



# BCS Student Booklet



## Welcome!

This booklet has been written by students to provide and inform you (the Year 6 students) about school life at BCS. Hopefully it will help you to feel less nervous about your move up to secondary school!

We have put in place a group of current Year 7 students who make up the Transition Team. They have helped to produce the information that has been sent to Primary Schools.

**The team members this year are:**

Milo, Imogen, Beau, Grace, Anna, Elin, Benji, Harriet, Louisa, Lucy, Ava, Jess, Emma and Lucy

If you have any questions when you start in September, we are more than happy to answer them and give you any help we can.

We look forward to helping you.

**The Transition Team**

## Subjects

### **English**

One of the topics we have studied in year 7 is William Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night. The play is set on the island of Illyria and is a fantastic comedy. English doesn't change a lot when you move up to secondary school but the lessons are a lot more fun and interesting.

So far in year seven, English has been one of my favourite subjects and one of the topics we have done so far is about a book called outsiders by S.E.Hinton. It is about 2 gangs of boys: The Greasers and the Socs. After we had read the book we did lots of activities to do with the story and once we were done, we did a short essay about it, as an assessment. (But the assessments are nothing to worry about).

### **Maths**

You don't need to worry about remembering how to use equipment because we cover it again at the start of year 7. So far in year 7 we have learnt how to measure with a compass. We found this an easy, useful and fun way to measure. Another thing we have studied is factors. When learning about this we used a lot of sheets. The sheets we used were much more engaging than just numbers on paper because they used different shapes to help us. Algebra is another thing we have gone over. So far, we have covered basic Algebra and substitution Algebra. Substitution Algebra is where instead of just letters there are numbers for the answers. Every lesson, we start off with a task to do, this may be previous lesson recaps and practicing for your present lesson. Some of our maths lessons is Seneca learning. Seneca learning is a website that covers all types of maths. It helps us because it has examples, videos and quizzes if you are not sure on the topic. Maths in year 7 is not that much different to primary school except for the fact that you have a specialised teacher, as you do in all subjects at secondary.

### **Science**

Year 7 science has been extremely good fun so far and has been jam packed with lots of practical experiments and interesting theory.

You will have different types of science - biology, chemistry and physics.

In science this year we have studied lots of different topics - including cells, particles, the periodic table and we are currently learning about space.

We are learning about how lunar and solar eclipses occur. In another class, we are doing the reproductive system and we are working on structure and muscles which includes the smallest part in the body which is a cell and one step bigger which is the tissue.

In most of the topics you will get to do practical experiments which you may not do in primary school - one example was when we were studying particles, looking at diffusion so we put a tea bag in different temperature water to see what difference it would make with the speed the tea bag diffused, as heat produces energy.

Year 7 science is a big step up from primary school science and is super fun.

## **Music**

In music we have 2 classrooms. We have learnt how to play different chords on the keyboard. We have also learnt about rhythm and famous composers such as Beethoven and Mozart. We have covered music technology.

## **Geography**

In primary school you only do a little bit of geography, and sometimes it makes you think that is all geography has to offer, but at BCS we offer a wide range of interesting topics. Some of the topics we have covered are about clouds and the weather. During our weather topic we have learnt about the different types of clouds and the weather they bring, we have also learnt about rain, yes RAIN and now we know why we have so much in Buxton. I still don't understand why it must be in Buxton though. We have also learnt about high and low air pressure and different air fronts. One of the best things about the weather topic is the different air masses because you get to guess what air mass has arrived during the day. We also learnt about different continents and how there are different types of geography. It differs from primary school and is more interesting even though we only do it once a week. I still remember and have learnt a lot about it.

## **History**

In secondary school you do more history than you do in primary school. So far, we have learnt about the Vikings and how they lived back when they settled here and what they brought to England. For instance, they brought their own distinct laws, place names, customs, measurements, skilled crafts and farming techniques.

## **Computing**

In secondary school you do more advanced things in computing. Our Year 7 form has been doing the binary code which is linked to hex, which we have also been covering. It is a lot different to the things we did at our primary school. Hex and binary are very similar as you need binary to convert it to hex. Computing is more fun at secondary school as you cover a lot of topics you never do in primary school.

You also make power points about yourself, what school you used to go to, things you enjoy about secondary school and hobbies you enjoy. You also do a test on basic skills on documents, power point and a spreadsheet. At the start of year 7 you start off doing documents, then you move onto PowerPoints and then spreadsheets. This is different to primary school as it's a lot more fun and enjoyable.

