



Welcome to Bennett

2021



Our Values

Semper Tenax: Ever holding fast to what is just, wise and right.

Excellence: we persist in the belief that there is no ceiling to what can be achieved and that the whole community should strive to do their best in their studies and all their endeavours. In being ambitious for ourselves and one another we seek that everyone should **flourish**.

Character: it is understood that we should **always hope**. Since all are made in God's image and valued by Him, we seek to develop love for one another and the accompanying virtues that enable this to be effective for our lives and for others.

Service: drawing on **compassion**, with love, kindness and humility we serve and offer hospitality to all. Jesus' example inspires and renews us as we do so.



The role of the year manager

Daily routine

- Tutor time - 8.40 (be in the tutor room by 8.40)
- School opens - 8.15 (school will not be open to students before this time)
- Two week timetable (week A and week B)

Each day begins in tutor groups, where students should be ready at 8:45. Please do not send students in before 8:15.

Bennett has a two-week timetable, named week A and week B. The weeks alternate throughout the year. If there is a half term or holiday the cycle will continue. So if it was week A before the holiday the students will come back to a week B.

Homework

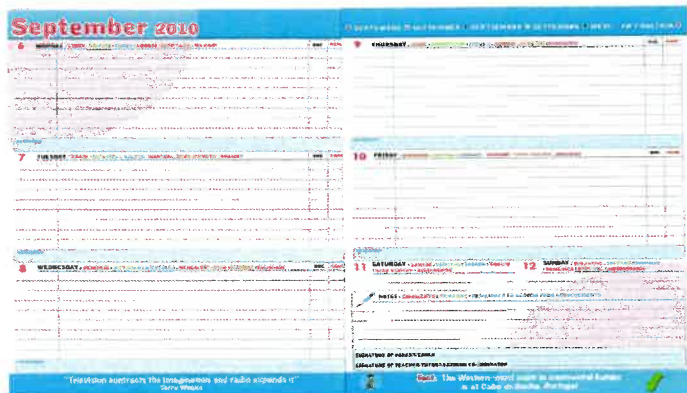
- 2-3 subjects per night.
- English and Maths twice a week
- Other subjects once
- Reading target 30 minutes per day
- Maximum of 30 minutes per subject.
- Homework timetables given out on the first day.
- Limited homework in the first few weeks.
- Set on Teams and written in the planner.

At Bennett we know that homework forms a crucial part of the curriculum, it offers valuable opportunities to both consolidate and extend what has taken place in the classroom.

Homework timetables will be given out on the first day and they will outline the 2-3 subjects that should be completed each night and each of which should last no longer than 30 minutes. English and maths will be set twice a week and the other subjects once. In addition to this, students will be set a reading target to read for at least 30 minutes each evening. Providing that the homework timetable is followed carefully your child should not have to complete homework during the weekend, instead they will have time to rest and recuperate.

The amount of homework the students receive in the first few weeks will be limited as we are aware that it can take a couple of weeks to settle into the new routines that secondary school brings.

Planners and MS Teams



Planners and Teams

Homework will be written in student's planners, but will also be put onto Microsoft Teams, which is the platform that we use for homework or any home learning. Please don't be tempted to support your child too much with homework, it is important that it is the students' work, so as to create a true picture for teachers. For example, so that teachers can recognise when students are finding something difficult, they are then able to make the necessary adjustments and put the correct support in place.

Reward points and ipoints

- Guild points are collected individually but contribute towards the Guild's total.
- iPoints
 - Red – Homework
 - Amber – Organisation
 - Blue – Behaviour
 - Yellow – Incorrect Uniform

Students will have many opportunities to be rewarded at Bennett for their academic progress, personal development and their contributions to the community ethos of the school. There are two types of points that can be awarded; Achievement points and Guild points.

Students work towards thresholds which are publicly celebrated with certificates awarded in tutor time and assemblies. You will be able to log in to the iPoints portal to see how many Achievement and Guild Points your child has accumulated and how close they are to achieving their awards.

If students do not hand in homework on time they are given a red iPoint, if they forget a vital piece of equipment or book they will be given an orange iPoint, if they are given a sanction for poor behaviour they will receive a blue iPoint and a yellow one is issued if their uniform is not worn correctly.

We will also be monitoring if students are accumulating blue, red and orange iPoints, as this is often an indication that they have issues with organisation and we can put supportive measures in place to help them. Year Managers will write to you and encourage a meeting if the numbers accumulated begin to get out of hand.

