



Barnwell School

'The Barnwell Way'

2024/2025



Introducing 'The Barnwell Way'

We know that choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. We pride ourselves on being the first choice for many families across Stevenage and the surrounding area. We are graded 'GOOD' by Ofsted and recognised as a *'Warm, welcoming and friendly school'* (Ofsted 2021).

We are a successful school with unique features and benefits. Central to our success is **'The Barnwell Way'**, a holistic approach to student success.

'The Barnwell Way' stems from our vision and values.

Our Vision is to create and deliver an outstanding educational experience for every student at Barnwell School.

By setting high expectations, we expect all students to progress and maximise their potential by seizing the opportunities provided and valuing their education. This will enable them to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world.

Our values are to:

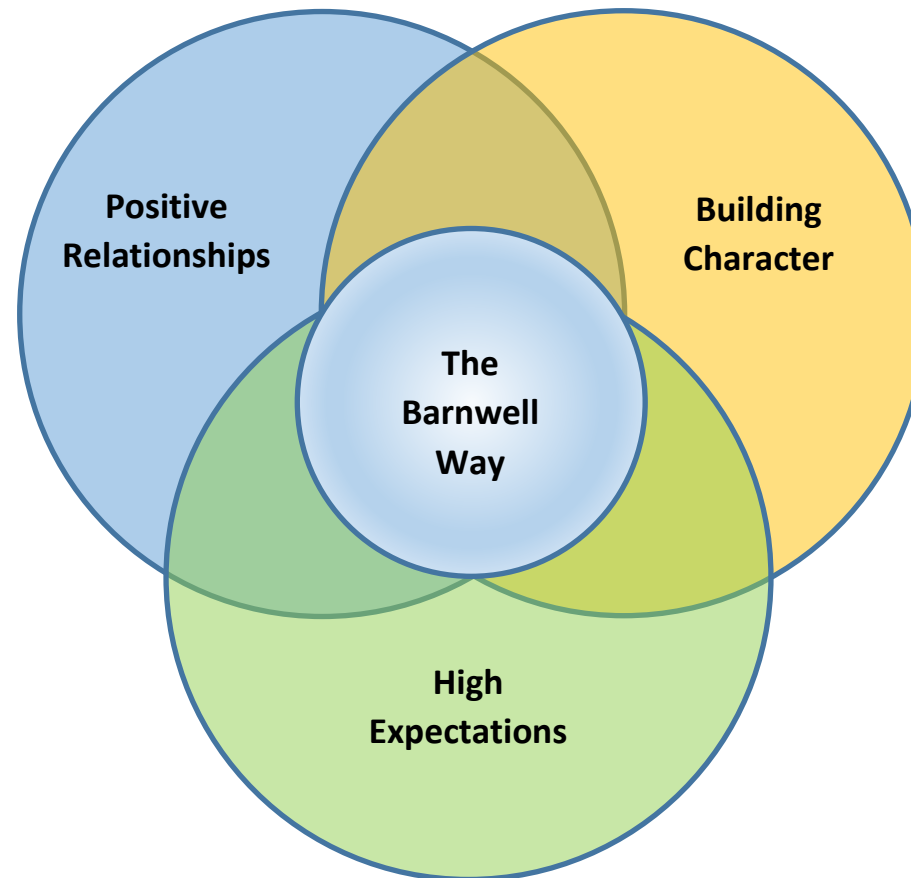
- Support student growth and development through our community ethos of respect and tolerance
- Provide a learning environment which is both stimulating and supportive
- Provide an aspirational and engaging curriculum
- Deliver the highest standards of teaching and learning
- Make sure that outstanding progress is achievable by all
- Inspire a culture for lifelong learning
- Build positive partnerships with parents and the local community

We encourage you to read our most recent Ofsted Report as it captures the essence of our school. Quotes from the report are used in this publication.

Making the difference - 'The Barnwell Way'

'The Barnwell Way' is our holistic approach to education. We know that this is highly effective - it is based on three interconnected foci that work together to provide the conditions, opportunities, challenge and support for a successful education.

At Barnwell we set high expectations, there is no tension between providing the optimum conditions to learn and a rigorous and stretching academic education, coupled with outstanding wider personal development. We know that when these components work together, they contribute to well educated, and rounded, young people who achieve positive outcomes.