## **Ethics**

In primary school you do a bit of ethics but in secondary you do a lot more, in one term we were talking about Muslim beliefs, prejudices and discrimination and much more. However, one of my favourite parts of ethics is when you have different debates about the subjects. For every topic, you are given a booklet and there are activities about the lesson we are learning about in the booklet. After the end of a topic, there is a test about what we have been learning about, but it is normally pretty easy.

## **Technology**

In food tech so far, we have made fruit salad and pizza. This teaches you how to learn when things are fully cooked and how to use an oven. If you don't know how to, it is fine because the teacher will teach you how to and help you. Making Pasta salad shows you how to boil water and then shows you how to cook pasta and how long to cook it for and put in whatever add ins and ingredients you want. You can use pasta sauce, chopped tomatoes, passata and add in veggies. You can have your chopped-up bits of veggies blitzed up too. You also make Mexican bean soup which is really nice and has really good flavours. We have made stir fry which teaches you how to cook chicken or if you put prawns in like I did, to only put them in near the end of cooking your vegetables, so they do not go squeaky. We made lots of things, but my personal favourites were pasta salad and stir fry. It saves me having to make the whole family a snack for after school and when you get home from work.

The difference from primary is that at primary we occasionally got to bake some things but you couldn't get to put it in the oven and go through the cooking process with it and sometimes didn't get to take it home.

Food tech is my favorite lesson because I love cooking ALOT and so I love just having a break and cooking for an hour. One of my favorite things we have made so far is probably the fruit muffins but we have made lots of other things too. If you can't cook don't worry because the teachers are very supportive and can help whenever you need it. Food tech is kind of like a new subject as we didn't do it at primary school, and you cook once a week so every week you can bring home a different food which saves my mum or dad making dinner!

Year 7 tech is really fun and interesting. Tech is alternated over the school year with food tech, electronics and woodwork. This continues in years 7, 8 and 9, until you choose your GCSEs. You will be able to choose any of the tech subjects.

In tech, you do a wide range of topics through the years but in year 7 one of the projects is on night lights. You learn how to use different pieces of equipment including a laser cutter. When doing the project about the night light, you have to think of a design and then use an app to design it. It is very different compared to my old school as we didn't do anything about wood tech or tech. All we did was food tech. At the start of the year, I was nervous about chopping my fingers off in wood Tech (which was ridiculous) but actually, once my wood tech teacher told me how to use a saw correctly, I actually was able to make an amazing piece of work. In wood tech, in year 7, you also cover a topic on creative creatures where you have to do three designs in a booklet and then pick the best design or the design you think you want to do. After that you have to cut 9 pieces of wood out and then shape it. Then you put them together and add some extra customized parts. The pieces of equipment you use include a coping saw, sander, pole drill, drill, and hack saw. It's very different to my primary school as we only used equipment like that sometimes in forest school, but we only used the drills.

## **PE**

PE at BCS is so much better than the PE lessons at my old school. I even enjoyed our football topic (and that's saying a lot because I used to hate football). We get to play and learn a wide range of different sports and sometimes play games against other forms. So far this year we have done Athletics, Gymnastics, Orienteering, Invasion Games, Dance and Football and they have all been really good. We play matches and actually learn how to play, which is really good. During our gymnastics topic and our dance topic we got to make our own routines and we tried to do handstands and cartwheels. In dance we learn about dances from different cultures and we learnt about the haka and the gumboot dance. You do PE twice a week and play different sports on both days and usually the sports aren't that alike so it's really hard to get bored of PE.

When you do PE at BCS you are taught in forms and you have one teacher for the whole year. So far this year my form has been taught a wide range of different sports like Dance, Invasion Games, Basketball and we are soon moving on to Netball. (There are lots more too.)

You get to work in groups when doing activities and work with people you haven't worked with before, and that is a great way to make new friends. When you do PE there are lots of different facilities like the sports hall, the gym, tennis courts, 3G, dance studio and lots more too!!!

The days that you have PE you bring your kit to school in a little bag that will also have your trainers in. Before the lesson you will have about 10 minutes to get changed and your teacher will stop the lesson a bit earlier to give you time to get changed afterwards. I love PE at BCS and it is one of my favorite subjects.

