

# Welcome to Year 7

11<sup>th</sup> September 2015

## Welcome to Thamesmead

We hope your Year 7 child has enjoyed his/her first few days at secondary school. Please read on to find information that may be of interest to you. We use the school's weekly newsletter to do much of our communication, so please try and take a look at it every Friday.

## Year 7 Information & Tutor Meetings

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September there will be an opportunity for Year 7 parents and carers to meet their child's tutor and also attend a brief presentation from the Head of Year, Mrs Foster. You will shortly receive a letter with further information about this event and timings. We look forward to welcoming you all on this date.

## Year 7 Communication of Progress Information

The school aims to email termly progress data and annual reports to the parents of students. To this end, if one parent does not reside with the student, we would be grateful to be supplied with a separate email for this parent so that progress information can be readily communicated to them if required. This information can be texted to the school on 01932 300025, clearly stating the student's name, the parent's name and email address. This would be much appreciated.

## Early Closures and INSET Day

Our Open Evening is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October and the school will close at 12 noon that day. Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October is an INSET day for all students. School closes for Christmas holidays on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon and students are back to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

## Thames Young Mariners

**The Year 7 induction trip** will take place at Thames Young Mariners on the 3rd and 4th October. Each day will consist of teams working together to kayak, build a raft and do bell boating (like dragon boat racing). Although all of the activities are water based it is not necessary for the students to be confident swimmers. Please check the day that has been allocated to your child and ensure that he/she comes with the appropriate clothing for the day and a packed lunch. This is a great trip and we are all looking forward to taking the students on a very enjoyable day.

## ICT

If your child does not have access to a computer at home, they will be given priority to use the school computers in the homework club and in the Learning Centre at lunchtimes. **Parents** - please ensure that we are aware of this priority need. **Students** - please make sure you get the internet access you need at school or in the local library as it will greatly benefit your learning.

## **Homework**

Your children are currently only being set homework for Maths and English. Science homework will start after half term. All other subjects will then set homework at the start of the spring term in January. This will enable Year 7 students to establish good organisational skills and effective routines for recording and completing homework on time. You will find a record of the homework set in your child's planner and he/she can view the tasks on FROG. A reminder that students will be set detentions if homework is not completed and handed in on time in line with the school's homework policy. If your child is struggling with homework, we have a supervised homework club every day after school.

## **Parent Portal**

Further information and log on codes for the Thamesmead School Parent Portal will be given to Year 7 parents at the Information & Meet the Tutor Event on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## **After School Clubs (Thamesmead Plus)**

We have a number of after school activities for the children and they have all been set a challenge to try at least one club by half term! There is no limit to the number of clubs they can go to and we would love to see as many children as possible staying to take part. Tutors will have discussed the programme with their tutees and have set them a challenge to try at least one club a week.

## **Early Lunch**

Year 7 students will be having early lunch for the first few weeks of term to support their induction into school.

## **School Uniform**

It goes almost without saying that the students need to ensure all their school uniform and PE kit is named. With about 1,000 students in the school, it is exceptionally difficult for students to get lost uniform returned to them, without it being named. Blazers, school skirts, school jumpers, clip on ties and PE kit are available from Shepperton Sports & Ski, Shepperton High Street. Please note that black V-neck jumpers without the school badge are not acceptable. Please ensure that students have their PE kit on the right days, according to their timetable. Please remember that all students are the face of the school in the community and as such they need to be smartly dressed in full school uniform when travelling to and from school (including wearing the clip on tie). Please see our website for our school uniform policy.

## **Student Planners**

Please sign your child's Student Planner every week. This is the best way to communicate with your child's tutor in the first instance.

## **Sickness Procedure in School**

If your child is ill, we ask that you call the school office and leave a message on the attendance line before 8.15am. It is essential that this is followed up with a note to explain the absence. Failure to do this will mean that the absence is recorded as unauthorised. If a student becomes unwell during the school day, they must report to the main office where our First Aiders will assess the situation. Please be aware that our staff will encourage students to return to lessons whenever they feel this is appropriate or alternatively contact parents

if they feel that the child's illness is such that it necessitates them being sent home. Students must not use their personal phones to advise parents that they feel ill.

### **Holiday Requests During School Term Time**

The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of Surrey County Council, to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice. If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

### **Latest News**

Thamesmead has Facebook and Twitter where you can see all of our latest news. The website also has regular updates about events taking place in school too.

[www.facebook.com/ThamesmeadSchool](http://www.facebook.com/ThamesmeadSchool)

@ThamesmeadSch

[www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/latest-news-events/](http://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/latest-news-events/)

We look forward to seeing you and your child on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Mrs J Bell, Assistant Headteacher i/c KS3

Mrs F Foster, Head of Year 7