
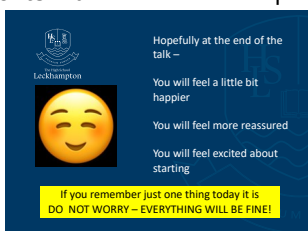




Secondary Transition

With only 6 ½ school weeks to go until our Transition Day on 7th July 2021, time seems to be hurtling along here at The High School Leckhampton. I hope that your children are continuing to enjoy their time in Year 6, we have heard such positive things from their Primary Schools as they continue to make the most of all the opportunities on offer.

Miss O’Riordan and I have now started our **Primary Transition visits** and we will be meeting **all** the children (and their teachers) between now and 11th June. During the visits we will be talking to them about the Taster Day and what to expect in September. Our aim is to reassure them about the move to Secondary School and encourage them to look forward with excitement to what’s in store. The children will bring a copy of the presentation home with them and I hope that they share this with you. Don’t worry though, we will make sure all our parents have heard the same information from us during the **Parents’ Talk** which will take place at **6pm on 7th July**.



Taster Day

Just a reminder that the date for our Taster Day is **7th July 2021**. Each child will receive a letter, posted the weekend before this date, to confirm the arrangements for the day, which house they are in and who their tutor is. Please note that although I have requested bus transport from the Transport Team at GCC for this Transition Day, they will not be able to confirm if this is possible until early June. I will update families immediately upon hearing from them.

Building Update

The Balcarras Trustees and I enjoyed a fantastic visit to the site at Farm Lane on 29th April. The Kier Team are certainly working hard to bring the project in on time. I particularly enjoyed standing in what will be our large courtyard, surrounded by the 2 main wings of the building. From that position you get a real sense of how the school is nestled into the landscape and the tremendous views we will have looking up the tiered site, past the sports facilities, towards the Leckhampton escarpment.



In other good news, there are only a few weeks to go here at Balcarras before TG Escapes hand over our building ready for this September. The team have worked tirelessly, including on weekends, to bring this in ahead of schedule. The floor coverings are currently going in and I have been able to take some of our teachers around the building. It is absolutely fantastic! It is my intention to allow parents into the building on the evening of 7th July, so you can see for yourselves.

PTFA

Many thanks to the small group of parents who gave their time to attend the first PTFA meeting on 30th April 2021. I am looking forward to working closely with this group, so that they can offer some wonderful events for pupils and their families, and hopefully raise some money too! The approved Constitution is now on the website. The next meeting will be on **Friday 11th June 10-11am in Balcarras School Hall**, where we will be discussing plans for the first event in early October. We would welcome any parent who is able to attend, please just email the school to let us know you are coming.





Bus Transport

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up for your child to use bus transport in September. Gloucestershire County Council School Transport Team have now agreed the two bus routes, after having looked at the postal addresses of our pupils. Those pupils who have been signed up (on our Pre-Admission form) have been allocated to their nearest bus stop on one of these two routes. **GCC will write directly to parents during the week beginning 24th May 2021 to confirm the routes and which bus stop your child should use.** Please look out for this letter, we would be happy to pass on any queries you may have to our contact in the Transport Team at GCC.



Parent Governor Nominations – final reminder

Just a reminder that nominations for our 2 Parent Governor positions should be submitted by **12th May 2021**. All families will have received information about this in the post, however the letter and nomination form are still on the website. If there are more than 2 nominations, there will be an election and information about the election process will be posted home.

Two Schools, one site

I'm sure many of you are keen to hear more about how The High School Leckhampton will operate on the site at Balcarras in September. A significant amount of thought and planning is going into the arrangements and I will spend time talking you through how it will all work at the Parents' Talk on 7th July. You will also receive a booklet that contains a lot of information about how we will operate on a daily basis and how you can support your child when they start. In the meantime, however, I thought it would be helpful to share some details relating to the structure of the school day, that you might find helpful:

The two school buses will pick up your child from their designated bus stop and arrive on site at Balcarras at **8:30am**. Registration will take place from **8:40 - 9:00am**. When pupils arrive on site, they will go straight to their tutor room, which will be in one of our 4 classrooms in our school building. After registration, the pupils will go to their lessons, which will be scheduled to start at exactly the same time as those of the Year 7 pupils at Balcarras. This arrangement allows maximum flexibility when we are timetabling our teachers and rooms.

Pupils will have **5 lessons each day** and the school will operate a 2-week timetable. Like lessons, breaktime and lunchtime will be at the same time as Balcarras. Please note that break and lunchtimes tend to be a little later in Secondary School than in Primary School, so we will ask you to ensure they try and have a good breakfast! The Year 7 pupils from both schools will be allocated to a tuck shop and lunchtime area that they will share. There will be plenty of extra-curricular clubs that they can join, these will mostly be at lunchtime and after school. All clubs will start in the second or third week of September and the pupils will bring a club list home when they join us. Parents will be asked to sign children up for private music lessons or Public Speaking Classes by the end of the summer term so that we can organise staffing.

Our school day will end at **3:25pm** when the buses will depart. Teachers will supervise pupils getting onto buses but there will not be a teacher on the bus when it departs. Pupils staying behind for clubs, will wait in their tutor room until those clubs start at **3:35pm**.

These details represent only the very basic elements of our arrangements and I'm sure that you will have many more questions. If there is something particularly pressing that you are keen to know before the Parents' Talk, however trivial, please do contact me at school. Alternatively, please keep an eye on the website as I am updating this all the time. I will include further details in my next newsletter too.

With warmest wishes,

Helen Wood

Headteacher

