

10th July 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

We hope your child has enjoyed the last two days and feels happy about their transition into Year 7 at Ipsley.

Although our pupils remain in middle school until the end of Year 8, an important part of their time in Years 7 and 8 is ensuring that they are fully prepared for high school. Indeed, we base our curriculum, expectations and systems in these years around a secondary model of education.

Curriculum:

Like in all secondary schools, your child will study a wider range of subjects, each taught by subject specialists. This will require more movement around the school site than your child has been used to. We support children with this part of the transition but also expect them to be able to conduct themselves sensibly and appropriately when moving from lesson to lesson. There will also be more subtle differences, such as the requirement to write in pen at all times.

Tutors:

Your child's tutor will be your first point of contact should you need to pass on any information or concerns about your child. There will be a tutor session every morning and afternoon, enabling the tutor to closely support your child with their attendance, behaviour and progress. Please do get in touch with your child's tutor as we are all partners in supporting your child in achieving their potential.

Year Team:

Mr Kloda is the Year Team Leader for Year 7 and is supported by Mrs Glover, our Key Stage 3 Inclusion and Achievement Coordinator. Ms Beech (Vice Principal) is the member of the senior leadership team who supports Year 7. Again, we want to be able to do all we can to support your child and appreciate positive working relationships with parents and carers.

Social time:

For Years 7 and 8, break and lunchtimes are an opportunity for children to relax with their friends. We encourage them to be more independent as this is an important part of becoming young adults. There are designated areas for Year 7 and 8 to use at social time, rather than the playground. There

are also several clubs they can attend. Any child who is unable to behave appropriately at social time will spend their time with a member of staff instead.

Lockers:

To encourage more independence, your child will be assigned a locker close to their tutor room; a lock will be provided for a refundable deposit of £5. They are able to collect their books and equipment at the start of the day, breaktime and lunchtime. Children in years 7 and 8 are also allowed to use a bag to carry around their belongings during the day.

Behaviour for Learning:

It is vital that every pupil in Years 7 and 8 understands the importance of their learning at this key point in their education and the role they play in ensuring that everyone is able to learn without distraction or disruption. We ask you to support this message via conversations at home, should the need arise.

Sometimes your child may not meet the expectations we have around behaviour or learning. In Years 7 and 8, we use the following sanctions:

- Moving to enable others to learn (this could be within the room or to another classroom)
- Detentions. At secondary age, we are allowed to keep children for up to an hour on the same day. If your child is unable to stay without notice (for example, if they collect a sibling from another school), please notify your child's tutor about this at the start of the year. We will still expect them to serve the detention on another day.
- Target cards. For any child who has repeatedly behaved inappropriately or disruptively, we use target cards to monitor their behaviour for learning. Blue cards are monitored by the tutor. Yellow cards are monitored by the Year Team Leader (Mr Kloda). Red cards are monitored by the senior leadership team and are a serious sanction. A member of the year team staff will contact you should your child be put on a target card. We ask you to also look at the card each day, sign it and discuss it with your child.

Uniform:

Our expectations around uniform remain very high in Year 7. A letter offering further guidance on uniform is being sent to parents of children in every year group next week. If you do have specific queries, we recommend you check with your child's current teacher or by ringing the Year 7 team prior to the end of term, before you make any purchase you are unsure about.

Principal: Mrs P Hammond (FIMLS)

Winyates Way,
Winyates,
Redditch,
Worcestershire,
B98 0UB

If you have any questions about the above information, or any aspect of the transition into Year 7, please get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

We look forward to being partners in supporting your child be the best they can be, both academically and socially.

Yours faithfully,

Ms N.Beech
Vice Principal

Mr A.Kloda
Year Team Leader (Y7)