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**Mr T Peacock** B.Sc (Hons)  
Headteacher

# The West Bridgford School

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## To Parent/Carer(s) of students joining Year 7 in September,

Welcome! We hope your sons & daughters are looking forward to September and are as excited about coming to West Bridgford as we are excited to be receiving them.

We hope that you found the videos, messages and virtual tour of the school useful, but fortunately you **will** be able to experience the real thing in only a few weeks.

Some aspects of school life in September will have to be slightly different from normal. You will spend a lot of time together as a year group, but will have different start and finish times, different breaks and lunchtimes from students in other years.

Movement around the school will be more restricted than normal – including a one-way system around the main block. Don't worry, your tutor will show you all round the school on your first day and you will soon be used to it and feel at home. In order to help us settle you in quickly, you will be **the only year group returning on the first morning**.

There will be a bigger than usual focus on hygiene – just like everywhere else you go – and although there will be lots of hand sanitizer points around the school, we would ask parents to **please provide each student with their own small bottle to carry with them**.

We hope parents will understand that events that normally bring them into school – consultation events, information evenings – will be held online for at least the first term, and that some of the activities for students out of school – trips and visits – may not happen this year.

The most important thing is that the curriculum won't be affected – you will have all your different subjects as normal, and we will try to run as many of the in school extra-curricular activities as possible.

In the rest of this pack, we have tried to answer some of the obvious questions you may have and there are a number of letters explaining different aspects of Year 7 life.

So, to finish – we hope you enjoy your final few days of Year 6, have a restful summer, and we will see you on the school drive bright and early on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for an 8:25am start.

Best wishes,

Tim Peacock, Headteacher

Rachel Mills, Director of Learning for Transition and Year 7

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# Some quick questions answered

## What times will Year 7 start and finish their day in September?

- 8:25 line-up in the Languages Courtyard
- 2:30 finish. This is earlier than all other year groups

## Will my child still be expected to wear full school uniform?

- Yes.

## What else should they bring with them on the first day?

- Pen, pencil, etc.
- Small bottle of hand sanitizer
- A signed copy of the Home/School Agreement (in this pack)
- 'Letter to tutor' (from the transition booklet)

## When will they get their timetable?

- On the first day. There is no PE lesson timetabled on that day so no need to bring PE kit.

## What about lockers?

- These should be available by the second week. We still have to recover keys from last year's Y7 as we haven't seen them since March!
- Information about how to request a locker is given below

## What is the policy around mobile phones?

- Students are not allowed to bring any electrical items into school
- No mobile phones, smart watches, fit bits, iPods etc

## Will the school catering facilities be running?

- Yes, there will be a full choice of hot and cold snacks, sandwiches and meals at Lunchtime only
- Please see information below about our Cashless Catering System

## Will the year group be allowed to have assemblies?

- Yes. The government guidelines only prevent gatherings of pupils from different year groups. We believe that assemblies play a vital part in helping students to feel part of the whole community

## How do I contact the school?

- There is a dedicated year 6 email address for the rest of this term - [y6@wbs.school](mailto:y6@wbs.school)
- In September, please use - [adminoffice@wbs.school](mailto:adminoffice@wbs.school)

## Year 7 Lockers

We are ready to issue lockers and the cost for this year is **£5.00**. If you would like a locker for your child for Year 7, then please pay online for the locker, using ParentPay, by following the steps below.

- Go onto your child's account on ParentPay and select Year 7 Locker 2020.
- Make the £5.00 payment online.

If you wish to pay online for the locker, but have yet to register for ParentPay please email [mthomson@wbs.school](mailto:mthomson@wbs.school) You will then be forwarded registration details. This will allow all your future payments to be made through the online system.

**It is a condition of having a locker that the pupil consents to have this searched for a prohibited item whether or not the pupil is present.**

## Cashless Catering - Year 7 Lunch Cards

As you will be aware, our school operates a Cashless Catering System, which means all students are issued with a lunch card. These cards will be issued on your child's first day in September.

