

INVICTUS

Education Trust

THE INVICTUS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2021



YEAR 6 & 7 TRANSITION SPECIAL EDITION

WELCOME

Hello to all Invictus students, staff, parents, carers and our communities, with an extra special welcome to all current Year 6 students that will be joining us in September 2021!



In fact, this 'special edition' of our Trust magazine has been created with you in mind, what you will find on the following pages are articles that have been written by your teachers, support staff and fellow students, letting you know what you can expect when you join us.

We are now entering the 2nd year of the "Invictus Culture" and at the heart of this culture are the seven values that can be seen on the cover of this magazine, throughout our schools and across our many digital media platforms.

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TERM DATES

ALL SEVEN INVICTUS SCHOOLS FOLLOW THE SAME TERM DATES

	START OF TERM	HALF TERM	RETURN TO SCHOOL	END OF TERM
AUTUMN TERM	06/09/2021	25/10/2021 until 29/10/2021	01/11/2021	17/12/2021
SPRING TERM	05/01/2022	21/2/2022 until 25/2/2022	28/02/2022	07/04/2022
SUMMER TERM	25/04/2022	30/5/2022 until 03/06/2022	06/06/2022	21/07/2022

INVICTUS VALUE SEVEN - THINK COLLABORATIVELY



Although all seven values are crucial, everything starts with Invictus value one **“Every day, in every way, our students come first”**. This is the starting point for every conversation we have and decision we make, whatever the question, the answer will always be “whichever benefits our students the most”!

Throughout my many years in education I have seen many ‘cultures’ and catchy slogans that more often than not are nothing more than words on paper. I have made it my mission to embrace our culture, to live and breathe our values and watching hundreds of my colleagues across our Trust and in our schools, I can say hand on heart, so do they. This has been more evident than ever over the course of this very challenging year.

Your teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond, daily, to make sure your disruption was minimised. We have received national recognition for how we managed virtual learning and you can see some of those headlines across the page, the statistics are amazing. However, what I would like to highlight is what has happened in our schools since students came back into school. Countless hours were put in to make school environments safe, where required staff were teaching students in the classroom AND virtually at the same time and when guidance allowed us, we introduced a HUGE timetable of extra-curricular sessions and students attended (safely, in their bubbles of course) in their THOUSANDS.

All of this allows me to state, with complete confidence, that our student first culture IS more than just words on a page.



Tony Bowles with Rufford Headteacher Alice Middleton

In addition to the excitement of welcoming our students back into school, we also announced that Rufford Primary School will be joining our Trust from September 2021, making them the first primary school to join us. This is a very exciting development and although the official date is September, the collaboration between us and the wonderful team at Rufford is well underway.

Other major news is the announcement that we have become the first FI in Schools Multi Academy Trust in the

First FI in Schools Academy in the Country!



country! The opportunities and experiences this will offer our students and primary schools will be profound, our Director of Design, Technology and Engineering, Mr Stuart Chatterton will fill you in on all the fantastic detail in his article.

Finally, I truly hope that we never have to repeat the kind of year that we have just experienced and I hope that the most difficult times are now behind us and things can slowly but surely return to ‘normal’ in our schools. Before I go, I just wanted to share with you what I feel are astounding achievements over this past year, I must reiterate that everything we have done over the past year has been a COLLABORATIVE effort. In a nutshell our support staff worked wonders to set up our virtual learning platform AHEAD of school closures, our teaching staff for embracing the technology and delivering almost full timetables of LIVE LESSONS, our parents and carers who provided supportive learning environments and of course, most importantly, our students who attended in their thousands!

The main purpose of sharing this data with you, particularly our incoming students, parents and carers is to show that no matter what, our students always come first:

975

I to I Pastoral Meetings/
Wellbeing catch-ups

37,270

Live Lessons Delivered by
our Teaching Team

1,356,499

Student Attendances to
Live Virtual Lessons



Mr T Bowles

CEO - Invictus Education Trust

INVICTUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM

ANGIE MANDER

I am very much enjoying my role as Strategic Lead for School Improvement, following 13 years of headship at a successful primary school. My role involves working with school leaders, including governors, across our Trust on all things school improvement. Over the past eighteen months I have worked with the Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Leads from each of our schools. We have met together regularly over the past 18 months looking at all things Transition. Booklets have been produced for our new students to support their move to high school particularly focusing on organisation skills. These are sent out in June, so watch out for yours! We were one of the first Trusts in the locality to produce Virtual Tours of our schools, along with videos from our Headteachers and other key staff. These enable all students joining our schools to look at them as often as they wish, familiarizing themselves with our school sites and staff.

Transition Leads are currently working on Induction Activities to share with our new Year 7 September 2021 students. Preparation for Summer Schools is also under way, with exciting activities and visits being planned alongside academic sessions.

We are thrilled that Rufford Primary School has decided to join Invictus, and will hopefully be part of our Trust from the start of the new academic year. It has been a purposeful process, with the Headteacher and governors meeting with Invictus staff over the past year; learning about each other's values, vision and aims and ensuring that they align before final decisions were made. Value One - **Every day, in every way our students come first**, resounded with us all, so a decision was made. Professional development for Rufford staff has already begun, at the request of the Headteacher. Every child at an Invictus school gets offered some unique opportunities, and elite experiences... we are already on the case sorting these for our new Rufford children!

EVE STANTON

I am pleased and excited to have joined Invictus Education Trust as Strategic Lead for Teaching and Learning (CPD). I have been a qualified Science teacher for 22 years, working across a range of primary and secondary schools in the West Midlands. During this time my roles have developed from Head of Department to Science AST, SLE, Science Learning Partnership Lead for the West Midlands and Assistant Headteacher. My expertise and passion lies within teacher training and development. I have experience of leading induction for Early Career staff at Trust level. I have recently qualified as a Visiting Fellow for Ambition Institute for facilitation of the Early Careers Framework across both Dudley and Sandwell schools. I look forward to working with our Early Career Teachers and mentors to grow the best possible practitioners across our locality.

I have enjoyed driving forward the bespoke CPD pathways, which have been written and facilitated by our outstanding Invictus staff. Our programmes are sustained over time and allow teachers opportunities to refine their ideas and embed their approaches for long lasting impact. Our staff are encouraged to seek and seize opportunities to catalyse their own professional development with the mindset of anything is possible.

PHILLIPA HARRIS

I am pleased to join Invictus Education Trust as Strategic Lead for Teaching and Learning. I have been a qualified English teacher for 22 years, working in and supporting a range of schools across the West Midlands. During this time I have undertaken the role of SLE, ITT Professional mentor, Assistant Principal, Vice Principal and Principal in secondary academies. My expertise lies within Quality of Education, Professional Development and Leadership and Management. Part of my responsibility is leading our team of Subject Directors. Our directors lead on their subjects across Invictus, working on curriculum and the quality of education. Together, working with subject leaders across all schools, we ensure our students receive the very highest standard of education. We understand that children only have one chance in education. Our mission is to make sure that they leave our schools fully prepared for their next stage in their lives, whether that be education, employment or training. Subject Directors are at the forefront of educational research and most recent pedagogy. Together, we work to share good practice across our schools to make sure your child receives the very best experience.



PERFORMING ARTS



Dear all,

By now, in a normal year, all of our schools would have produced major pieces of musical theatre and drama as well as a myriad of different performances. This year however, we have not been able to accomplish nearly as much as we would have liked. For many of us, Covid 19 has presented huge challenges. Our staff throughout Invictus Performing Arts have managed to maintain relevant and interesting virtual lessons – although it has been difficult to teach much of the practical side of our subjects. Now, however, we are starting to head back to a slightly more normalised situation. In many of our schools now Performing Arts Departments are re-awakening with their programmes of extra-curricular activities. Instrumental lessons are on the verge of restarting and singing once again is an 'acceptable' activity, although we always have to be mindful of the situation from day to day and week to week. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument or having singing lessons with an experienced singing/instrumental music teacher, please speak to your school's music teacher.

