

16th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arbor Management Information System

We are excited to inform you that starting in January, all the schools within the Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust (BTCT) will be transitioning to a new management system for student data, communications and other school-related functions. The new system we will be adopting is called **Arbor**.

Arbor is a comprehensive and user-friendly platform that will help streamline communication between school parents/carers and Brookside Academy. It will provide an enhanced experience for managing attendance, assessment, reports and other important school activities. Parents will also have access to real-time information, which will help keep you informed about your child's progress and academy events.

Transition Timeline: The changeover to Arbor will take place on 6th January 2025 (inset day). We aim for everything to run as smoothly as possible from the 7th January 2025, but as with any new IT system, there may well be some 'teething' issues as everybody adjusts to the new system. Please be patient with academy staff as we embed this system over the coming months. We hope you will see no difference on a day-to-day basis in your interaction with the academy.

Parent App Account: For those parents used to seeing their children's information on the SIMS Parent App, this will change to the Arbor Parent App in the New Year. This changeover will not happen immediately, but as and when the academy is ready to launch. You will receive instructions on how to set up your account once the app is launched.

We are confident that Arbor will help us improve communication and efficiency within the Brookside Academy community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Academy Office for further information.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we implement this new system. We look forward to an exciting and successful transition in January!

Yours sincerely,



Brian Walton
Headteacher