

INFORMATION
FOR THE
PARENTS/CARERS
of



Year 7 Boys

2017/2018

WELCOME!

HEADTEACHER: MRS S GRAHAM
PUPIL PROGRESS LEADER: MRS J STEPHENS
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: MR C PARKINSON

WEST DERBY SCHOOL SITE ADDRESS

364 WEST DERBY ROAD
LIVERPOOL
L13 7HQ

Tel No: 0151 235 1300
Website: www.westderbyschool.co.uk

If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact the school in order to make an appointment.

FOR SPECIFIC QUERIES REGARDING YOUR SON IN YEAR 7
PLEASE CONTACT MRS STEPHENS ON 235 1300

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, life in a Secondary School is very different from life in a Primary School.

- Your son may have to travel by bus and may have much further to travel.
- Your son will have to wear full school uniform which may be for the first time. He will also have a list of rules to follow.
- Your son will have a form tutor, but may be taught by up to twelve different teachers in one week. He will also have to move to his lessons and find his way around a large building. He will have to carry his belongings with him. He will have to remember the correct books and equipment for his lessons.
- All homework can be viewed via the school website through the 'Show My Homework' section. All pupils will have a unique log in.
- Your son will have to get used to a variety of different teachers and teaching methods and may be expected to write for longer periods.
- Your son will be expected to be more independent, organised and self reliant.
- Your son will become engaged in new and exciting forms of technology.

However

He will get support and help!!

SOME USEFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS

GETTING TO SCHOOL

- Ensure that your son knows where to get on and off the bus and how much his bus fare is. Do a trial journey with him if he is worrying.

THE SCHOOL DAY

- Ensure your son has an alarm clock and knows how it works, so that he can start to be independent, even though you are there to support him.
- Each evening, go through the next day with your son, so he is prepared for it.
- Ensure that your son is wearing the correct uniform, has a bag and is not wearing jewellery, a hooded top or trainers when he leaves the house.
- Make a note of when your son has P.E. so that his kit can be ready and packed on those days.
- It may be an idea to have a copy of your son's timetable and his homework timetable on your fridge so that it is easily accessible.
- Arrange 'homework' times with your son, so he can develop a homework routine and can then have his leisure time when it is completed.

- Look for notes, newsletters or information from school in your son's bag - he will never remember to give it to you! Keep updated with information shared through the school website.
- Check for homework via the 'Show My Homework' section of the website. It may be an idea for you to arrange a homework buddy for your son (someone he knows from his Primary School) so that he or you can phone/contact him if there is a problem with the homework or he cannot remember when it has to be handed in.
- Homework details and information can be accessed via the school website on www.westderbyschool.co.uk 'Show My Homework' tab.
- Arrange your son's uniform the night before, so he knows where it is in the morning and does not panic.
- Be prepared for some '*highs and lows*' when your son first starts school. He will be meeting new people and studying new subjects and he will be very tired.

If your son seems worried or upset, talk it through with him and if you still have concerns contact Mr Parkinson. Often, what seems an enormous problem is easily sorted out.

- Ensure your son has a watch!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please make sure your son wears full school uniform as detailed below:

- **BLACK BLAZER WITH SCHOOL BADGE**
- **WHITE SHIRT**
- **SCHOOL TIE**
- **BLACK TROUSERS**
- **BLACK SHOES - NO MARKINGS AND THAT DO NOT LOOK LIKE TRAINERS OR WALKING BOOTS**

If you would like your son to wear a jumper it must be

- **BLACK 'V' NECK SCHOOL JUMPER**

SPORTS

BLUE SHORTS (NAVY BLUE)

BLUE SOCKS (NAVY BLUE)

LONG SLEEVE TOP & SHORT SLEEVE TOP WITH SCHOOL CREST (BOTH AVAILABLE FROM NEW SUPPLIERS)

FOOTBALL BOOTS

TRAINERS

Uniform is available from Kitted Out (London Road) & West Derby Schoolwear (Eaton Road)

- Your son will need a towel on the days he has P.E. and Games, particularly outdoor lessons. Please ensure he packs one!

Please ensure that your son leaves your house wearing full school uniform and IS NOT wearing trainers, jewellery or a hooded top - all of which are not allowed in school.

Please make sure all uniform items are clearly marked with his name as unmarked items can be difficult to trace if they are lost.

There is a pupil information sheet in your pack.

Please fill it in and return it to us
as soon as possible.

Please ensure that your full address is written on the sheet with a contact number, your mobile number and an email address for yourself.

Please add a second contact number.

If your son has free school meals YOU MUST contact the Local Authority on 233 3006 to inform them of your son's new school.
If you do not do this you will have to pay for his meals.