It has been wonderful to see the response generated by the 'Invictus Musician of the Year' competition which we have started this year. Students from across our schools are competing for a number of prizes in different categories. The competition celebrates the diversity of musicianship within the Invictus Trust, whilst at the same time it provides students with the opportunity to exhibit their musical skills in a



situation where positive news has sometimes been a rare phenomenon. I hope that you have been watching the regular updates of our students performing on our social media platforms. If you have, I am sure that you will agree with me that we have an awful lot to celebrate. The final of the 'Invictus Young Musician of the Year' will be held at Ellowes Hall School on Friday 25th June at 7 pm, although I am afraid tickets will be extremely limited. We will update you on ticket availability in due course.

Invictus Year 12 and 13 Performing Arts BTEC Level 3 have made an amazing return to face-to-face lessons! Both the Year 12 Performing Arts group and Year 13 Dance group continued to develop ideas for their performance pieces during virtual lessons and have returned showing fantastic resilience. Year 13 have completed their Contemporary Choreography and Year 12 are currently completing performances for the Invictus Performing Arts Promo Video which will go live after half term.

We are hoping to restart the Big Strings Project once again, but we are waiting to see the guidance which will shortly be issued to us. Please follow our social media accounts for updates on this opportunity. When we do restart the Big Strings Project, as before it will be on a Tuesday evening at 6.30 pm at Wombourne High School.

We are very excited to have recently announced that we are going to have our very own Performing Arts Academy. This will run alongside the Sports Academies which it will compliment. The Invictus Performing Arts Academy, IPAA, will provide 6th form students with opportunities to work with West End professionals as well as our experienced and talented Invictus Performing Arts staff. Students will be able to access extra Performing Arts qualifications as well as being able to earn our very own Invictus colours. Students will undergo skills based training as well as being coached

and directed to be part of wider productions, reviews and showcase performances. The IPAA will take place on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon at Kinver High School. Transport will be available to students so that they can travel to the IPAA from their school campuses.

We are back and we are all fighting to reinvigorate our areas of the performing arts in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. I hope to see many of you soon at one of the fabulous shows that our schools are becoming renowned for. The show must go on!





INVICTUS BE IN SCHOOLS ACADE

We are extremely proud to announce that Invictus Academy Trust will be the first Education Trust in the country to become an 'F1 in Schools' academy!

As we have previously shared, both Leasowes and Kinver have a rich history in the F1 in Schools events, with teams from both schools winning awards at a regional level with Leasowes' Team Aspire 6 making it all the way to the National Finals on two occasions. The success of this team, and the other teams they have inspired at schools throughout the Trust, have gone a long way to helping us secure our accreditation, and will now mean THOUSANDS more of our students, and our primary schools within our communities will have access to the programme which will be based at all of our schools!



Mr Stuart Chatterton, Director of Design, Technology and Engineering for the Trust, has seen first hand the benefits of the programme, having guided teams through the entry, development and professional classes:

“It is a huge honour to become the first Academy Trust in the country to receive this status. More importantly, it will mean that ALL of our students, and students in our primary feeder schools will have access to the F1 in Schools programme. This news means that Invictus schools will become a Design & Manufacturing Hub for our region. Our schools will host our own test events and regional competitions. It is with great excitement that we can announce our schools will be equipped with state of the art equipment, including 3D printers, CNC machines competition grade race track, an air trace visualisation tunnel plus much more. Needless to say, our schools will regularly compete against each other, but it also means we will support and host the brand new 'Primary School Class' that has recently launched, meaning our staff will visit participating primary schools with the F1 in Schools equipment to help them develop their cars and test ahead of race day!”



COMES FIRST F1 DEMY TRUST IN THE UK

INVICTUS

Invictus F1 in Schools Academy
Education Trust

What is F1 in Schools ?

F1 in Schools is an international STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) competition for school children (aged 11–19), in which groups of 3–6 students have to design and manufacture a scaled car out of the official F1 Model Block using CAD/CAM design tools. The cars are powered by CO2 cartridges and are attached to a track by a nylon wire. They are timed from the moment they are launched to when they pass the finish line by a computer.

The cars have to follow extensive regulations, in a similar fashion to Formula 1. The cars are raced on a 20m long track with two lanes, to allow two cars to be raced simultaneously. Before racing cars are developed and tested, using an air trace visualisation tunnel and using computational fluid dynamics (CFD) to simulate air resistance on the "cars" made in the CAD.

The competition is currently operational in over 40 countries. The competition's aim is to introduce younger people to engineering in a fun environment. The competition is held annually, with Regional and National Finals. The overall winners of the National Finals are invited to compete at the World Finals, which are held at a different location each year, usually held in conjunction with a Formula One Grand Prix. In the UK competition there are four classes of entry: Professional Class aimed at 11 to 19-year-olds, Development Class aimed at 11 to 19-year-olds in their first year, Entry Class aimed at 11 to 14-year-olds and Primary Class (new to Primary schools).

For a flavour of what our students have to look forward to you can see a VLOG that we put together from the regional event that we competed in back in January 2020 :

<https://www.invictus.education/post/invictus-becomes-first-f1-in-schools-academy-trust-in-uk>

Invictus @ F1 in Schools Central Region Finals Copy link Watch on:

 **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YFMVR-II0U>

Where could this lead?

The possibilities are truly endless. At school level, we envisage hundreds of teams across our schools and primary schools within our communities developing a real passion for design, technology and engineering through the F1 in Schools programme.

We believe the popularity of Formula One and the fact that Britain has a seven time world champion in the form of Lewis Hamilton, will inspire our students to embrace the subject and aspire towards a career in engineering. There is a clear pathway from education to employment and the fact that we have the resources and expertise to deliver ALL of the education sections means that our students will have a huge advantage!

We will be taking delivery of the F1 in Schools kit in the coming weeks and we will be sure to document and share each step of our journey with you. Watch this space!



