

Wednesday 21st July, 2021

Dear Parents,

The High School Leckhampton

I am writing to confirm arrangements regarding the temporary hosting of The High School Leckhampton at Balcarras for next academic year.

We now have possession of a brand-new state of the art building that will host the High School. The school will have 120 Year 7 students. The school day will be staggered slightly with The High School Leckhampton starting earlier than Balcarras. Balcarras start times will revert to normal next year, notwithstanding any alterations that might be necessary due to the pandemic. For the academic year 2021-22 we will not operate Early Finish Friday. The High School will finish before Balcarras so that we have time to get their students on to the bus before our students depart.

We are sharing some of our specialist facilities such as sport, science and DT but our timetabler, Mr Towers, has done an amazing job of arranging this so that there is no disruption to either school. I won't bore you with the details as to why this is possible, but it is all to do with the particular nature of how Year 7 lessons are timetabled.

We are sharing dining space and play space but we are in the fortunate position of having more of both available than we have done in previous years. Balcarras Year 7 and The High School year 7 will share dining and play facilities next year. All of the details of this will be gone through in detail during the first day back in September.

Cheltenham's education system has found itself in a difficult position with the danger of a chronic under-supply of secondary school places. I am proud that Balcarras has done its bit to solve this problem. The fact that the new school is full in its first year proves that there was clearly a need for extra places.

I promise you that we will work closely with Mrs Wood, the headteacher of the High School Leckhampton, to ensure that the arrangements for next year work in the interest of all students. In September 2022 we will bid The High School a fond farewell as they head for their new home at Farm Lane.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher and CEO of The Balcarras Trust



Headteacher
Dominic Burke BA MA