## **Art**

One of the things we have studied in art is the colour wheel. The wheel shows you what colours you can mix together to make a new colour. We have also learned about clay models, collages, sketching and much more. Art is by far one of the best lessons there is.

My favourite thing about art in Year 7 is that we always have fun lessons! Whether we are in the art room or in our original room we always have enjoyable lessons. So far, we have learnt how to sketch and paint accurately, which will be very helpful as you develop your art skills.

## **Languages**

I didn't learn a language in primary school so it's been something totally different for me but don't worry because Mrs Martin and Mr Kitchen have set up lessons that get the whole class engaged and you can learn the words in a way you remember them. The homework is set on Languagenut and quizlet so you can learn words at home. Some of my class had done French in primary school but the teachers started from the beginning and within 2 terms we now ALL know basic verbs, pronouns, nouns and adjectives and are starting to learn numbers.

## **Personal Development**

In PD we have learnt about PSHE, three sessions per fortnight where we talked about an aspiring race car driver that got the law changed for amputee race car drivers so that he could still participate in his sport. He aspired to be like his idol Lewis Hamilton. In our reading sessions we have read two books and the first one we read was about kids who were trying to solve a mystery about lost money which was found out in the end. In our 2<sup>nd</sup> book it is about an autistic girl. This is to show you how other people feel and that people aren't the same and have different struggles in life. This makes you feel empathetic towards her. We also have studied revision techniques. About the schema and the Ebbinghaus forgetting curve. We have done quite a few topics including mental health and wellbeing, watching a document about a race driver that lost both of his legs in a race crash and his story. Even though that's sound terrifying it was interesting to find out about his story.

In personal development (PD) we have read some amazing books including Trash and A Kind of Spark. In reading sessions, our teachers read the book to us. At the end of the book, we do a book review for teachers to see how we liked it. We also do a book quiz on accelerated reader to show how much we understood the book.

## **The school day timings**

Each lesson throughout the day is 55 minutes long except for personal development (PD) which lasts 25 minutes. Your first break between PD and period 2 is 15 mins and lunch is 1 hour long. School starts at 8:50am and ends at 3:20pm.

## **Uniform and PE kit**

The school uniform is comfy, looks smart and it includes tie, white shirt, black blazer, black skirt and black tights or black trousers. Unfortunately, you cannot wear leggings. This is because it is not part of our school uniform.

The PE kit is a blue hoodie, a blue T-shirt and black leggings/shorts, you get changed for PE in the changing rooms or in the building near Temple Fields. Of course, there is a girl's changing room and a boy's one!

## **Lunch time**

Lunchtime is great at secondary school for many reasons, mainly because of how nice the lunches are, how many options there are to choose from and the portion sizes are AMAZING (unlike primary school which were too small). Every lunchtime, there is a main choice you can have but there are also so many more things to choose from like pasta, jacket potato, paninis, pasties and even sometimes pizza. Lunchtime is an hour long from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and every term your year group changes the time you go in for lunch. The different times are 12:30pm, 12:45pm and 1:00pm.

I love lunch at secondary school because sometimes I'm not in the mood for hot food and so then I can get cold food. If you don't already know, here at BCS we have two dining halls. One serves cold food and the other serves hot food. In the large dining hall (hot food) they serve pasta every day and lots of other varieties. In the small dining hall (cold food) they serve baps and wraps with all the fillings you could imagine. The desserts are amazing, we have gooey cookies, flapjack and so much more!

## **The Pastoral Team - Mr Holman and Mrs Siddons**

Mr Holman is Head of Year 7. He organises things like the Inter form challenge and Raffle ticket competition. For the Inter form challenge we have to answer questions once a week with our form tutor and the winning form each half term gets a free breakfast! If you need any help with anything or want to talk about any problems you are having at school you can go and see Mr Holman or Mrs Siddons.

BCS is so much better than primary school because there are so many opportunities that you most likely won't get at primary school. You cover topics that you don't do at primary school like cooking, woodwork and tech (my favourites). If you are worried about absolutely anything you can go to Mrs Siddons, whose office is really easy to find, and she will make sure you feel happy and safe in the school. BCS is a lot bigger than most primary schools, but I promise you even though every time someone says this you won't believe them, it is really easy to find your way around and plus you have a lot of tours round on and before you first day.