in Schools
STEM Challenge

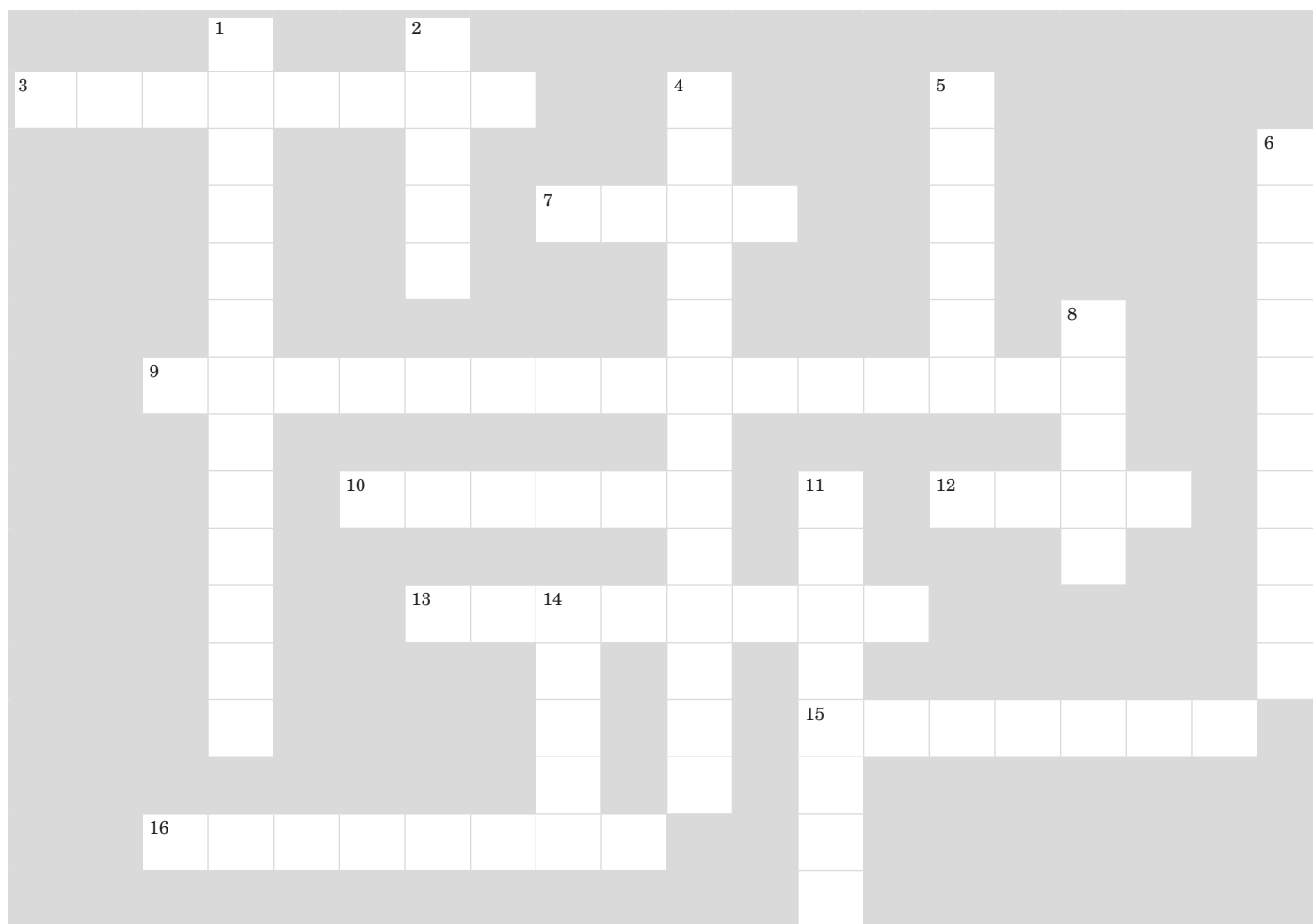
INVICTUS SPORT CROSSWORD

**FREE
PE KIT
FOR
SELECTED
WINNER!**

GETTING TO KNOW OUR UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES!



The winner must email their answers to Miss Hatton Director of Sport. Sport@Invictus.education. Before 30th June 2021.



TOP TIP

Please use our websites and social media accounts to help support with these answers!

ACROSS

3. Our students get the chance to experience? _____ Biking.
7. Our students get the chance to _____ on the lake at Himley Hall.
9. Students in year 9 and above can take part in the _____
10. During your time at an Invictus School, you will get chance to go?
12. All of our schools have _____ after schools clubs?
13. We have a full size AstroTurf at _____ high school?
15. One of our schools has an amazing high ropes facility. Which School?
16. The Crestwood School run a programme for students who demonstrate Sporting prowess. Students get into a form called The _____ form.

DOWN

1. Our students get the chance to take part in a sporting event held three times a Year?
2. How many Invictus games events have we run so far?
4. Four of our Invictus schools have these?
5. We have a new sports hall being built, but at which school?
6. Our Football academy is coached by an ex England international. What is his name?
8. How many sporting academies do we have at Invictus?
11. Students who wear stripy blazers are called?
14. Ellowes Hall school run a program for gifted and talented sports students. What is it called?



INVICTUS

*'Unconquerable
in Sport'*





"It is a great way to practise your maths skills outside of lessons"

"Hegarty is so easy to use and the videos are really clear and helpful"

Finley H 7JA
Crestwood School
Hegarty Hero

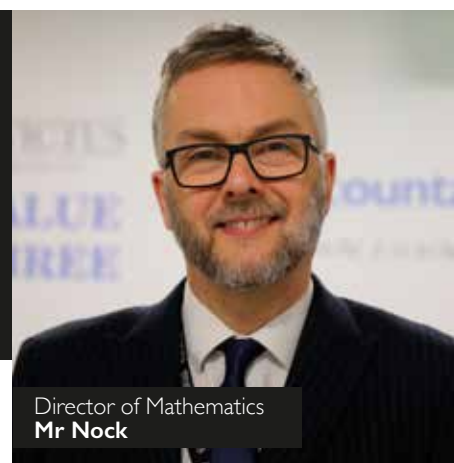
ARE YOU GOING TO BE A HEGARTY HERO?

You will never have to struggle with Mathematics again!

All Invictus Trust schools have signed up to the award winning 'Hegarty Maths' online support programme. This will allow you to fly in Mathematics when you start with one of our schools later in the summer term.

As part of your Transition programme you will be using one of your Mathematics lessons to get signed in and trained up. Then off you go!

You can use it on your computer, iPad or phone. We will even have a special Year 6 to Year 7



Director of Mathematics
Mr Nock

MATHEMATICS

Transition pack so that you can practise through the summer so you don't forget everything.

Remember the harder you work the better you get!



Empowering YOU to become an amazing Independent learner in maths...



"My secret is practice. I have always believed that if you want anything in life you have to work work and then work some more."

David Beckham



*"Talent is something you are born with but skill is more important. Skill can only be obtained through **hours and hours of hard work**. Talent will always fail without skill"*

Will Smith



MFL

ACROSS THE TRUST

Despite this last year being difficult for everyone, MFL has risen to the challenge across the Trust and we have adapted what we have done to engage, enthuse and inspire our Invictus students.

During lockdown, we transformed how we taught and introduced fun and engaging educational games into the curriculum for students to access virtually. Amongst our students' favourites were Quizlet, Blooket (especially the Gold Quest game), Spiral and Nearpod. As a result, we have continued to use these in lessons at the students' request to help them make progress and enjoy their learning.



Director of MFL
Mrs Hoare

Students across the Trust have also been given the opportunity to take part in competitions such as the 'Routes into Languages' Christmas card competition, European Day of Languages Quizzes, and a national poetry competition.

As a Trust, we firmly believe it is important to bring languages alive in the classroom and to learn about different cultures. To achieve this, we include songs in the target language, watch some French or Spanish native films, use authentic websites and practise speaking the language as much as we can to build up our students' confidence in communicating in the target language.

INVICTUS

Education Trust

Science departments across Invictus adapted their teaching techniques during lockdown to employ a whole new range of teaching platforms to enrich and embed course content. These included;

NEARPOD

MICROSOFT FORMS FOR ASSESSMENTS

SENECA LEARNING

KAHOOT

We look forward to getting back into our labs to carry out practical learning very soon.

Miss Smith from Pedmore High School's Science department performed an awe inspiring virtual magic show for Years 4, 5 and 6 at Pedmore Church of England Primary School. The show included how to crush a can with water, miniature lightning bolts, changing the colour of flames and much, much more. We hope to continue to spread a love for Science across our locality and help to grow Scientists of the future!

Leasowes Science continue to 'wow' their pupils with a range of thought provoking projects and initiatives. National Science week (5th to 14th March) was celebrated through competitions across Years 7, 8 and 10. These included;

Creating a 3D model of a biome

Celebrating a STEM celebrity, by creating a fact file

Creating a Tik Tok style science practical at home

Year 11 students experienced a 'Who Dunit' project, where they worked with enthusiasm using forensic techniques to uncover which one of the Science teachers committed a crime.



Director of Humanities
Mr Gillespie

HUMANITIES

This year in Humanities students have been learning about the world around them, and the lives and experiences of the people who live there. Staff have gone above and beyond to keep remote learning as engaging as possible, and getting up to speed on the return to school. Students have been learning map skills when studying physical and natural features of the British Isles, with a focus on river environments and how they shape the lives of people who live and work on their banks.

We have learnt about our Migration History, from invaders who saw easy plunder in the monasteries on the eastern coast of England, to the Normans arriving in the south in the 11th Century. Studies in local history have allowed students to understand their own heritage more deeply, including how Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries is still evidenced on their doorstep.

Religious Education has allowed key stage three students to gain an overview and understanding of key features of the major world religions allowing them to see similarities and differences between belief systems. This has helped them to build tolerance and to be more understanding of the community in which we live.

We look forward, in the near future, to getting out and about in the community on trips and opening up our extracurricular activities again like eco-council to enrich young people's understanding of the world around them.

SCIENCE

Director of Science
Mrs Stanton



CREATING A 3D MODEL OF A BIOME

ENGLISH

Director of English
Miss Hall

It is that time of year again, when the English departments in all Invictus schools get the fantastic news from Book Trust that the 'Bookbuzz' selection has been finalised. What is 'Bookbuzz'? I hear you cry, and why is everyone buzzing about it?

