

Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form



WELCOME TO YEAR 8

“Pupils are keen to be part of this thoughtful and inclusive schoolenjoying learning and showing kindness are part of everyday life... Pupils talk positively about the support provided for their physical and mental well-being and study an ambitious curriculum.” *Ofsted, November 2022*

Welcome to Year 8

We would like to give you some brief information about Year 8 for 2024/2025. There will be lots more detail on our school website www.blessedgeorgenapier.co.uk. We hope the information below helps to give you a flavour of the year to come.

Spiritual Life at BGN



We are an Outstanding Catholic School. As a school community, we celebrate Mass together at the beginning of terms and throughout the year. We also have voluntary Mass in our school Chapel every Friday lunchtime. We pray The Angelus in Period 3 lesson every day. We expect all students to fully participate in all of the wonderful events we have. For more information, please see our web site, under 'Our School'.

Head of Year 8

Ms Fisher

Year 8 Form Tutors

Assisi	Mrs Mpofu
Bakhita	Mrs Whitehead & Mrs Tucker
Calcutta	Mr Walker
Devereux	Miss Brogden
Edith	Mr Clack & Mrs Self
Faustyna	Mrs Heywood

Pastoral Manager

Mrs Golland

Communication

- Our school website has upcoming events and important dates including any school closures due to adverse weather conditions.
- You can access Progress Reports using your own log in to the VLE (please contact reception if you are unable to log on).
- We send out a termly Newsletter to inform you of recent events, as well as forthcoming events and term dates.
- Our reception is manned by Mrs Smith and Mrs Marsden between 8.30am – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. The school can be contacted via e-mail - office.4600@bgn.oxon.sch.uk and your e-mail will be forwarded to the relevant person, if necessary.
- Messages and important information will also be sent from reception via Groupcall.

Term Dates and INSET Days

Please see our web site and termly newsletters for term dates, holidays and INSET days.



Absence



Please notify the Attendance Officer, by telephone: 01295 264216 extension 518 or email: absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk by 9.30am each day of your child's absence. As a duty of care to our students, should we not hear from you we will send out a text to remind you to contact the school regarding your child's absence. If we still have not heard from you by 11am as to why your child is absent, we will telephone you as our students welfare is a priority. If we have still not received any contact from you, we will mark the absence as unauthorised.

Events / trips / activities

We have many opportunities for students to go out on school trips, to support their classroom learning, as well as activities within school. In 2022/2023 these will include the Year 8 Residential to Glasbury with additional trips to be decided, and many sporting fixtures.

Parent Pay

We use Parent Pay for payment for all of our school trips and school canteen purchases. This can be accessed on www.parentpay.com. Details of use will be indicated in the trip letter.

VLE



Subject resources and school information can be found on our school VLE. We encourage all students to make regular use of the VLE for independent study at home. www.bgn.myvle.co.uk. Staff and students have a log in to the VLE. All parents will also be able to log on. All student Progress Reports will be placed on the VLE. Parents will be able to access their child's progress reports. We will alert you to uploads via email. Information about the VLE and how to access it can be found on our school web site, under 'Our School'. In the event of a student needing to self-isolate due to Covid, work will be set on the VLE.

School Uniform

We have a strict uniform policy, which is compulsory for Year 7 to Year 11. The full uniform and equipment list can be found on our school web site, Our School/ Uniform and Equipment.

Punctuality

At BGN we encourage all students to arrive to school on time ready for the day ahead. If students do arrive late to school or need to leave school early, they must sign in/out with the Attendance Officer and have a note confirming the reason for arriving late/leaving early. If your child arrives late to school on two occasions without a valid reason, and after-school detention will be given.

Behaviour and Expectations

Behaviour at BGN is outstanding. At the heart of our behaviour for learning policy are our school values of compassion, respect, truth, service and forgiveness. We operate a simple behaviour system, the details of which can be found on our school web site under, Our School/Policies/Behaviour for Learning Policy.



Year 8 Curriculum and Assessment

Students will be assessed throughout year 8. There will be 3 formal assessment points, where student progress information will be available for parents on their VLE log-in area. For 2 of the progress reports, students will receive a Working At Grade (WAG) and an Attitude to Learning (ATL) number.

These will be more fully explained in the accompanying report letter when reports are uploaded to the VLE. Student progress is measured against their target Minimum Expected Grade (MEG), which is externally generated and used to see if they are working at, above or below that grade. This enables us to implement support where necessary. There will also be a full progress report with more detail. This will include teacher comments and targets for improvement.

Student Planner

To support students with organisation, each student is issued with a planner. This holds useful information about school and subjects. It also enables students to record their 2-week timetable, so they can ensure they are properly equipped each day. All homework should be recorded on the day it is set, with a deadline for completion. We request that parents check the planner on a weekly basis and sign to say they have done so. The checking of planners is to enable parents to see what homework has been set and also to enable brief communication between parent and school.

School Clubs and Extra Curricular Activities



At BGN, we offer a range of extra curricular opportunities. These can be found on our web site under Students, Extra Curricular clubs – we are currently in the process of updating this. Please be aware, that our sports training activities change termly. Students will be informed by the PE Department. Sporting fixtures will also be communicated to students involved.

Parking

Please remember that Addison Road must not be used to drop off or pick up students at the start and end of the school day. This is a site access road only to be used when parking on the school grounds during the day and must not be used for access after 5pm.

Vehicles must not park anywhere near the school gates, zigzags or zebra crossing in Springfield Avenue at any time. Parents are advised to pick up and drop off as far from the school buses as possible and on a road other than Springfield Avenue wherever possible.

