



YEAR 6 WELCOME PACK

Beacon Hill Academy 2020/21

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WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

A personal welcome from the Principal



My name is Mr Sukhjot Dhama and I am the current Principal at Beacon Hill Academy.

I am immensely proud to be leading the Academy and to be able to welcome you to our community in September.

I am certain that you will settle in quickly and be made to feel welcome by our staff and your fellow learners. This booklet should serve as your guide to getting settled into our academy and contained within is some very useful information for parents/carers and learners. Should you have any questions, concerns or queries, I would invite you to check the 'Transition from Primary' area of our website, or send us an email using the address on the front of this booklet – one of our friendly staff will be more than willing to help you!

Our school building



Our school building and site is likely much larger than your primary school which can appear quite daunting at first – rest assured; you will feel right at home within the first few days! The school is broken down into floors and blocks, and each room is given a number. For example, our main block is called “Main Block” and the bottom floor is “A Floor”, middle floor is “B Floor” and the top floor (as you probably guessed!) is called “C Floor”. Similarly, we have another block called “H Block” which is where our Art and Design subjects are – the second floor of this block is called “J Floor”. There are a few other smaller blocks, but your form tutors will take you on a tour of the school on your first day to show you around and answer any questions you may have about where anything is.

Teachers & Support Staff



We have lots of staff at Beacon Hill Academy, all of which are highly skilled in their subjects, and very friendly! When you join us in September, you will join your form group. A form group is a group of learners and a teacher. You will have 'Tutor Time' daily where your form tutor (the teacher in your form group) can go over any notices, hand out any letters and speak to you about how you are doing and if there is anything they can do to help. Your form tutor will be the first point of contact for both learners and parents/carers.

At some primary schools, you will often stay in the same groups and even the same classrooms for all of your lessons. Secondary school is different to this, and while you will be with your form group for some of your lessons (such as History, Geography etc.), you will be in other groups for other lessons (such as English, Maths and Science etc.). This allows you to meet new friends and also allows us to ensure that any work you cover in lesson is tailored to your specific ability (we don't want anything to be too easy or too difficult!). You will also move around the school for your lessons so that you can take advantage of the subject-specific equipment and resources in these classrooms.

Our school values



Our Trust values are core to everything we do, and you will see them in various places around our school. It is our job to deliver **learning that inspires** to enable our learners to continue **dreaming big**. We regularly get feedback from our learners to ensure we are doing the right thing and **leading together**. We pride ourselves on **rewarding effort**, be that in or out of the classroom. All our staff and learners are role models for **respecting each other and our world**.

Who's Who?

When you join us, you will be introduced to many key members of staff, including our Senior Leadership Team, your form tutor, and your Year 7 learning manager. The learning manager is directly responsible for Year 7 and looks after all learners in that year group.

You've already met Mr Dhami, our Principal, so let's say hello to a few more key staff:



Miss Johnson
Year 7
Learning Manager



Mr Mahey
Assistant Principal &
Year 6 Transition Lead



Mrs Shingler
Assistant Principal &
Designated Safeguarding Lead

WHAT TO EXPECT

Timetable

Each school day consists of a form time (or assembly) and then 5 lessons. After the first two lessons, you get a break, and after the second two, you get your lunch.

To give you an idea of the timings of these sessions, take a look at this academic year's timetable:

Timings	Lessons
08:40-09:00	Tutor Time / Assembly
09:00-10:00	Period 1
10:00-11:00	Period 2
11:00-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:15	Period 3
Year 7 & Year 10 – Period 4 / Lunch	
12:15-12:45	LUNCH
12:45-13:45	Period 4
Year 8 – Period 4 / Lunch	
12:15-12:45	Period 4 1 st ½
12:45-13:15	LUNCH
13:15-13:45	Period 4 2 nd ½
Year 9 & Year 11 – Period 4 / Lunch	
12:15-13:15	Period 4
13:15-13:45	LUNCH
13:45-14:45	Period 5
14:50-15:45	Period 6 (Year 11)

Uniform



Just like in a job, we expect all our learners to wear and respect their school uniforms. This is also an important safety precaution so that we can identify all our learners instantly. Secondary school uniforms are different to most primary schools – they are much smarter and more grown up!

Care & Support



At Beacon Hill Academy, we pride ourselves on how friendly and supportive all of our staff and learners are – we do have a wide pastoral care system though who are available for anything a learner may need – even just a chat. Specific teams and groups include:

- Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Learning Managers
- AS Base
- Personalised Learning Centre
- And many more...