'Bookbuzz' is a brilliant campaign, to make sure that every new student in Year 7 gets a book to read, all of their own, and it's completely free! We are currently waiting on tenterhooks, for the newest choices to be finalised, ready for our new Year 7s to choose their book in September. Why not check out the 'Bookbuzz' website to get more information, and find out which books you could choose for yourself when you join Invictus. Which book will you be buzzing about?

INVICTUS STUDENTS ARE BUZZING ABOUT BOOKS!

WELCOME TO CRESTWOOD SCHOOL



Headteacher
Mrs Sutton

I am delighted to welcome you to Crestwood School.

As I start my 27th year of teaching, I can honestly say I have never worked with such an enthusiastic, innovative, and hard-working team of teachers and support staff. Our students are amazing and we are very proud that you have decided to join the Crestwood family.

Our results continue to speak for themselves but they are only part of our continued success. In 2018, OFSTED graded our school GOOD with outstanding features and more

recently we received national recognition for the way our teachers taught virtually when schools were closed due to the pandemic. Hopefully, when you join us in September you will experience all of the benefits of secondary school as restrictions are lifted. You will also be joining us at a very exciting time as our new state of the art Science block will be completed. Your child will be joining a school with state-of-the-art facilities coupled with outstanding teaching. Welcome to Crestwood!

TEACHING & LEARNING

Thankfully we are entering a period where education can return to some form of normality. However, it would be naïve to ignore the last year as it has allowed us to develop our virtual lesson repertoire. The ability to teach students at home will prove beneficial in the future.

At the start of the pandemic, nobody in the Trust had delivered a virtual lesson. Thus, it was important to find new ways to delivering lessons.

Initially, we utilised the virtual lesson software and included quizzes, feedback via the public chat box and the interactive whiteboard so students could participate more.

Nonetheless, as the period away from the classroom grew it was important to enhance the student experience further. Thus, we looked at other programmes that we could use in conjunction with our own in house software. For example Nat Hall, Director of English, used

Seesaw. A programme that you may be familiar with as your living rooms have been privy to countless lessons recently.

The crucial part of the technology was it allowed us to deliver detailed personalised feedback to our students. Either by annotating their work or recording a voice message. This was so important because it allowed us to identify the students' strengths and weaknesses and suggest how they could improve. This is standard procedure during a school day but it became crucial during lockdown because students' learning environments differ so much.

Therefore, support or more challenging work could be offered to individuals more readily to support their education.

These technologies were developed further and by the end of the final lockdown, staff and students were uploading extensive pieces of work on One Note. Hopefully we are now entering a more stable period of education but the lessons learnt over the last year should set us in good stead for the future.



Crestwood
SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Expectation · Achievement · Success

VIRTUAL TUTORING VS REAL TUTORING

By Mrs K Rutter (7KU) - Crestwood Secondary School

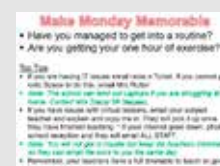
Having only been in teaching for six years, I have only known two form groups. On reflection, I believe the key attributes to being a good tutor are to: be organised; create structure; be empathetic, know your audience, and have good communication skills. Virtual tutoring was a new concept to me in January of this year because I lost my Year 11 form on 20th March 2020. The fortnightly catch ups were used to share photos of my lockdown experiences and were good prompts for our conversations about their lives Post Crestwood. When Lockdown 3 was announced on the 4th of January, I decided to continue with the same format. I found that the visual stimulus was a good way to engage the students and there were always topics of discussion in place if my tutees were not forthcoming with contributions.

Our twice weekly sessions for 15 minutes, at 8.45 am, would start with a slide displaying an inspirational quote/adage/or image. This would be on the screen for students to ponder while everyone logged on. These

were either linked to a special date on the calendar; the season/weather or just something interesting going on in the world that week. Not surprisingly, a lot of this information was new to them so a great way to broaden their minds. We would then move onto school notices and give any 'shout outs' for student achievements. This could be anything from competitions being launched to, fitness initiatives organised by the PE Department to schedule of events for World Book Day. I also took the opportunity to relay any nuggets of wisdom from the IT Department, or feedback I had received when dealing with issues working remotely myself. There would be a list of 'potential issues' on the screen with names of who to contact if they should experience any of those issues. Finally, I would always leave time to talk about mental and physical well-being. I would always start off with the same few questions: 'Who has managed to have a wash and get dressed this morning?'; 'Have you managed to get out of the house for some fresh air?'; 'Has anyone tried out a new hobby/ interest/ form of exercise?'. The positive responses did improve during the Lockdown period, but the short days and cold weather were not great for promoting outdoor pursuits or getting out of comfy pyjamas! We did like to end the week by sharing any plans we had made for the weekend (no great variation, usually, new place to walk the dog!) and do our Friday Funday Quiz. We are now officially experts at riddles and love a picture quiz.

Since returning to school in March, it has been great to be able to see and speak to the students face to face, but I do not feel like we have been apart because we have continued to communicate with one another albeit by virtual lesson chat. We have reverted to completing the daily form time activities set by the school but, due to popular demand we might have snook in the odd Friday Funday Quiz but not necessarily on a Friday!

EXAMPLES OF SLIDES:



TRANSITION IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS

Transition is a continuous process across all the Invictus schools. We work tirelessly to ensure all the students have a smooth passage into Year 7. The journey starts in September but it doesn't end there!

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

The start of the year begins with planning for Open Evening. It is very important that we showcase the school and most importantly our values on that night. By putting on a range of activities, the head teacher's address and a tour of the school we want to show perspective parents what it means to be part of the Crestwood family. I think when parents see our students and staff working together they understand the time and effort we put into forging good relationships with our students.

As Head of transition, I also try to visit as many primary schools as possible during this period. Obviously, we tell students about the merits of joining Crestwood but more importantly we talk to the students about secondary school in general and what to expect so we can help them to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Finally, we also host a range of Open Mornings where parents can come and visit the school and have a tour of a typical day at Crestwood. There are also trials for the much-coveted Performing Arts and Olympian programme. During this period, we are also continuously engaging with our new Year 7 cohort with a Parents' Settling in Evening, weekly assemblies and daily form tutor sessions to ensure they are adjusting appropriately.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

During this period, we are in constant dialogue with prospective parents. I often receive e-mails asking for another tour or to discuss what support would be in place for their child.

MARCH – JULY

As you know, March is etched into the minds of all parents. Once the places are released we contact all of our new parents and provide them with a direct e-mail so they can contact me directly. I then revisit the schools or call the parents of our new students and this time the talk is just for Crestwood students. During these visits I explain how they can use the school website and answer any questions they have about Crestwood. After Easter we then begin the process of information gathering with the primary schools. They provide us with information on our new students so we can plan for them appropriately. During the final summer months, we begin to place students in forms, host a parents' evening and the students also attend our school so they can experience what it will be like in September. A welcome pack is also sent to parents so they can begin to purchase the correct uniform. We then take a short break before we start the process again.



Assistant Headteacher, Transition Lead
Mr Naujeer



STUDENTS TRANSITION EXPERIENCES

Transition is an exciting time. As transition lead I get to visit many primary schools in the area and it is wonderful to see how the students are itching to get to secondary schools. They are starting to outgrow their brightly coloured uniforms and they no longer look so comfortable on those small plastic chairs. Thus, if their enthusiasm can be matched with the correct work ethic then they can often go on to be successful. Here are the thoughts of Dylan Richards and Antonella Antwi on how to have a successful transition.

HOW HAVE THINGS BEEN SINCE YOU JOINED CRESTWOOD?

Dylan: *I just went with the flow! I was shy when I started but as the weeks went by my confidence picked up and now I have lots of friends.*

Antonella: *I just tried my best to work hard in everything I do. Even if I do not understand something I will try my hardest. At the start I was shy about what people would think about me but now I feel really comfortable!*

HOW ARE THE LESSONS DIFFERENT?

Dylan: *I like the lessons and how the teachers treat you. I find it friendlier than primary. I also think there are more opportunities in class and they challenge you more.*

Antonella: *So, I like how the teachers tell you what you did wrong and what you have done well so it can help you to improve. I also like that they challenge you more but still help you more if you are finding things difficult.*

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE LESSON SINCE JOINING CRESTWOOD?