If you move address or change your telephone number, please inform us, so we can amend our records

Thank you

SCHOOL DAY

MONDAY

8.45 - 9.15	Reg/PSHCE
9.15 - 10.10	Period 1
10.10 - 10.25	BREAK
10.25 - 11.20	Period 2
11.20 - 12.15	Period 3
12.15 - 12.55	LUNCH
12.55 - 1.55	Period 4
12.55 - 1.55	Period 5

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

8.45 - 9.00	Registration
9.00 - 10.00	Period 1
10.00 - 10.15	BREAK
10.15 - 11.15	Period 2
11.15 - 12.15	Period 3
12.15 - 12.55	LUNCH
12.55 - 1.55	Period 4
1.55 - 2.55	Period 5

FORM TUTORS

One of the most important people your son will meet in West Derby will be his Form Tutor.

7W - Miss Bennett	7D - Miss Davies
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7E - Miss Ellison	7B - Mrs Ashton-Armstrong
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7S - Miss Parker	7Y - Miss Ryan
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7T - Mrs Murray	
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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT YOUR SON ATTENDS SCHOOL FOR THE WHOLE ACADEMIC YEAR.

Parents are sometimes not aware of the impact of additional holidays on their son's education and we ask all parents to ensure that holidays are not booked during term time. Absences due to holidays will be marked as unauthorised and you could be in danger of being issued with a Penalty Notice by the Local Authority.

- 1 week out of school = 25 hours/lessons of teaching lost
- 2 weeks out of school = 50 hours/lessons of teaching lost
- 3 weeks out of school = 75 hours/lessons of teaching lost

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2017-2018

	FROM	TO
AUTUMN TERM 2017	Monday 4 th Sept	Thursday 21 st December
Half Term	Monday 23 rd October	Friday 27 th October
SPRING TERM 2018	Monday 8 th January	Friday 23 rd March
Half Term	Monday 12 th February	Friday 16 th February
SUMMER TERM 2018	Monday 9 th April	Thursday 19 th July
Half Term	Monday 28 th May	Friday 1 st June
May Day	Monday 7 th May	

MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2017 - TRAINING DAY 1
TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2017 - ALL BOYS RETURN
FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER 2017 - TRAINING DAY 2

ATTENDANCE CHART GOES HERE

YEAR 7
8:45AM - 2:55PM
TUESDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER

Please ensure that your son arrives no later than 8.45am.

Your son must:-

- Wear full school uniform
- Have a bag and the correct equipment
- Have his information sheet if we have not already had it

If you are accompanying him on the first day, please leave your son by the entrance to the school.

Please do not come into school with him unless you wish to discuss medication that is taken during the school day.

Please put this medication in an envelope labelled with his name and the correct dosage he is to be given.

Finally,

DON'T WORRY!!!

You will be more concerned than he is!!

The Science Department

Pupils study 7 units of work in total. The units covered are:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cells	Particles and their behaviour	Forces
Structure and functions of body systems	Elements, atoms and compounds	Light
Reproduction	The Periodic table	Electricity and Magnetism
	Chemical Reactions	

In Science there are many opportunities for pupils to develop a wide range of practical, analytical and evaluation skills. During practical work pupils are encouraged to work independently and in groups to problem solve, identify patterns, make predictions, conclude findings and evaluate their performance. There are many ICT opportunities available to students during their Science lessons promoting the incorporation of their iPads as an aid to learning.

Homework:

Your son will be expected to complete at least one piece of homework every week.

Assessment:

At the end of each term, pupils are given a formal assessment test to monitor progress. In addition after most topics pupils will carry out an assessment task where the emphasis is on pupils assessing their own work and setting themselves targets to improve. The assessments will be a combination of Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) tasks completed during lessons and SAT style questions.

Beyond Year 7:

During Year 8 the format of teaching and assessment is relatively comparable to year 7. Students continue to have 3 lessons of Science per week. The intensity and complexity of the areas covered becomes increasingly demanding as the students reach the end of KS3.

Boys continue to be taught individual Biology, Chemistry and Physics units of work including such as:

- Metals and Acids
- Health and lifestyle
- Motion and pressure

Your son will sit a final examination at the end of Year 8 generating an overall Key Stage 3 level; this will assess his knowledge and understanding of all of the content delivered during Years 7, 8. He will begin his GCSE course at the start of year 9 either in combined science or separate sciences.

How parents can help:

- Encourage your son to watch scientific documentaries and nature programmes on television.
- Ensure your son has the correct equipment for his lessons - exercise book, pen, pencil and ruler.
- Check for homework set on 'Show My Homework' on the school website
- Encourage interest in Science and the world around us through the use of the internet and books.

Ensure your son revises thoroughly for any tests he has and test him on his knowledge at home.

The Mathematics Department

Pupils at West Derby follow a varied and challenging maths curriculum, which is designed to enable them to master the skills they have gained at Key Stage 2 and support their progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 and beyond. Pupils will participate in group work, paired work and independent work and will be encouraged to participate in whole-class learning, to strengthen their understanding of a particular topic and of mathematical skills in general.

During Year 7, pupils will work on the following topics:

- *Analysing and displaying data*
- *Mental and written calculations*
- *Expressions, functions and formulae*
- *Graphs*
- *Properties of numbers*
- *Angles*
- *Measures and shape*
- *Fractions, decimals and percentages*
- *Transformations of shapes*
- *Probability*
- *Ratio and proportion*

Numeracy Across the Curriculum

Pupils are encouraged to appreciate Numeracy outside of their Mathematics classroom and to apply their Maths skills in other subject areas as well as to the world around them. There is a weekly Form Quiz with prizes, displays around the school and all staff encourage and reinforce written and mental methods across the curriculum.