Pastoral care

The pastoral needs of learners at the school are met through teams of tutors led by a Pastoral Team Leader. Mr Clarkson is Assistant Principal, Pastoral and has pastoral responsibility for our learners in Year 7 to Year 11. He is supported by a team of learning managers and tutors. Mrs Shingler is our Assistant Principal with responsibility for our vulnerable learners and for safeguarding in the school. Before you arrive at Beacon Hill Academy, a great deal of time and consideration will be given to your placement in particular your tutor groups. The arrangements are based on the information received from your primary school, together with requests from your parents and, above all, the requirements for the well-being of the young people we welcome into Year 7.

Learning managers are regarded as very significant in the learners' daily life. It is to the form tutor that we hope that you will recount happy events, any difficulties you might encounter and your aspirations and expectations in an atmosphere of trust and openness. You will start each day with your form tutor for morning registration. The tutor team stays with their groups throughout Year 7 to Year 11.

The early years are particularly crucial times in terms of personal, physical, social, and emotional development and the self-discipline and enjoyment of study and work. We create a feeling of belonging to each year, not only within tutor groups but also within the year.

To enable this we arrange theatre visits, excursions and opportunities for you to welcome visitors and to share their talents and qualities in the wider community. We encourage you to take on the responsibility of organising projects of your own choosing. We are always delighted when our learners suggest and carry out ideas for fundraising. Each year a significant amount of money is raised for a range of charities, through a variety of activities!



If your parent or carer needs to talk to your tutor or learning manager, we will welcome the opportunity but would ask them to make an appointment via the school office on 01902 677754. This way we can be sure to meet your parents at a suitable time. The school places great importance on your safety, which is why it is really important that your parent or carer contacts the school by 09:30am on the first day of your absence and on each subsequent day, with a follow-up note when you return to school. If we do not hear from you by 09:30am, we will contact your parent or carer by either a text message to your mobile phone or a telephone call to the contact number provided. Good attendance at school is essential.

Any lesson missed is a valuable educational experience lost which cannot be replicated. Research suggests that when you are off school your future prospects, personal well-being and job satisfaction are all affected. We encourage all learners to aim for 98% attendance. A learner who attends less than 90% of lessons is described as a persistent absentee. If you or your parent or carer are ever concerned about your attendance, please contact your Form tutor. For more specific information about our approach to attendance, please refer to the attendance policy.

Medical Information and First Aid

Medical records we receive from previous schools may well be incomplete or out of date. Any information regarding medical conditions is not automatically transferred over from primary schools when learners join us in Year 7. There will be an opportunity to update medical and other important information we hold by completing a data collection sheet and/or medical information form which we will send home with you to give to your parent or carer. It can take some time to process these data collection sheets so your parent or carer should communicate urgent information to us directly and not via the sheet.

In the event of new conditions developing, please contact the School Office in the first instance so that the appropriate members of staff can be alerted. The school recognises that on certain occasions it may be necessary for a learner to have a medical appointment during the day. If this is the case, we ask that evidence of the appointment is brought to school and is shown to pastoral staff when signing out.

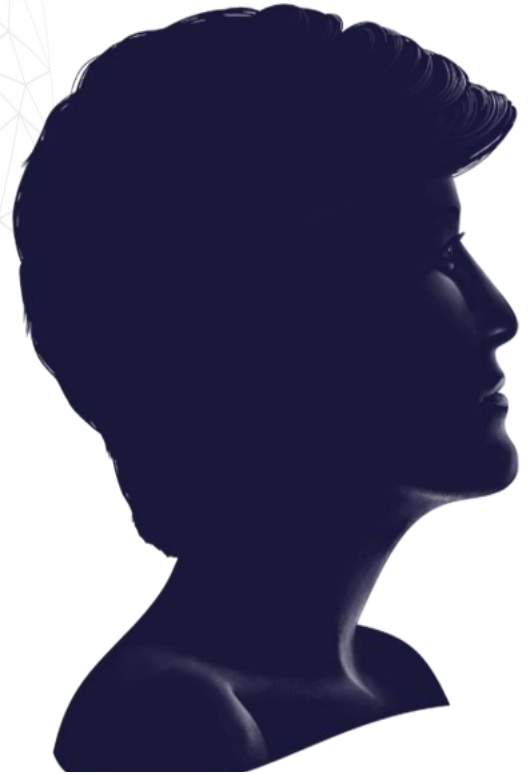
Learners should sign back in when they return to school. If a child is unwell during a lesson, the member of staff may send them to First Aid where our First Aider will assess their needs. If we are concerned about an individual's health, the school will contact home. It is not appropriate for children to use their phones to contact parents to ask to be collected. We need to ensure all learners are safe and children should not leave the school grounds without the permission of a member of staff.

