

Good evening everyone

I'm Mark Allchorn, Headteacher and it's my great pleasure to welcome you to Barclay school. I hope you've already had a warm welcome on your arrival and whether you've had a tour or will take a tour after this presentation, I know you'll feel at home.

This is a very important time for all the young people here and their parents and carers. (Who's in year 5? Year 6?) I'm glad you are looking at Barclay School as an option for future. This evening I believe that you'll get a real flavour of all that Barclay has to offer. Hands up again if you're excited about seeing around secondary schools? That's great, because we're excited to see you here.

I'll give you my perspective as headteacher and you'll hear from students in year 7 and 8 and 13 about life at the school. As you tour round and complete your treasure map, do make sure you're asking us plenty of questions. We're here to help!

I want to tell all of you about Barclay's recent journey and why I believe you should strongly consider putting Barclay as your first choice this year.

I took over as headteacher in January this year. That seems a long time ago, as so much has happened and been achieved since then!

Barclay had received a none too good Ofsted report last autumn year. That had put the school into what's called special measures. This category is designed to allow a school to rapidly improve the attainment and progress of its students with significant support from the local authority. I was recruited by the LA to lead a new senior team at Barclay on a day to day basis. My previous leadership of several schools in south west Herts was felt to be a good fit to meet the challenges that Barclay faced. Since January, I have expanded my senior team of specialists to lead the rapid improvement of the school over the last two terms. We focused on restoring student, staff and parents' belief in themselves and trust in the leadership of the school. I believe that if a student has a good experience in lesson, much else fits into place. So, we empowered teachers to teach to their best, supporting them where needed with training and discipline structures. All stakeholders have commented on the much more purposeful and very different feel of the school since January.

Very tangible impact of the changes we have introduced were seen in the recent A level and GCSE results. These were the best for three years at A level and the best for four years at GCSE. At GCSE,

Overall, 56% of students achieved grades A* to C (9 to 4) including English and Maths. 65 % achieved grades 9 to 4 (the old A* to C) in English Language or Literature and 64% grades 9 to 4 in Mathematics. These good results were reflected across the subject range, with particular highlights in Biology 98% A* -C

Chemistry and Physics 91% A* -C, Religious Education 87% A* -C 43% A* /A, Physical Education 86% A* -C and Geography 31% A* /A.

Overall, students achieved 210 A/A* (or equivalent) grades. Individual students achieved exceptionally well, and in addition to full sets of As, William Clarke achieved 5 A*s and a 9, Joe Newton and Gage Deitsch 3 A*s, Sarangy Sathyan and Alex Haskins 2 A*s. Fourteen students achieved at least 3 grade As. Four students achieved the top grade 9 in English and two in Maths.

Not surprisingly, OFSTED were keen to evaluate Barclay's progress and they undertook a rigorous two day monitoring visit at the start of this term. Look out for their soon to be published letter; but please read my face as to whether I was pleased with their findings!

Barclay is still on its journey back to good. However, I'm confident that the rapid progress being made in teaching and learning, behaviour and the whole school community believing in itself once more will now be sustained.

This term we've refreshed the uniform with new ties and kilts for girls, we've consulted widely on a new rewards system, aiming to embed a culture of positive feedback and praise at all levels. Staff are challenging themselves and students to work hard at learning and teaching. A new assessment system is in place to encourage dialogue on progress between staff, students and parents, so every girl and boy knows what's expected of them throughout the year and key stage. Better assessment is enabling teaching to be better calibrated to the needs of individual pupils. We've recrafted the pastoral and Special Educational Needs provisions to better meet the needs of all our pupils.

We're investing in the school built environment. The Bistro has been completely refurbished,, we have continued to develop the main circulation areas of the school and the DFE is investing £1.6million in our new Sixth Form Centre and Drama Studio for 2018.

What are the essential features of Barclay?

Above all, it's a got a very strong community feel. That is being reestablished and once more I believe the school is outward looking.

We're building belief that all in the school can now do their best and find the right curriculum and extra curricular activities to develop as effective learners and rounded young people

We want every student to achieve their best and celebrate that with them

We're about success for all. That means giving every student, whatever their previous attainment, the chance to flourish and go forward strongly.

You'll hear from William and Megan, Francesca and Anna about their experiences here.

As a result of this evening, I very much hope that you will decide to choose Barclay school as your secondary school and join us on our exciting journey into the future

We are open for visits for the next two weeks at 9am on Tuesdays Wednesdays. Details are on our website: please book in advance. I look forward to welcoming you then

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I was asked last week if I and my team are in this for more than just the short term; I'm very proud to be head of Barclay school and intend to lead it for a significant part of its journey

To that end we are developing strong support structures around form and year groups, with a clear and understandable assessment framework.