The Mathematics Department rewards the hard work of our pupils through our 'Star of the Week' award which recognises effort and engagement during lessons. We also organise reward trips for our pupils, as well as visits to Mathematics events throughout the city. There are many opportunities for our pupils to become involved with competitions at regional and national levels, both individually and as part of a team. These events are supported by a network of local universities and allow pupils to showcase their mathematical skills.

Numeracy Club

Numeracy club is a weekly after-school club, which enables year 7 pupils to improve and embed basic numeracy skills through a variety of different activities such as quizzes, numeracy puzzles and mini mathematical projects. These activities are put in context and allow pupils to see the relevance and purpose of mathematics.

HELPING YOUR SON WITH MATHS AT HOME

- It is very important that your son knows that mathematics isn't just something they learn at school. Maths is everywhere and is an essential skill in everyday life. Have fun with maths, talk about it and help your child to be more aware of maths.
- Talk to your son about mathematics and ask questions that encourage your child to:
 - use maths language, including words such as add, subtract, equal and the names of shapes;
 - explain his thinking: "Tell me how you know that" or "How did you get that?";
 - sequence and plan: "What are you going to do first?";
 - count & compare: "Which leaf is biggest?";
 - use logical thinking: "There are four kids coming to the party. How many treats do we need?"
 - describe the world: "What shape is the moon?"

- Talk about maths and show your son how you use maths in your life. For example:
 - measures for recipes, sport, and DIY: "I need 100 grams of sugar";
 - estimate amounts of paint or wallpaper or to hang pictures: "I want to put this picture 10 centimetres above the other one";
 - use the clock to be on time or plan ahead: "If the party is at five o'clock, we need to leave in half an hour";
 - read schedules for television, bus or movie times.

Try to have fun with maths and numbers and your child will enjoy learning new skills.

The English Department

The English staff at West Derby work hard to ensure that the transition from Primary School to Secondary School is as seamless as possible.

We include aspects of fun in the lessons wherever possible, including games, ICT, drawing etc.

Lots of our lessons include cross curricular activities and include elements of Drama, Media, History and Art. The list is endless and the lessons often serve to reinforce what your child is learning elsewhere in the school.

As well as organised theatre trips and visiting writers, if your child is of a competitive nature, there are always local and national competitions running. Recent competitions have included mini sagas, super hero stories, performing poetry and raps. There is a chance for your child to win individual prizes and prizes for the school but even if this doesn't happen they will have fun participating. Indeed, lots of the work that our pupils enter is published.

Depending on the ability group we often incorporate KS2 resources into the lessons so that pupils recognise the work, skills are embedded and confidence and self-esteem grow. We aim to build on the skills established at KS2 and teach in a way that masters the skills needed for GCSE success.

Reading for enjoyment is actively encouraged and all boys will become members and receive an induction to the local library. This helps to promote independence and hopefully sparks the passion for reading.

Private reading time is also encouraged as part of lessons and we offer guided reading groups too, for pupils who may need a little extra help.

When choosing class readers the teachers will take into account your son's reading and spelling ability and also aim to choose a text that is engaging and will promote further reading.

Pupils are all encouraged to write in pen and we currently monitor hand writing so that we can offer more support to any boy that might need it. We do offer further handwriting support and your child will receive a letter from his teacher if we feel that this is required.

If any child is struggling or concerned about any aspect of his English work he can speak to his teacher or drop into the department at lunch or after school; there is always someone available to help.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

We do not 'ban' our boys from having mobile phones in school, but please note the following:

- If they are switched on or used during lesson time, they will be confiscated and put in the school safe for 24 hours. You will then have to collect them from the school office at the end of the following day. If it is confiscated on a Friday, it cannot be collected until 2.55pm on the following Monday.
- Phones are the boys' responsibility. They should be kept safe and not left in bags in the playground etc. They must be given in as valuables in PE lessons. We will NOT take responsibility for lost or confiscated telephones.
- Please be aware that mobile phones with Social Media/Facebook/Snapchat/Instagram/Notifications on them can accept any pictures or messages being transmitted from other telephones in the vicinity of the school. Please check your son's phone regularly.

If your son's phone has a video facility on it, it must not be used in school. If he is found using this, the phone will be confiscated.

A reminder:

- Trainers, hooded tops and jewellery must not be worn in school
- ALL boys are expected to have a school bag, a pen, pencil, ruler and an eraser with them at all times
- Canned and fizzy drinks are banned as are ALL energy drinks and will be taken from any boys who are seen with them
- If your son is absent from school, please telephone us on the first day of absence so we do not record his absence as unauthorised and every subsequent day that he is absent
- If your son has a medical appointment please give him a note or his appointments letter to show to his Pupil Progress Leader prior to his appointment as he cannot leave school without his appointment being authorised