

## Barrhead High School

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Barrhead High School  
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Dear Parent / Carer

It is now just 10 weeks until the handover of the new Barrhead High School from the builders, BAM, to East Renfrewshire Council (ERC). It is hard to believe how much has been accomplished in little over one year. I have made a number of visits with both staff and pupils and every time I see new things in place and the facilities are superb.

The handover date was set at the start of the build as Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017 and it has always been the intention that we would commence the 2017-18 session in the new building. BAM and ERC have assured me things are still on track to meet this deadline. However there is still much work required.

Although the school will be equipped with new furniture, fittings and equipment, we still have to take across a quantity of books, jotters, files and some of our existing newer equipment. This will involve a significant amount of packing up in the old building, transporting across and distributing and unpacking in the new building. Nothing will be able to be taken into the new building before the handover date.

Staff (with pupils' help!) have already been working very hard to clear out the accumulated baggage of 45 years in this building and to ensure all the required materials are packed and ready to go before the end of this term. This has taken, and will continue to take, a significant amount of time, commitment and effort.

(While that has been happening, staff have continued to ensure all the usual business and pupils' experiences have continued unaffected eg the S3 exams, SQA exams and normal classes for S1-3. Last week we had an ERC Review of the S3 experience and received very positive feedback. In addition, staff are busy now preparing some special "end of an era" experiences for present and former pupils, parents and staff to mark the end of our time in the old building – further details to follow.)

A team (including some of our former pupils alongside janitorial staff) will then work during the holidays to ensure everything is ready to go on the 7<sup>th</sup> August and then transport it across and take it to the correct rooms. Staff will then be involved again unpacking and preparing everything for the pupils' return after the holidays.

As is usually the case in moving schools into a new build, East Renfrewshire have been given permission to have some exceptional closure days to help the move to be accomplished.



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Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Offices, 211 Main St, Barrhead, G78 1SY

Original Arrangements		New Arrangements	
		<b>Fri 23 Jun</b>	<b>School now closes for pupils</b>
Tues 27 Jun	School was to close for staff and pupils	<b>Mon 26 – Tue 27 Jun</b>	<b>Staff in school to complete the packing &amp; preparation</b>
		<b>Mon 7 Aug</b>	<b>Handover of building</b>
Mon 14 & Tue 15 Aug	Staff return for Inservice Days	<b>Mon 14 &amp; Tue 15 Aug</b>	<b>Staff return for Inservice Days and unpacking / preparation</b>
Wed 16 Aug	Pupils were due to return	<b>Wed 16 Aug</b>	<b>Additional day for staff to complete preparations</b>
		<b>Thu 17 Aug</b>	<b>Pupils now return (may be phased times – to be confirmed).</b>

I hope from the above you will appreciate the requirement for these changes to the original plans. I realise that this may cause some inconvenience but I am sure you will agree that achieving a smooth transfer to the new build will justify the inconvenience at this point. I am certainly much happier to work round these arrangements than to attempt a move of this scale in the middle of a session.

#### Some other matters

1. The standard of uniform has been great this session for almost all pupils and as we move into the new building we have the opportunity to strengthen that further. The new building will no longer require pupils to go outside between classes and will have a supply of lockers for all pupils. We will expect all pupils therefore to be in full uniform including blazers inside the building and this will be further built into our Merit Scheme. To help with that, we have again arranged Man's World to come into school on Mon 12<sup>th</sup> June to make it easier for parents to order and purchase the necessary items. Please make use of that. We will issue further guidance on uniform requirements prior to that so you know the appropriate items.
2. I am sending this letter to the parents of the new S1 as the extra closure for pupils in August will affect them, and they will have the opportunity to purchase uniform before the parents' meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June.
3. We are planning a special evening for current and former pupils, staff and parents to visit the old building for one last time on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – details to follow but put the date into your diary!
4. I have already posted on the website my appreciation of pupils, parents and staff for the way they responded to the situation in school on Tuesday. We were careful to follow the guidelines of our own procedures with the welcome support of Police Scotland and ERC staff. This allowed us to minimise the distress to pupils and disruption to the community and ensured the safety and wellbeing of all.

I will continue to keep you up to date as the arrangements progress.

Yours faithfully



A Sinclair  
Head Teacher