Dylan: *I like Maths, it is a lot of fun and it has lots of challenges which is good because I like to push myself.*

Antonella: *I don't actually have a favourite lesson because all of the subjects are important. However, I do like Drama because you can express yourself and not worry about what people think.*

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Antonella: *I read through the information that was sent through and made sure I packed my bag with all my equipment. This helped me feel prepared and ready. I also used the virtual tour on the website to get to know the school.*

FINALLY, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW STUDENT STARTING CRESTWOOD?

Antonella: *Believe in your dreams because you will become stronger. If you want to learn something then believe you can do it.*

Dylan: *Make sure you pay attention in lessons and don't be scared because the teachers are very understanding.*



YEAR 11

PREFECTS ON

THEIR EXPERIENCE

When you arrive in Year 6, it can feel intimidating. Everything is bigger and what happens if you get lost. Well the answer is none of our children have ever got lost forever! Those feelings you have are normal and they will pass. In order to reassure you, Mrs Bradley, Head of Year 11 interviewed three Year 11s, Archie Shakespeare, Harvey James, Sophie Bagley and Katie Palmer Budd about their experiences and what advice they would have for our Year 7s.



WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE CRESTWOOD?

Sophie: *On the Open days there were some amazing facilities and I could see the range of chances that I would have.*

Katie: *I think the environment felt really friendly and as I was coming to the school with nobody I knew I was surprised by how quickly I settled in.*

Archie: *I find the school to be very friendly, in a good location and it is a school that many generations of my family has attended.*

Harvey: *I didn't start in Year 7, but the range of facilities and the opportunities it would bring really inspired me.*

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST DAY?

Sophie: *I remember struggling to put my tie on and walking into the hall and then sitting with my group of friends but it was also exciting.*

Katie: *I was very nervous, I cried in the morning which does not sound reassuring but then it was lovely to have all these teachers helping you and the fear eased.*

Archie: *I remember feeling really welcomed and supported.*

Harvey: *I joined the school in the middle of the year which was tricky but still really supportive.*

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO NEW STUDENTS?

Sophie: *Just take every opportunity that the school gives you because you will have a blast if you do.*

Katie: *It might seem scary but its not, just try to enjoy the opportunities because it goes quick.*

Archie: *There are so many opportunities you have to take advantage of them, for example I really enjoyed basketball.*

Harvey: *Just be yourself.*

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DID YOU TAKE UP?

Harvey: *I was involved in the Invictus Games and this helped me enjoy school and have fun.*

Archie: *I never enjoyed sport but I got the opportunity to play basketball for the first time which was brilliant.*

Katie: *I was involved in the Performing Arts and I got to perform at the Grand Theatre and that was amazing because I struggled a lot with confidence in general so being on that massive stage with thousands of people was terrific.*

Sophie: *I got to go to Paris for the first time, learn about the culture and it was terrific. I also got to go to Cambridge University and this helped me think about my future.*

WHAT IS YOUR MOST STAND OUT MEMORY FROM CRESTWOOD?

Sophie: *I think the shows, they are so spectacular whether you are watching them or taking part. I also loved my Drama and English lessons.*

Katie: *I agree, it was wonderful to be part of a team. In terms of lessons I really loved Maths and English. I love literature and studying Shakespeare and I really enjoy problem solving in Maths.*

Archie: *My favourite memory was watching a Year 11 lesson in Year 7 and it blew my mind how different the subject were and what it would be like. I also enjoyed Music and composing pieces that people could enjoy.*

Harvey: *Just being with your friends and growing up with them.*

HOW HAS CRESTWOOD PREPARED YOU FOR MOVING ON?

Harvey: *It has helped me become more prepared and be the person that I am today.*

Archie: *By providing a wide range of subjects I feel prepared for further education due to the breadth of my study*

Katie: *I like the fact that Crestwood has a sixth form but they help you to look at what else is on offer so you can pick what feels right to you.*

Sophie: *I like the different leadership roles in the school and how the interviews and applications prepare you for things later on in life, especially because you have to deliver when you take one of these roles on.*

So - there you have it and not one of them mentioned getting lost!



Crestwood
SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Expectation • Achievement • Success



A PHENOMENAL STUDENT

Maya Evans is a phenomenal Year 7 student. She has picked up over 200 house points this year. She is a credit to her family and a role model to any new student on how to apply yourself in a new school. Here are her thoughts on Year 7.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE LESSON AT CRESTWOOD AND WHY?

I really like English, the teacher is really supportive and the lessons are very enjoyable.

HOW IS ENGLISH DIFFERENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPARED TO PRIMARY?

In primary we concentrated on the basics whereas in secondary school the tasks are more complicated and suited to us being older.

WHAT NEW SUBJECTS HAVE YOU DONE HERE?

Geography and Computing because there are a lot of facilities here. I also enjoy computing as it is a new subject that I can get involved in.

YOU HAVE A LOT OF HOUSEPOINTS, HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

It makes me feel very proud of myself because in primary we didn't really have housepoints and so they show me that I have been working hard and it makes me feel good.

FINALLY, WHAT TIPS WOULD GIVE PEOPLE ON SETTLING INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Well it is important to be outgoing and try to make new friends, when I came here I didn't know anyone. However, I made sure I was myself, worked hard in class and was able to make friends with people that were like me. Also, Crestwood is really friendly and the teachers are really friendly and supportive. In fact, I would say the best thing about Crestwood are all the friends I have made.



CELEBRATING YEAR 7



Headteacher
Mrs Leslie

As Headteacher of Ellowes Hall, it has been my privilege to watch each of you grow and demonstrate your resilience over the last year. As Ellowes students we want to offer you every opportunity to have exciting new experiences, make lifelong friendships, build relationships with your teachers and non-teachers and develop a passion for subjects that you are excited to learn and want to develop further when you leave.

It is disappointing that many of the usual year 7 experiences have been put on hold this year due to the pandemic, however it is great to see year 7 students starting to get involved in those activities that are restarting. Many of you have also actively involved yourselves in extracurricular activities including: PE, Keyboard, Geography Eco club, Art & Design and Science with many more being added weekly. If you haven't attended any extra curricular activities it is something you should absolutely consider, for many reasons; By taking part you'll build long-lasting **friendships** and connections, meet students from different backgrounds, and gain transferable skills such as **communication, teamwork, organisation, problem solving** and **time management**. It will also improve your confidence.

We have introduced a new initiative for our younger students who enjoy getting involved in our school community, we have recently appointed 16 Junior Prefects who will develop their leadership skills and learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. It also provides an opportunity to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills. Additionally, it will give you an advantage

if you want to work towards being a prefect, even Head boy or Head girl in year 11!

During the most recent lockdown, especially on well-being Wednesday it was fabulous seeing some of the different skills that have been learnt and all of your amazing talents. We were inundated with photos and videos demonstrating your dancing skills, excellent baking, and origami just to name a few! You have won many rewards across departments and your houses, with heads of house fighting to gain the most points!

Over the last year, I have enjoyed the chats with you at lunchtimes and observing you experiencing new subjects, engaging in your lessons, forming new relationships and becoming part of the Ellowes Hall family. I am very proud of you and I am excited for us to continue our learning journey together. I am excited to watch you grow and develop into young women and men who represent our School and Trust in the positive way I know you will. As your Headteacher I want you to know that in-line with the Invictus Education Trust Values I passionately believe that **"Every day, in every way our students come first"** and for you **"Anything is possible"**.

A BRILLIANT START



Year 7 Transition Team
Miss Barnes and Mrs Stobbart

At Ellowes Hall, we are delighted with the resilience and positive attitudes of our current Year 7's who have made a brilliant start to their Ellowes Hall journey. We started the year with a two-day transition programme in tutor groups, focusing on the 'Go Big, Be Awesome' project that supports wellbeing and relationships. The project was such a great success, we intend to use this again in September 2021.