Electronic Systems

- MSTEams
- Pupiltracking
- Parentpay
- User guide issued in September
- Passwords:
 - Teams – Students: First day of term
 - iPoints – Parents: During Term 1
 - Pupiltracking – During Term 1
 - Parentpay – August

We have a number of electronic systems that include MSTEams, which as I have mentioned is where students can access their homework tasks. The main way we communicate progress is through reports, which can be accessed on pupil tracking. You will also have a Parentpay account should you need to provide your child with money for lunch or pay for a school trip.

All of these systems require unique login details. Both you and your children will have access to the ipoints system and you will be given a separate password in September. This allows you to check that your child is staying on top of their homework and behaving well.

Your Pupiltracking password that allows you to access reports will be given to you during term 1, when we will also be issuing a full user guide for all of our electronic systems.

We are aware that you are likely to want to access Parentpay before September, to add lunch money to your child's account. Therefore, you will be sent these log in details during August. It is advisable to add a small amount of money to the account regardless of whether they will be having packed lunch. This can be reassuring for students if they forget their lunch.

Uniform



At Bennett we are proud of the way our students present themselves and would like you to encourage them to dress smartly when travelling to and from school.

Please also make yourselves aware of the uniform rules which can be found in the school planner and on the school website.

Students should not modify their uniform, blazers should be worn at all times unless in lessons where they may ask to remove it, school coats should be plain black and school shoes should be black waterproof shoes (not trainer style), students shouldn't wear plimsolls or trainers.

In addition it is also worth drawing your attention to our expectations regarding hairstyles – Students may not have extreme hairstyles e.g. unnatural looking colours, extremes of length, shaved or shaved patterns in hair. Hair should never be shorter than number 2 and must also be appropriately tapered between the shorter sides and back and any longer hair on top. Hair at the front must be short enough that eyes are not covered

Please also discourage students from bringing valuables and large amounts of money to school, it is easy to misplace or lose something in a large community.

There is a no mobile phone policy at Bennett. Students are expected to turn off their phones and only turn them on when they have left the school site. Mobiles will be confiscated if seen during the school day. In emergencies or if you need to contact your child then contact the year manager or reception.

Encouraging good relationships in the world of social media

Improve mental health by:

- Setting boundaries early on
- Model screen use as a family
- Engage children in interests/activities
- Promote face to face interactions
- Monitor use of social media and the internet

When at school:

- Mobile phones switched off/on at gates
- Smart phones are not necessary

We find that many students have considerably more freedom on their mobile phones when they join us in year 7 and as parents you will be put under pressure by your children to allow them access to many more social media platforms. Please do not buckle under this pressure and think that your child will be left out as the only one without it, it is just not true.

However, we know that your children and you as their parents are likely to have social media or WhatsApp groups to help support your Bennett communications. Please approach these forums with caution. It is our experience that students talk very differently from behind a device than they would face to face. So please monitor the group conversations in particular and if you see something that concerns you, contact the year manager. We always advise against large groups being set up using these forums. Equally if you have concerns around friendships for example, I would encourage you to come to us and consult the year manager, before sharing your concerns via the social media platforms with the aim to resolving it yourself.

Lastly, we strongly encourage mobile phone curfews and please don't allow your children to keep their phones in their bedroom overnight. Try to make time to spend time as a family without phones!

Attendance

- Better attendance at school results in better achievement for children.
- Our goal is for all students to have an attendance of 98% or above.
98%+ is classed as green,
between 95 and 98% is amber
below 95% is red.
- Telephone on the first day of absence, and each subsequent day
- Alternatively email attendance@bennett.kent.sch.uk.
- Automated text message
- Withdrawal from Learning form – only authorised in exceptional circumstances

You may be surprised to see that a percentage attendance between 95% and 98% is classed as an amber rating but we are basing this on national figures for acceptable attendance. You will also see that an attendance of 95% equates to missing 1.25 lessons per week or 49 lessons a year. This can lead to an impact on a student's performance.

We will write to you 6 times a year to update you on your child's attendance. If you have any concerns please contact the welfare team to see how we can support you. If your child is absent please telephone or email the school first thing.

If your child is absent and we do not hear from you, we will send out an automated text message to your mobile.

When your child returns to school please send them in with a note explaining their absence which they should put in the absence box by the school office.

Telephone calls or emails can be used to report absences and any immediate concerns that you may have. We ask that parents do not contact their children on their mobile phone throughout the day. Messages should be passed through the office as all students should have their phones off during the school day.

How can you help your child's transition to secondary school

- Transition documents and resources
 - Go through them with your child
- Be prepared
 - Equipment, bag, coat and uniform
 - Label equipment and clothing
 - Transport
- Organise
 - A quiet space to complete homework
 - Somewhere to keep books and equipment
 - Display their timetable and help pack their bag the night before.
- Reassure