No Place For Bullying

Bullying has no place in our school, and it will not be tolerated. There are well-developed procedures for staff and learners to follow if incidents do occur. The issue is covered in assemblies and tutorial time so that all learners know there is no need to "suffer in silence". If you have any questions or believe that you or someone else is being bullied, please immediately report this to your teacher, form tutor or learning manager.

If You Are Worried

If you are worried, you can always turn to your tutor, a teacher, or any other adult in the school. Sometimes a problem or anxiety can seem so overwhelming that more help is needed. With this in mind, we have a counselling service in school. Learners in need can be referred through their form tutor for an appointment. Parents are always involved when a decision is made about counselling. The counselling service is confidential, although certain types of problems may need to be passed on to other professionals. Learners may use this facility to access confidential advice about relationships, stress, eating worries, anxiety, drugs, and sexual health matters.



Anti-Bullying (by SAFE)
An Anti-Bullying Initiative

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Enterprise Teams and Learner Leadership



Improving the life chances of our learners is at the heart of all the work we do at Beacon Hill Academy, which is something our Enterprise Education initiative plays a major role in. Enterprise Education provides learners with the skills to be successful. These skills are essential for learners who wish to become the next generation of entrepreneurs and are also highly sought after by employers across all sectors of the economy. The development of Enterprise skills continues throughout each learner's time at Beacon Hill Academy, giving them better prospects for the future, whatever careers they choose to follow.

In addition, Enterprise Education helps learners to make even more progress when they move on to Key Stage 4. Learners develop these Enterprise skills across the whole curriculum, in all subject areas, as part of their normal lessons. Many learners decide to develop themselves further by joining our 'Enterprise Team'. This is a group of learners who work together on various projects and competitions to develop their own entrepreneurial skills and to advise us on how to build enterprise into our curriculum.

You will be able to join one of our many enterprise teams and become an ambassador for the School. We have learners that are trained Diana Award Anti Bullying school ambassadors and we are always looking to recruit more! We also have an E-Safety Team (The SAFE Team) who give advice through tutor time, assemblies and PSHE lessons on all aspects of staying safe online; another example of learner leadership at Beacon Hill Academy that you can get involved with.



You will also have an opportunity to apply for a learner leadership role. Each of our year groups has a learner body of leaders helping us with important jobs. We take on board your views and opinions in helping to shape the school to give every learner a fantastic, enjoyable and rewarding time over your 5 years at Beacon Hill Academy. You will have excellent opportunities to help implement new ideas into school and take part in various planned events such as our musical performances and helping out as tour guides during parents evenings or visits. You will develop your leadership and communication skills and be a part of a forward-thinking cohesive team of Learners.

Trips and Visits

We are proud to be able to offer lots of exciting Trips and Visits during their 5 years with us. Some of these trips are for academic purposes (such as our History trip to Poland and our Engineering trip to Thomas Dudley LTD), but we also run trips for rewards purposes.



We believe that trips are a great way for learners to be able to get some hands-on experience with things that just aren't possible in the classroom, as well as speak to some industry specialists who are currently working in that field – you can't get any more knowledgeable than someone who does it as a job!

Recently, our ASPIRE learners took part in trips to Alton Towers and Disneyland Paris to develop their engineering and business skills, discovering more about what goes into making rollercoasters and successful theme parks.



Similarly, as one of our Core Values is 'Rewarding Effort' we like to take our learners on trips to help them unwind and have fun after some hard classroom learning. Moving forward, we are looking to increase the number of trips we run as rewards even further.

One of the most exciting trips during the Academic Year 2018/2019 was our trip to San Francisco, USA.

This trip was enjoyed by all of the learners and staff who visited as they were able to experience the American way of life, visiting key sites such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Google HQ, Apple Visitor Centre, the Hard Rock Café and many many more!