## **Clubs**

I go to many different clubs like D and D (Dungeons and Dragons). In this club you play campaigns and get to fight loads of monsters, raid towns or shops and go on big adventures. Another club is 'band' on a Wednesday lunch time. In this club you can play an instrument with other people and could play at BCS fest in the summer. We are currently learning the Pirates of the Caribbean theme tune. For all of BCS's clubs you can get an early dinner pass which allows you to eat early.

I have been to many different clubs, some at lunchtime and some after school, it is great because there are so many clubs to choose from! Some of my favourites are: basketball, table tennis, dance and drama! There is also LADMA and music lessons like drums, trumpet, piano, voice and loads more.

There are so many clubs available to join at BCS. I go to loads of them including Climate Action Club, Study club, Drama club and Young Women's Club. I've been given lots of opportunities to go out of school because of joining these clubs. Some of the amazing opportunities include going and watching a play with drama club and going to a climate conference with Climate Action club. I have learnt a lot of skills from these clubs, but I think the most important one that I have learnt is trying new things. When you go to a club, at the end of it, you are given a signature by the club teacher on a piece of card called an ECP card. If you don't know what an ECP card is it is where you get signatures from a club teacher and when you have completed all the signature boxes, you are given another card and a prize. My favourite club, is netball, and it is really enjoyable.

I have been to loads of amazing clubs at BCS but my personal favourites are Netball, Drama, Climate Action and YoWo. At Netball we mainly do drills and play matches for when we play against other schools. You don't get called out for doing things wrong. We have played a lot of matches and even beat Tommies 8-0. At drama club we started working on a play called face and we were given the opportunity to participate in BCS festive (the schools Christmas festival). At YoWo you get to talk and debate about different things and have a big debate/conversation and once Abi, Elle and I got to run a session. At Climate Action Club we do lots of different things to make sure our school is as environmentally friendly as possible. Some of the things we have done was to introduce water dispensers that have come from the commonwealth games, and I have also been given the opportunity to go to the Buxton climate conference and go on BBC radio derby to talk about it twice.

I have tried a lot of clubs, but my favourite is basketball, where we play matches, and it is good fun if you like basketball. You don't have to be good at it.

I have tried a lot of amazing clubs at Buxton Community, such as basketball, table tennis, drama and young women's club but at the moment I'm only going to basketball. I also sometimes sit in the art room and draw which isn't a club but my art teacher (Mr Moore) says anyone is free to draw there at lunchtimes if they wish. There is a club for everyone.

I think all the options of clubs to choose from are great but some of my favorites are: drama and study club. Study club is a great way to catch up on homework or help your friends with theirs. No matter what you like I'm sure you'll find a club you enjoy.

At BCS I have been to many clubs such as basketball, badminton, table tennis, drama, study club and dance club and enjoy all of them. You don't have to be good at any of these but the teachers will teach you how to work to your best ability.

### **Rewards**

There are a great number of ways to be rewarded in our school. If you've done something the teachers found impressive or good, you get something called an R point. All points can be given out in many different ways: if you have completed your homework to a satisfactory standard, a random act of kindness, for participating well as a group and when it's Easter there are eggcellent points and students with the highest amounts get an Easter egg!! You should really try and push lots of R points because at the end of the year depending on how many points you get you receive a prize. The more R points the better because the more you get the better the prize so really try and aim high.

Always remember - The absolute best piece of advice to you is this:

At first, you will seem so small but very quickly you will fit right in and all the teachers are friendly and welcoming. After all they want you to have a brilliant time!

It is not as big as you think, and you will soon know the school very well!

We didn't know where we were going but a week later, we knew the place as well as our own home.

Get involved with clubs and you will make lots of new friends.

If you have any problems, you can ask your Pastoral Manager. The Pastoral Office is at the top of D block. You go through the Humanities corridor, up the stairs to Languages and where room D40 is. You knock on the door and you will be welcomed by Miss Siddons or Mr Holman!

They are extremely nice and welcoming, so, don't be scared to ask them anything!

You'll fit right in, when I started I thought I wouldn't make any new friends, but I made loads! Also, school is much better than you think!!!!!!

The harder you try the better you'll do so aim high and try hard. Don't give up, it will be hard at points but that doesn't mean you can't make it through so don't give up and keep going.

If you need advice, talk to anyone around, you can go to Debra our School Counsellor at BCS. You can also go to Mrs Siddons, our Pastoral Manager and Mr Holman, Head of Year 7.

Can't wait to meet you! 😊

**The Transition Team**