Positive relationships:

Relationships are integral to successful learning; this is our starting point and the key to igniting student growth and learning.

'For a person to 'grow', they need an environment that provides them with genuineness, acceptance and empathy. Without these, relationships and healthy personalities will not develop as they should, much like a tree will not grow without sunlight and water'

Carl Rogers, Simply Psychology, 2014

An absolute strength of Barnwell is the building of strong and positive relationships and understanding between staff and students. Acceptance and empathy foster mutual respect and contribute to providing the conditions for our students to flourish and grow in a safe and purposeful environment.

We know and understand our students, we use nurture principles to ensure that every child's needs are understood and met.

Student wellbeing is important to us; throughout the year our pastoral team support all students to ensure they are happy in school, and we work with our student ambassadors to understand, more, the needs and desires of our students. We actively listen to our students and parents and this knowledge shapes many decisions in school.

Across both campuses, we are consistent in our routines, creating secure environments where students take risks, learn from mistakes and grow.

'Even though the school is based on two sites, it feels like one school. Pupils benefit from consistent routines and a strong induction programme' (Ofsted 2021).

Building character:

Even with the right conditions for learning, children still need motivation, encouragement and reward to be successful. Through **Character Education** our students learn how to intrinsically motivate themselves from a desire to 'do the right thing' rather than relying upon extrinsic motivation in the form of sanctions or material reward.

We support our students to build self-belief and become socially confident to grow and build character.

'Pupils want to do well in lessons, contributing well to class discussions, showing curiosity in the questions they ask. Pupils listen closely to their teachers in class' (Ofsted 2021).

Our students develop the ability to remain motivated by long term goals, see the link between effort and achievement and overcome and learn from setbacks by developing perseverance.

Learning and habituation of positive moral attributes / virtues, or, as we refer to them at Barnwell, 'characteristics' underpin this approach.

We know that students who realise and surpass their individual academic targets have developed these key characteristics - they have enabled a successful learning journey. The characteristics that we encourage in all of our students, through **Character Education**, are to be **respectful, responsible** and **aspirational**.

Opportunities to develop the characteristics are strategically planned to enable all students to demonstrate respect, responsibility and aspiration throughout their schooling. We challenge our students, every year, to earn character recognition and students who consistently display these characteristics are recognised at our annual Celebration evenings.

Social confidence enables our students to make points and debate robustly and constructively, listening attentively to the views of others, behaving with courtesy and good manners.

'Pupils are well mannered; they hold doors open for each other. Pupils behave well around the school' (Ofsted 2021).

Co-curricular opportunities sit alongside our taught curriculum; there is strong provision that is designed to focus on high quality activities across a wide spectrum of different interests. This provides our students with many opportunities to experience and master skills that complement or contrast their academic curriculum.

'Pupils also have a broad offer of extra-curricular activities' (Ofsted 2021)

High expectations:

The final part of **'The Barnwell Way'** is an unrelenting focus on high academic expectations and excellent student outcomes. All students are challenged and supported to be the best they can possibly be. No child is left behind, every child matters at Barnwell.

A well-designed curriculum ensures that students grow incrementally, making progress in mastering complex content. Our Teaching and Learning strategies take into account the needs of every student and on-going professional development for our staff ensures that we remain at the leading edge of Teaching and Learning.

'Pupils follow a broad and ambitious curriculum. Teachers deliver the well-designed curriculum confidently. Pupils enjoy their learning in a range of subjects. Curriculum planning is strong, and teachers consistently use teaching methods to help pupils remember key learning over time' (Ofsted 2021).

Through challenge and aspiration, we instil, in our students, an understanding and drive to secure the highest levels of academic achievement and progress. We focus on the individual needs, strengths, skills and talents of each and every student.

Proactive setting of challenging and aspirational targets and the monitoring of progress ensure that all students achieve the best possible outcomes. Through Character Education we encourage all students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning journey.

Setting is progressively used across the school allowing students to work at optimum pace. Quality first teaching ensures lessons are appropriately challenging, ensuring students fulfil their potential. Students who need support and intervention with their learning receive targeted help, both within and outside of the classroom. Through high standards of teaching, thorough preparation and detailed analysis, our dedicated staff prepare students to achieve their best in public examinations.



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