



Barking Abbey School

SEND Transition

Newsletter

Welcome to the SEND Transition Newsletter!

Moving to secondary school can be a daunting experience at the best of times and the current situation is not helping matters. This newsletter has been created to offer some advice to parents and carers on how you can help your child over the holidays.

Introductions...



I am Ms Casey, and I am the lead SENCO.

If you have any last-minute questions, please do not hesitate to email me and I will do our best to help you. If there is any information regarding your child and their needs, please email me and we can organise a convenient time to discuss this.

caseyl@barkingabbey.school

Parental help...

The expert, when discussing your child, is you! We will work very closely with yourselves to ensure that your child receives the best support.

There is some general advice that we would like to share with you though to ensure that your child is ready for secondary school.



Practical Tips

- Practice how your child will get to school – using the bus, walking the route, alternative routes and problem solving. This equips your child for any eventuality during their journey to school.
- Practice road safety and encourage independent skills when you are out so that you can be reassured, they know how to be safe.
- Establish an honest and open relationship with us – if you have any concerns, please speak to us and we can address the issues accordingly.
- In September, I will organise a parent induction evening – it would be beneficial if you attended as we can discuss how your child is going to be supported throughout Barking Abbey.
- Help your child to take responsibility for their belongings – we have a lot of 'lost' equipment and PE kits in the first few weeks of term!

Emotional Tips

- Try not to worry – we will do our utmost to ensure that your child settles into the Barking Abbey way of life. We appreciate that secondary school is different to primary school for parents and carers too – please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.
- Be patient with your child – the change of moving from primary to secondary can affect children in different ways; they are learning new subjects as well as trying to navigate themselves round a new building and build new friendships. You might find your child is short tempered or more grumpy than usual – this happens to the best of us when there is change!

Communication is key...

Covid-19 has meant that transition has happened differently this year. On the transition page of the website, the introduction video can be found, along with some comments from our students and the virtual tour.

It would be valuable to revisit these videos with your child towards the end of August in preparation for September.

BRAVERY
EXCELLENCE
SELF-DISCIPLINE
TEAM-BA

Student comments...

One of the students with SEND, currently in year 8, wanted me to pass on this advice:

Dear Year Six,

My name is Atiq and I am in year 8 and the House captain of Martin Luther King House. I joined Barking Abbey School just like you are now in September of 2018. Only two people came from my primary school, which made me scared that I might not fit in the new environment. However, as the school year progressed, I found that I was making new friends and enjoying year 7.

I enjoyed learning new subjects and new topics that Barking Abbey offered. I am an S.E.N student so I receive bespoke support I need in lessons. I stood out, people asked why I get special help, but as time passed people got used to it, and instead of finding it weird they started to find it helpful as well. It might not be easy, and you may be a bit nervous starting but remember Barking Abbey has an abundance of caring teachers and staff. Such as your prospective Head of House and teachers.

One teacher that always helped me when I was down or needed help was Ms Casey. I believe from my experience that Barking Abbey school is one of the best schools in Barking and Dagenham and one of the best in England for sports. When you start in year 7 you will be introduced to all different subjects some might be new to you but you will enjoy learning about, like design and technology where you even get to make toys by yourself. The facilities, like the library in our school, has been designed to hold the latest laptops and the classical books - fiction and non-fiction alike.

Enjoy your first year at Barking Abbey, you will be surprised when the year has gone by and you are already in Year 8 like I am.

A big Welcome to Barking Abbey from me and your senior students!

Atiq 8/J

Barking Abbey School Longbridge Campus