Our new students had made the perfect start at Ellowes, which was then unfortunately interrupted by a second lockdown in January 2021. Although both students and staff were really sad to change to a virtual world, our students showed their adaptability and amazing technical knowledge when they engaged in thousands of virtual lessons on Ello. Since then, we have selected 16 fantastic House Captains and introduced the role of Junior Prefect to enhance the opportunities available for students right from the beginning. We are extremely excited to meet our new Year 7's this year and have lots of exciting plans for transition in place!

Mr Di Bernardo, Mrs Stobbart and Miss Barnes



TRANSITION

Transition is scary when you are going to a new school leaving the people you have known for years but not as bad as you think. It is an opportunity to make friends before you get to the real thing and get to know your potential teachers. All the teachers are welcoming and understanding so you are going to have a wonderful time. For me transition started off a little worrying but when I got familiar with the teachers and place to be I became more comfortable. And it might take you longer than me to get used to it but you are going to be completely fine. Do not be afraid and if you have any questions the staff will be more than happy to clear things up for you.

ISABELLE YEAR 7

Here at Ellowes Hall each year group has roles of responsibility for students to apply for. An example of this is House Captain. As a House Captain I enjoy the opportunity to be involved with the group decisions for events for the year group. I feel the opportunity for additional responsibilities has really helped me adapt to a new school and meet new friends. The extra opportunities have enriched my school day, and taught me time management and helped me to prioritise. Socially, I have enjoyed the opportunity to interact with more students and teachers by completing tasks expected as part of the role. The experience has helped me to believe in myself, my abilities and encouraged my decision making and team work.

ETHAN YEAR 7

In July 2020, it was time for my friends and I to say goodbye to our old school and start our journey at Ellowes. Because of Covid everything had to be done differently, but we were still lucky enough to be able to have our two-week induction. On my first day of the induction we were all excited but also a bit nervous as this was all new to us. The teachers met us at the gates and made us feel at ease right away. We were put into our bubbles and taken to our temporary classrooms where we were introduced to children from other schools, because of Covid we weren't able to do the activities year 6 would normally do on the induction week. We had lots of different lessons with various teachers who came in to meet us all. On our second week, we were able to have a tour of the school and were shown where everything was. We all loved our two weeks at Ellowes and the teachers were all great and made it lots of fun. We even got to watch a movie on our last day as a treat!

I would say to all the year 6's who are coming to Ellowes this year, don't be nervous you will love it! I have made lots of new friends and the teachers will make you feel very welcome and are always there to help you. Ever since joining Ellowes, my confidence has grown so much, and I know yours will too!

LEXI-MAE YEAR 7



LESSONS

The lessons at Ellowes are great, and the teachers are always ready to help those who need it. The lessons usually stay on the same topic for a while, but change as soon as we finish a topic. We have tasks at the start of the lesson, which help us remember what we did last lesson, or a week ago and sometimes a term ago. We also have Grit tasks at the end, which go over what we have learnt in that lesson just so we and the teacher know we are sure on what we have learnt.

PHOEBE YEAR 7

This year we have had two different types of lessons: online and classroom based.

Online lessons can be accessed via the school's online portal ELLO (note: the portal name may vary depending on Invictus school). Online lessons for the next day are posted in advance. It is very interactive, and you use online learning tools such as Kahoot to do quizzes and you can share your answers on the chat. You hand in your online work by uploading it onto the homework section on ELLO. Teachers always offer support on



virtual lessons and you can socialize with your teacher in E-Mail or private chat. A big advantage of virtual lessons is that you did not feel like you were falling behind on your subjects. If you have a problem whether it is technical or not you can E-Mail your tutor or private chat your tutor in the virtual tutor session. So, all in all virtual lessons are not as bad as you may think.

ASHLEY YEAR 7

MY YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION

Hello, my name is Tari and I'm going to be telling you about my transition into high school and the feelings that come along with it. I started at Ellowes Hall in September of 2020, it was difficult settling in because of Covid-19. The school staff made it a little easier to adjust to the school by splitting us into bubbles. Being in high school was very nerve-wracking at first because it is a very big school, full of only a few people you are familiar with. However, once you settle in, it feels like any other school day. Personally, I had friends and other people that I could rely on because they felt the same way as me and that opportunity would be the same for you as well. It is very important to know that even though it's a time when you'll be nervous, it will be an exciting experience. The staff are also very welcoming and will guide you through your transition to have an amazing time.

I hope this has helped you feel a bit more confident about your transition from year 6 to year 7.

TARI YEAR 7



Hi, I'm Olivia! I'm a year 7 (soon to be year 8) student here at Ellowes hall! I am here to talk to you about your 2-week induction.

When we arrived on the first day, we were greeted by some of the amazing Ellowes staff members, who then led us to our classrooms for that day. At first, I was really nervous (which is a normal feeling on your first day of high school) but after we spoke to our tutor for that day, it made me more comfortable and excited for the day. To start off our day, we did some fun activities and learnt more about Ellowes Hall and its history. (Which was really interesting!)

After that, we started some lessons (Science, Spanish, etc.!) I really enjoyed meeting the teachers and learning so many amazing things. We also had dance! Which was very fun, and we had the chance to meet our amazing dance teacher, Mrs Giles! Overall, I had an amazing day and I'm sure you will too! I hope you join us in September. :) Hope to see you soon!

OLIVIA YEAR 7





LEADERSHIP

At first, you might be scared maybe because you have no friends there or because a new school might change your life.

When I went to secondary I was also scared because I didn't know the teachers and students but throughout the days you start to find people from your classes or tutor that might potentially become friends and getting close to you.

Once you go up to secondary you will be looking forwards to new places and different types of activities. One of the many things you should do is be proud of yourself for achieving your goals or making progress in things you would like to do in the future.

In secondary, a lot of students and teachers will be greeting you to a new school in the best way they can. They will show acts of kindness and will help you out whenever it is needed. School leadership is a very important opportunity that the school gives you to become any roles that you would like, such as House Captain or Junior Prefect. Being a leader suppose a higher role in school. With this kind of roles, your enrichment could be improved allowing you better opportunities with your achievements.

JAVIER YEAR 7



On my first day in school, I found a £10 note on the floor and the first thing that came to my mind was to report it to the nearest teacher so it would find its way to its rightful owner, it was a natural instinct to do so based on my personal values. There are many ways to be a good student leader one of them is to know your strengths and values that will help you choose the area of leadership to focus on. A way to know your strengths is to get involved in school activities so that you know the thing that you are certain you are perfect at. Try to make a positive difference in your school by creating a fundraising activity for charity or being a good role model to other students and leading them on a path of success and triumph. It is important that you do not talk about people behind their back or bully them because an adult or member of staff will find out and you will get punished. Be open minded and listen to what people have to say and respect their opinion. And remember: learning is fun, friendship is a value and every day can be interesting.

JAN YEAR 7



HEAD GIRL'S ADVICE

Hi there! My name is Emily and I am Head Girl here at Ellowes. I think it is clear to everyone that the past year hasn't been the easiest for young people, especially when thinking of our education and the changes to our way of learning. Nevertheless, I would like to mention and congratulate the year 7's at Ellowes who have managed to settle in so quickly and happily, made good progress already and have shown great commitment and attitude considering the unusual start!