Sport



We have an extremely competitive PE Department who love to host sporting competitions and clubs for our learners to participate in. These clubs range from things like Football to Rugby, Basketball to Netball and Cricket to Rounders. These clubs are not just for girls or boys respectively either, we are extremely inclusive and have both boys and girls teams for most of our sports!

Being part of one of our highly successful teams is a great way for learners to let off some steam, develop teamwork skills and most of all, just have some fun! This year alone, our sporting teams are not only bigger than they have ever been, but also more successful too!

Clubs

Our learners enjoy access to a wide selection of before and after school clubs. These clubs are a great way for them to develop new skills, spend time with friends and otherwise enjoy themselves.

Some of our most notable clubs are our wide range of sports clubs such as Football, Basketball, Rugby and Netball. We also have a Drama club, Art club, Textiles club and one of our newest club's being our LGBTQ+ club.

Music

We have always had a long tradition of having an extremely skilled and talented band who are able to perform at high profile venues, such as Dudley Town Hall.

Starting in 2019, we now not only have our classic 'Big Band', but we also have our 'Pop Band' who add that extra bit of variety!

Our bands are extremely friendly places where anyone is welcome, whether they are musically gifted or not. Our staff and learners will make sure that you are made welcome and can begin to develop your musical skills as part of an enthusiastic and talented group of individuals!



ENRICHMENT

We place a strong emphasis on the importance of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. To be able to give our learners the broadest range of knowledge possible, we hold 5 'Drop Down Days' per year where they undergo an entire day off timetable to develop their understanding of matters in the world around them which could very possibly even affect them. Previous sessions have focused on topics such as British Values, Ethics in society, Careers, Work experience, Team building, Finance, Wellbeing and Mental Health.

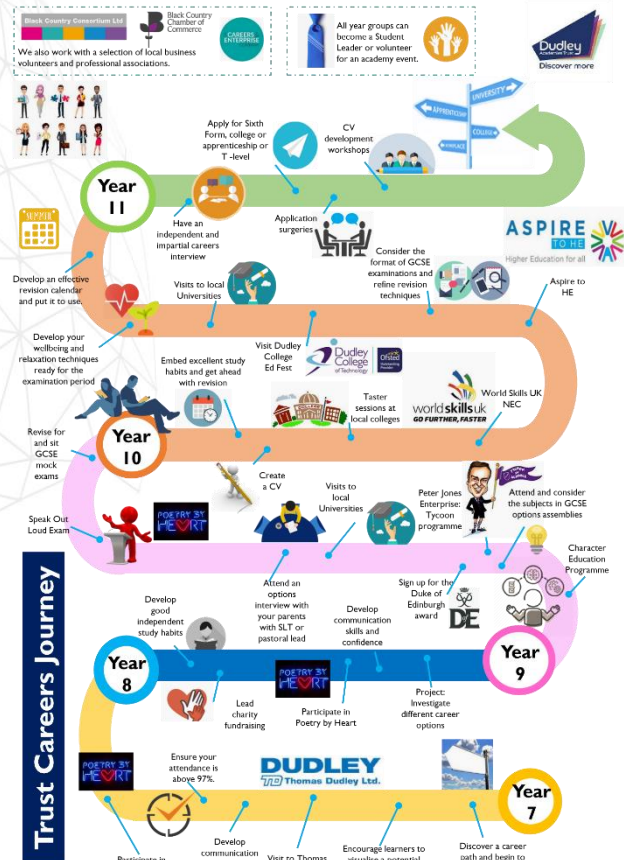
CAREERS

Careers Journey

We are committed to providing a comprehensive planned programme of careers education for all learners in Years 7-11 and information, advice and guidance in partnership with the local authority and external providers/professionals. We want to ensure our learners emerge from the Academy with knowledge and character attributes to make informed and realistic decisions whilst maintaining high aspirations. As well as a wide range of events throughout the year, including Careers Events, Enrichment Days, Visiting Speakers, Business Breakfasts, off-site visits, and CV and Mock Interview events.

A planned programme of careers education for all Learners in Years 7-11 Information, advice and guidance is provided in partnership with internal and external providers/professionals.

Our Careers Programme is designed to meet the needs of all the learners at Beacon Hill Academy. It is differentiated and personalised to ensure progression through activities which are appropriate to each learner's stages of career learning, planning and development. You will also have an amazing opportunity to go out and visit a local employer. We work closely with Thomas Dudley Ltd who have allowed us to take all of our Year 7's out to visit them one form at a time. This trip is exciting as you get to see all areas of the workplace including the foundry and offices.



