

# THE BURTON BOROUGH SCHOOL

## A Specialist Arts College



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11<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Dear Parent / Carer

I would like to invite you to a special parents' evening to talk to you about our move to a vertical tutor group (mixed age) pastoral system from September 2010.

Vertical tutoring is of course a significant change to the organisational structure of our school. In some ways it is a return to the 'good old days'. For us, the change marks a re-engineering of the idea of personal tutors, House systems and more effective parent partnerships and communications.

Effectively, it is a return to the idea of what we used to call "the whole child" where all of our students are valued for all of their qualities. Ultimately, such a cultural change from year group (horizontal) systems of tutoring to vertical systems ensures that the student is at the heart of the school, that learning is better supported, that parents are properly valued for their contribution and tutors are allowed to be the 'Guide by the Side' that students need them to be.

The key changes are as follows:

1. The size of each tutor group is reduced to the smallest size possible.
2. That support staff are attached to tutor groups so that each tutor group has effectively, two tutors - a head and an assistant tutor.
3. That tutor time is 20/25 minutes and is much more focused on supporting the learning of students.
4. That these personal tutors become key communicators with parents who can have a learning conversation about the progress of each student, at crucial times in the students learning life about targets and intervention needs.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



We would like to opportunity to explain these changes (and the reasons behind them) in more detail and therefore really hope that you will be able to attend this meeting. There will, of course, be plenty of opportunity to ask questions during the evening.

If you would like to attend one of the Parents' Evening to discuss these changes, please return the reply slip at the bottom of this letter telling us when you hope to attend. We would be delighted if your son / daughter accompanied you to this evening.

As we have no way of knowing how many people are likely at attend these evenings, we would ask you to complete the reply slip below and return via your son / daughters form tutor so that we can ensure that we have booked a large enough room, organised appropriate refreshments etc.

We expect to start at 6pm.

Yours truly



Mrs. Osborne  
Deputy Head

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I would like to attend the parents evening that will give us more information about the changes proposed to the Pastoral System.

I would like to attend on

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010

4<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Number of seats required: .....

Parent's name: .....

Students attending: .....