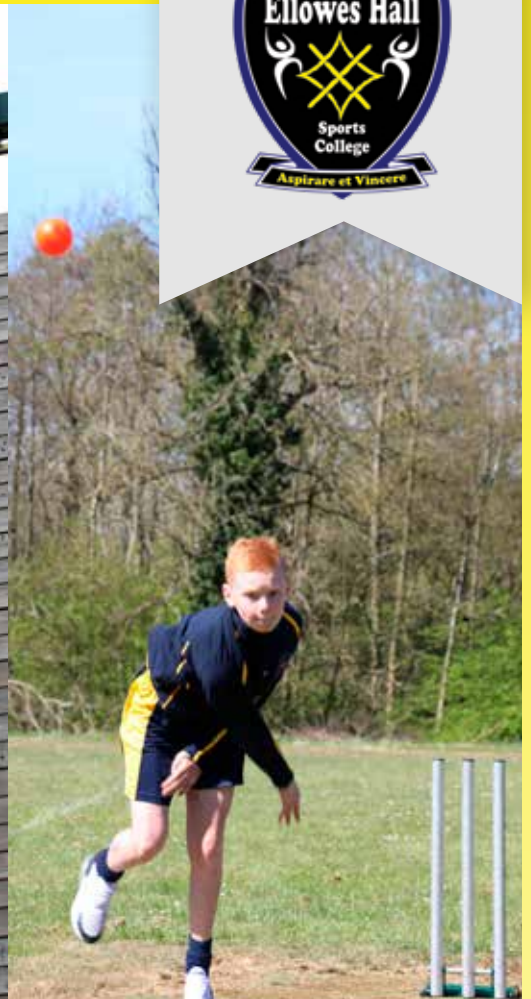
That being said, I know for year 5's and 6's that Secondary school may seem even more daunting because of COVID, but I can assure

you that Ellowes will welcome and support you fully over the 5 years you stay here or even 7 years if you stay on at the Sixth Form! The massive change from a small classroom to then entering what seems like a maze, and the amount of work increasing slightly can seem quite scary. I remember how anxious I was on my first day! However, once you have adjusted over the first few weeks you will realise how life changing your time at Ellowes Hall can be. Teachers as well as Prefects (the stripy blazer's) and older students are here to guide you and staff have already secured extra help and strategies ready for September to combat the disruption caused. Also, there are an array of

sport, performing and academic clubs available for you here at Ellowes to suit your interests, as well as various exciting opportunities such as Cadets, Duke of Edinburgh, NCS in year 11, trips for different subjects, production, Student Council, the Anti Bullying Ambassadors, the Health Ambassadors, House Captain, House competitions and so many more.

I hope this has introduced you to just some of the things Ellowes Hall Sports College has to offer! I also hope those in primary feel a little less nervous about coming up to 'big' school and are aware of the huge amount of support you will receive when doing so. Take care and stay safe.





A few of the unique opportunities and elite experiences you will enjoy at Ellowes!

MATHEMATICS

There are so many interesting questions in maths. Have you ever wondered the answer to any of these questions? Is zero a real number? Is one a prime number? How many digits are there in pi? What is a polygon, why is it called a polygon? When did people start to use mathematical symbols and why? How many zero's are there in googol? When is 10 equal to 2? These are just a few of the types of questions that we will explore in maths lessons.

We aim to give you, as students, the chance to develop a love and curiosity for mathematics. The environments we create will allow you to be able to thrive, develop confidence and realise your full potential. As students you will be given the opportunity to explore where maths can be used in real life and the career pathways that it can open. We have a range of activities that will help you excel in maths, whether you are maths novice or an expert.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome to Kinver High. I am Nikki Clifton, the proud Headteacher of Kinver High School and I am delighted that you will soon become part of our fabulous school. I know that you have made the right decision and I hope that you are excited and looking forward to joining us. We cannot wait to meet and get to know you!

Academic work at all stages at Kinver High is important, but our idea of education goes beyond the classroom. We have an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities, through involvement in sports teams, musical performances and a variety of lunchtime and after-school clubs designed to engage and inspire you to pursue discover new interests and talents, whilst making new friends. There is so much for you to get involved with and be a part of. By the time you join us for Induction in the summer, our new Sports Hall will be built, ready and waiting for you to have fun in!

We want you to get involved in every aspect of school life. So, my advice to you is to give everything a go, because

this will ensure that you are happy and successful in school and we want you to be the best that you can be at all times at Kinver.

Remember that as an Invictus School, we believe and uphold all the values of the Trust. Value One: 'that every day, in every way, our students come first' is embodied by all who work at Kinver and as a small school, it means that your teachers will really get to know you and get the best out of you. At Kinver, this means that nobody gets lost in the crowd and you'll very soon become part of the Kinver family.

I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

TRANSITION LEADER

Hello, my name is Miss Perry, and I am the Transition Lead at Kinver High School and Sixth Form.

I am really excited to meet our Year 6 students during the Summer Term as well as to start to meet Year 5 students considering Kinver High for their secondary education to tell you have fabulous Kinver High is! I am very proud to work at Kinver High, it is a great school both inside and outside of the classroom. During your time with us you will get to experience lots of new things and be given lots of opportunities to help you to excel and be the best you can be.

Over the Easter break myself and the staff at Kinver High School set our Year 6 students some challenges to complete, they were:

1. Extreme Reading - who could read in the most extreme place!
2. To paint an Easter themed stone
3. The spaghetti and jelly baby challenge! Who can build the tallest tower (that can hold an egg for at least 60 seconds) using only spaghetti and jelly babies!
4. To build a den
5. To eat a doughnut without licking your lips!
6. A 'spring has sprung' themed photography competition

Lots of our Year 6 students took part in the challenge and we showcased all their entries on our social media pages, we also delivered chocolate treats to their primary schools and posted certificates home because we were so impressed with their entries! Thank you to everyone who took part - we hope you enjoyed completing them as much as we enjoyed seeing your entries!

We will be back in touch soon with more information for our Year 6 students and their families.

If you do have any questions about joining us in September then please do not hesitate to contact me, aperry@kinverhigh.co.uk

See you all soon!

Miss Perry



KINVER
HIGH SCHOOL



HEAD OF SCIENCE

My name is Mr Lee and I am a Year 11 Tutor this year. Being a tutor is fantastic. I like how it gives me time to get to know the students in my class really well and help them on a more personal level. As a tutor, it is my job to keep an eye on you at school, and help you to be the best you can be. During lockdown, my job was even more important. As a tutor, I was working really hard to make sure everyone in my tutor group were attending all of their lessons, and helping them when things were not working for them. At Kinver High, we are really proud of our Tutor program. Your tutor group will become like a family to you. You will compete in house competitions together against the other three houses, to prove you are the best, and you will grow together for the time you are with us at Kinver High.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN YEAR 7

ENRICHMENT

I think that enrichment is good because you get to try out different types of sports. As well as this, you might make some new friends. You will get a great experience due to the high-quality equipment you will be using. I enjoy football the most because you get to play against people where as at home you might only be able to play by yourself. Although there are lots of different clubs to suit you. The teachers are very supportive and will be able to teach you new skills and techniques. Overall the clubs are very fun and give you great opportunities to try out different things.

CHARLIE B



LESSONS

I have thoroughly enjoyed my lessons so far in year 7. This is because the teachers have engaged us and encouraged us to work together and develop independence. Their teaching style helps us progress and understand our topic we are learning. On the whole, I think they succeeded in making lockdown learning as accessible and fun as they possibly could. Due to Covid-19, practical lessons, such as Music, Drama and Science, have been limited, but personally, I think that those who teach them have made our little time in practical, engaging and entertaining. Overall, I think the lessons have been effective and will continue to make an impact on us, throughout our time at Kinver High.

POPPY M



TRANSITION

The transition from primary school to secondary school was quick and easy because they made us all feel welcome and always answered any questions we asked. It has been easy to get to know all the teachers because they are very nice to all of us and were very welcoming in class. To make the transition easier they made sure we were all comfortable with the transition from primary to secondary and made it easy to get into the new school routine for lessons and break times. Overall, they have done an amazing job in helping us get settled in to Kinver High School.

JAMIE W



KINVER
HIGH SCHOOL



LESSONS

I have enjoyed the majority of lessons, as they have been fun. My favourite lessons have been music and science as I like both teachers. These teachers have a fun teaching style. The teachers make me feel welcome and happy to be in the classroom. Overall, I think the lessons have been good and not boring.

JACK M-M



ENRICHMENT

I enjoy and look forward to enrichment because you get to try new sports. I get to play and talk to people who enjoy the same things with me. Although we haven't been doing it for long, I have really enjoyed playing after-school football. I got to mix with people wouldn't I usually choose to play with. The teachers are really helpful and supportive. There are multiple clubs to help suit your abilities and technique to ensure that you have the best possible time.

HARRIET D



TRANSITION

For many, the transition from primary to secondary can be a very stressful move and I often needed to express my feeling about the subject. My head was full of worries and doubts, such as bullying, strict teachers and getting lost in such a big school. After arriving to Kinver High school, I felt that my worries had been pointless. I found that the teachers were kind, offering to guide lost students to class, and asking about our day, all to make us feel comfortable with the school. Before long I felt at home with Kinver High and excited about all the things it had to offer, and all the opportunities I would get as a student.