Careers Hub



Beacon Hill Academy is pleased to announce the opening of our new Careers Hub! Learners can use this fantastic new resource to find out about different career pathways, option choices, apprenticeships, college applications, CV and letter writing and much, much more. Parents are also welcomed to make an appointment with their child to discuss post 16 options and career pathways.

REWARDING EFFORT



At Beacon Hill Academy, and throughout Dudley Academies Trust, our 5 Core Values are essential to everything we do. One of these values is 'Rewarding Effort' and we believe this is the key to driving success within schools.

Whilst we expect our learners to always try their best, we believe that those who go above and beyond, and those who consistently meet our expectations, shouldn't only be given the occasional 'Well done' in their books, but should be truly rewarded for their hard work and effort! During the last twelve months alone, we have rewarded our learners for outstanding attendance, perfect punctuality, excelling in lessons and going above and beyond in and around school.

Learners have already received:

- Free snacks at break and lunch
- Queue skip vouchers
- Free trip to Alton Towers
- Free trip to Bowling
- Exclusive Christmas Party
- Multiple free Amazon Echo Smart Speakers
- Amongst many more, and many more to come in future!

FUN ACTIVITIES

Why not try these activities?

Keep photos or descriptions of your work and creations ready for your Year 7 portfolio!

1. Build/Make – Make a den inside or outside using a range of different items
2. Cook/Bake – Make the ultimate sandwich. What filling would you choose?
3. Upcycle – Make use of some old socks and make an animal.
4. Watch – Watch an episode of one or more of the following: Great British Sewing Bee or Great British Bake Off.
5. Create – Teach a member of your family how to use 2D design
<http://www.techsoft.co.uk/adverts/coronavirus-covid-19>
6. Upcycle - Use a plastic bottle to make a creative planter and sow some seeds or flowers
7. Create - paper aeroplanes. Who can make the largest, the smallest, the most creative, but whose flies the furthest?
8. Cook/Bake - Open one kitchen cupboard and select three ingredients. Design and produce one dish using those three ingredients.
9. Build/Make - Make a crazy golf course using your garden and challenge your family to a game.
10. Watch - Go to the British Museum website and enjoy a free virtual tour, what was your favourite collection or item?
11. Upcycle - Customise an old T shirt, changing its shape, colour and add fabric or accessories.
12. Build/Make - Design and make a board game that the whole family can play.

Beacon Hill Academy Treasure Hunt Quiz

Why don't you try our quiz on our website?

<https://www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk/why-beacon-hill-academy/transition-from-primary/treasure-hunt-quiz>

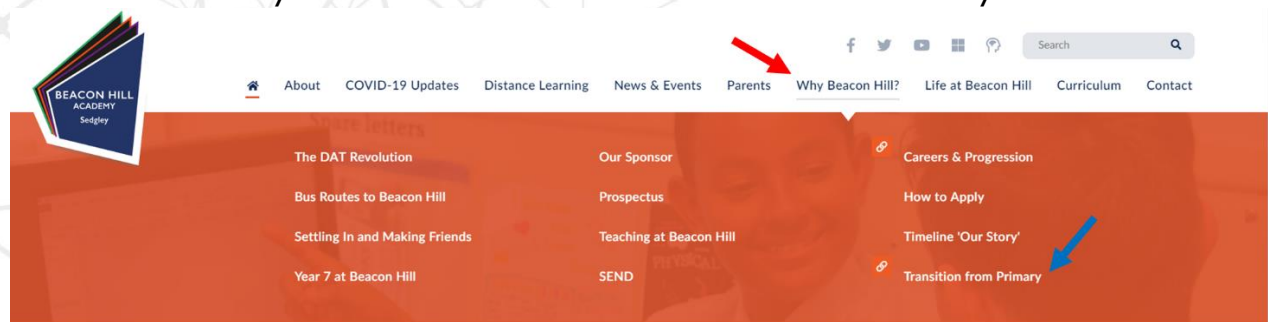
LATEST INFORMATION

Our Website

For all the latest information and FAQs, please visit our website:

<https://www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk/why-beacon-hill-academy/transition-from-primary>

Or hover over “Why Beacon Hill?” and then click “Transition from Primary”:



Our Social Media

You could also follow us on social media for all the latest news, events and other exciting information:



www.facebook.com/BeaconHillAcademy



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www.instagram.com/BeaconHillAcad



Look for our social logo!