This system is very easy and helps lunchtimes to operate efficiently. To improve the flow on the first day, we would appreciate it if you could arrange to add funds in advance.

If you would like to add funds to your child's card, then please pay online, using Parent Pay, by following the steps below.

- Go onto your child's account on Parent Pay select School meal, then
- Make a payment online. The minimum amount is £10.00 but any amount can be paid up to £100.00.

If you wish to pay online for the Cashless Catering, but have yet to register for Parent Pay please email [mthomson@wbs.school](mailto:mthomson@wbs.school) You will then be forwarded registration details. This will allow all your future payments to be made through the online system.

Please note payment must be received by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August** to guarantee that funds will be added in time for your child's first day. If absolutely necessary, students can bring cash to school on the first day which will then be entered onto the lunch card via the revaluation units in school. However, this is not the preferred method of payment as we are trying to reduce the amount of cash that students bring in to school.

## Year 7 Curriculum 2020-21

I would like to take this opportunity to explain a few points about our Year 7 curriculum, and in particular how we organise students into groups. For the majority of their subjects, students will remain with their tutor group. These are

<b>Science</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>RE</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Computing</b>	<b>PSHE</b>

For **Technology**, because of the practical nature of the subject, students are grouped into smaller classes, mostly with some other members of their tutor group.

In **Languages**, all students begin by studying **French** with their tutor group. Later in the term we will contact you about taking on a second language, **German** or **Spanish**, in the Spring.

In some subjects, we believe that the most appropriate way to provide for each student's needs is to group according to ability in that subject.

**English** – students will have an induction programme for the first few weeks with their tutor group. After 2 weeks there will be an initial assessment. The results of this, together with KS2 test results and Primary Teacher Assessments will be used to group students into sets 1 to 3, or 1 to 4. Students will be monitored closely during the first term with the potential for set adjustments if necessary.

**Mathematics** – students will start in tutor groups in Maths. They will sit some baseline assessments in the first few weeks of term and these will be used to allocate them into their initial sets in Maths. There will be regular assessments during the year with the potential for set adjustments if necessary.

**Physical Education** – students will be taught initially in mixed ability groups and complete some baseline assessments. After 2 weeks they will be grouped into sets 1 to 3 (boys) and sets 1 to 3 (girls). There will be regular assessments with sets being adjusted over time.

By the end of September, you will receive information about the English and Maths setting.

## Parent Consultation Afternoons

In February and March we hold 2 Year 7 consultation afternoons – divided between the tutor groups. These allow parents to meet their child's teachers for each subject and discuss progress. Appointments are booked through an online booking system; we guarantee parents can see their English, Maths and Science teachers and

as many others as possible. However please be aware that teachers in, for example Music, teach a number of classes and it is not always possible to guarantee an appointment.

The events run from 2:00 to 5:30pm. *On these occasions school finishes early at 1:15pm for all students in Years 7 to 9.* In addition, during the Autumn and Spring Terms, Consultation Afternoons for Years 11 and 10, 9 and 8 (two events each) also have early closures which affect Year 7 students. This means there are 8 occasions during the year when school finishes early for consultation events. All these times are listed in the Parent Information Booklet and reminders will appear in the fortnightly "West Bridgford Post" which is emailed to all parents.

## Also in this pack

Many of the letters in this pack mention paying for items via the school online payment system, Parent Pay. You are receiving a separate Parent Pay email from Mr Deans today, with instructions on how to sign up to Parent Pay and make online payments. *Please note that on the Art and Maths letter there is a deadline.*

What you will also find in this section are:

- **Home School Agreement** letter
- **Design and Technology Contributions** letter from Mrs Blick (Head of Creative Design)
- **Art Pack** letter from Miss Chan (Assistant Head of Art)
- **Maths Pack** letter from Mr Judge (Head of Maths)

## To follow

We are still awaiting guidelines as to which musical instrument lessons will be permitted. We will hopefully soon be able to send you:

- **Music Department** letter from Mr Donnelly (Head of Performing Arts)
- **Instrumental Lesson Contract**