

Year 7 Parents' Forum – Thursday 14th Sept

Introduction to Senior Leadership Team (Tamsin Schouten, Dan Mather, James Lushington, Fiona Williams, Sarah Childs) Year 7 Team (Andrew Pikesley and Jo Binny) and SEN Team (Ben Gillo and Lindsey Edson)

Discussion point: How has the start of the year been for you and your child?

- Appreciate all the staff building relationships with new Year 7 students resulting in them feeling confident at start of new school
- Clubs - really grateful that these have already started
- iPads - have hit the ground running which is great
- Letters now gone via post about setting up Virtual School and Parent Pay – please notify reception if you haven't received a letter
- Lockers - will be allocated by half term. Information will be via the newsletter in forthcoming weeks and deposit on Parent Pay
- Swipe cards - will be given this week
- Reminders given re methods of communication: weekly email, newsletter, Year 7 walk around
- Maps - are unclear. Please could these be colour coded. A virtual tour of the school would be helpful. Map needs an indication of which doors to use to get to certain departments.
- Timings of the day - it would be helpful to know more about the start of the day. Parents naturally assume that it will be tutor time first
- Reception - please make sure parents know this.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Swipe cards - what are they for? Canteen, photocopying, library use

How do you choose what groups/sets children go into?

Two populations; additional support for left hand side of timetable, Eng, Maths and Science set on Primary information. Movements are frequent. Tutor groups/Mixed ability across all other students. Outline given of STEAM and CA as a faculty. Most students leave with 11 counting qualifications.

How do grades work?

Grades 1-9 are given with 9 being the equivalent to a top A*. C grade is the equivalent of a 4/5.

Lost property:

Names in clothes really useful. If it is named, we will give it straight to Reception who will return it. If not named, students need to visit Reception to check!

Children have their own email address - what are these for?

Email addresses and can be tracked so only email the person it is supposed to be for and ensure it is appropriate use. Students can email teachers. Lots of checks and balances in place to teach them to be safe. Important that young people learn responsibility with these. Children can email parents in place of mobile phones.

Where do we find the details for Elemental Year 7 Activity Days?

These dates have now been confirmed via the newsletter. Letters have already gone home with consent form. Each tutor group has half a day starting from Monday 25th Sept.

When does homework club start?

SEN homework club starts next week (invitation only) to be supported by the TA team on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Homework will start being set next week and should be completed in Extended tutor. Homework starts are staggered to avoid overload. All of this information will be in weekly newsletter.

Website:

This is undergoing review. Please see the FAQ section if needed at any point.

Contacting school:

Please feel free to email TSchouten if you are worried about something.

PE: how does this work in terms of changing etc?

Students change at school. Expectation is they wear full uniform and then change for PE. Students who are off to fixtures will leave school in kit. Different shoes needed depending on sport. Year 7 PE footwear for the following three weeks (from the week beginning 18 September): Year 7 Boys - Studded football boots Year 7 Girls - Trainers

Does PE still happen outside in poor weather?

In theory, yes. Send trainers too if in any doubt.

If they start a club and don't like it, is this a problem?

This is completely fine. We want them to trial things and see what they love.

What are the PE rotations?

PE will keep updates via newsletter and students showbie.

How do you get picked for a team?

Mainly through extra-curricular clubs. Make sure your teachers know if you have a talent for a sport but can't attend. Clubs can be attended even if you do not wish to play competitively. Clubs can be joined regardless of which PE rotation you are on.

When are fixtures?

These tend to be on Thursdays as agreed with all other local secondaries. There are occasional weekend ones. Fixtures and team lists are shared on Showbie.

What is Reset?

Reset protocols outlined.

How do BMs work?

BM protocols outlined and discussed.

How do we report absence?

Please send an email or fill in an absence form. Attendance is really important. We do not authorise absence other than for exceptional circumstances.

Reading - how do they log this?

This will be talked through in their tutor and English lessons and is a focus for us all at school. SoRA is an excellent resource. All young people also have library lessons.