CONNIE B





HIGH ROPES

When I went to Ellowes Hall I had an incredible experience on the obstacle courses. As well as working as a team on crate stacking.

It was very fun. The instructors were very kind and were able to get us climbing safely. They were also good fun and were very helpful. My favourite activity was the obstacle course because you were able to go very high in the air. However, the crate stacking was also very fun. You were stacking up crates with your partner while you were stood on them trying not to fall off. When you were waiting you were able to participate in some team games where you had to get a tennis ball into the bucket without moving with the ball. You had to cooperate with each other so that you didn't drop the tennis ball. Overall, I really enjoyed my time at Ellowes Hall.

CHARLIE B



HEAD BOY

JAMES

I have been at Kinver since year 7 and I can hand on heart say that practically as soon as I stepped in the door I felt welcome. I was met by a completely new set of teachers, and a completely new environment which should have been scary, but really wasn't. As soon as I started getting into lessons I could tell that the teachers cared more than just teaching me. I should've been scared but I wasn't, within a few weeks it simply felt like a normality. As well as this, almost as soon as I got into school I was blown away by the opportunities given, I mean there really was something for everyone! Personally, I like sports, so was very happy to see that there was always some sport going on, whether it be practices at lunch or after school, or even matches against other schools! It really is good, we've even got the Invictus games, where we play all sorts of sports against other schools in the trust. If sports are not for you,



KINVER
HIGH SCHOOL



The other week we went to Ellowes Hall. We got to do the high ropes course. They were really fun, the instructors were really good, as some people in my group weren't that confident in doing the activities, but they talked them through it and they managed to go all the way to the top. We also got to do a climbing wall which was also really fun some people got all the way to the top and again the instructors helped the people that weren't that comfortable doing it. This also included a team building activity where you had to stand on crates while in a pair and work together to keep adding crates on to make it taller and taller. So that was our day at Ellowes it was all round fun.

GRACE E

I had been very excited all week to go to the high rope course. After arriving to Ellowes school I was not disappointed, amazed at the size of the activities and the condition it was kept in. However, I loved that even when you weren't climbing or doing the actual course, we were all still participating and helping out in some way. There we had no time to feel bored, and were always doing something. Throughout the day everyone received support, guidance and congrats from the team running the activities. I really enjoyed the experience.

CONNIE B

What I really enjoyed about the school trip was how comfortable the instructors made us feel. A lot of people including myself, turned up quite nervous as it was quite a new experience. However, they were very patient. I had a great time and my favourite part was the climbing wall. It was something I had never done before and I would definitely do it again if I got the chance. We also did a team building activity which we all enjoyed despite the fact that it was quite tricky.

JAMES S

Y & HEAD GIRL'S ADVICE

don't worry though, the opportunities don't end there. There are clubs for music, arts, languages, dt... you name it and I'm pretty certain Kinver has got it! The teachers really are great, and the opportunities are even better. These five years of school have really blown by. Kinver really is a great school, both for learning and for experiences!

TEGAN

Moving from year 6 to year 7 can be quite daunting but at Kinver High there is nothing to worry about. The smaller environment provides a close community where you are able to get to know all your fellow pupils and create great bonds with your teachers. A new school, a new environment can be exciting but most of you will probably have some nerves. Here at Kinver, there is constant support and teachers around to help guide and support you from the start of your journey to the end during your time here.

Our school system is split into four houses: Lee,

Whittington, Somery and Grey. You will spend time with your forms and meet other students from different forms during your lessons and extra activities. Each form group will have a designated form tutor which will be your main guide and help throughout your time here. They will provide assistance and encouragement and be there to answer and sort out the worries and concerns some of you may have. Your form group will be an integral part of your Kinver High life, as they will provide basis of your support and create a comfortable environment for all to develop and create new friendships.

Kinver High being a small school means teachers are able to get to know you and aid you on your journey. This great relationship means teachers able to encourage you in every aspect of your personal and academic development. Accompanied with the pastoral team, there is an extensive network provided, your questions and concerns will never go unanswered.

At Kinver from the day you start the teachers will

work to offer you all opportunities to develop a variety of skills in preparation for your future careers. There are many roles available for you to apply for, such as sports leaders, subject ambassadors and house captains to name just a few. The large variety of roles means there is an opportunity for everyone. These roles will focus on leadership development, and skills required for your future. In addition to leadership roles, a large extra curricular scheme is accessible for all, with activities ranging from football to art there is something for everyone to enjoy. These clubs afford you the opportunity to create new relationships, and provide opportunities to socialise with your peers while focusing on developing interpersonal and life skills.

Transitioning can be a worrying process, many of you might have stresses about being in a new school however at Kinver there is undeniably an amazing network of support and an extensive range of activities to ensure you flourish during your journey at Kinver.



Headteacher
Mr Mynott

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

It is unfortunate that you haven't been able to share together with other year groups whilst we are in our bubbles, and learn from them, but the prefect team have been watching out for you and making sure that you have settled, even from a distance.

During the most recent lockdown it was fabulous seeing some of the different skills that have been learnt. Many of you baked and sent in photos, World Book Day was marked with some amazing costumes and set designs using programs like Minecraft, and your involvement in the Inter Form Sports competitions was brilliant. Your attendance to Virtual lessons was excellent, as is your

attendance and punctuality to school every single day. It is such a pleasure seeing you arrive in the mornings looking smart and setting a high standard now. Your attitude to learning is stunning, and this can be evidenced from your teachers' reports. It really encourages me, as your Headteacher, knowing what this year group could achieve by the time they finish at Leasowes High School. As I said at the beginning, I want you to be the best that you can be, to 'Aspire and Achieve' and for this to be underpinned by the values of Invictus Education Trust.

Mr M Mynott

NEW YEAR 7 THOUGHTS

As Head of this school, it has been my privilege to offer each of you a warm welcome to Leasowes High School, continuing on your learning journey with us. You know that this is a school that will provide you with every opportunity to reach your potential, whether that is achieving the highest academic results or developing a skill or talent in many other areas. It is supported by your own endeavour to want to achieve. Along with the values of Invictus, the school's motto of 'Aspire and Achieve' places an importance that you will want to aspire and have ambitions, and that the school will nurture this to bring about an end achievement.

At the beginning of the school year I encourage EVERY year 7 student to make the most of opportunities that are provided. It has been a shame that much of this has been curtailed during the pandemic, but is great to see year 7 students starting to get involved in those activities that are restarting. I had a brilliant morning in the Easter Catch Up watching 20 of you get involved in a Performing Arts project, rehearsing for 4 days before a live performance in front of the parental cameras on 'Zoom' with a live 'socially distanced' band. Seeing the energy in the dancing, precision in the direction of acting and the difficult action of singing behind masks was a wonder. Where this has been difficult to do in after school activities, we have provided the time and space for it to be done safely with you.

Many of you have also actively involved yourselves in PE activities, both after school and also during the Easter Catch Up. More than half of the year group have done this – 110 of you – which will help you both physically and mentally.

This does mean that some of you haven't yet got involved. It is important to study hard every single day during the school lessons, but do not let the day finish at the end of Period 6. You will make new friendships and learn new skills when letting the extra activities develop you as individuals and set you target now to get involved in at least ONE activity after school during the next 12 months. It costs you nothing to get involved except time and willingness.

It also costs you nothing to develop leadership skills. I further encourage you to get involved in being leaders in the school and aspire to be the Head Boy and Girl and part of the prefect team. You do not have to wait until year 11 to be a leader. Let them be your inspiration, but choose your own pathway, whether in school council representation, or curriculum ambassadors or peer mentoring, plus the many other opportunities you receive.



Head of Year 7
Mr Sprintall

WELCOME TO LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Leasowes High School.

I am really looking forward to seeing you start the journey through secondary school with us in September. On your first day at Leasowes, you will spend some time getting to know your form tutor and the people in your class. During your time in Leasowes, we have a range of activities to get involved with. A few of the activities we run include:

SCIENCE CLUB

A SCHOOL CHOIR

GIRLS AND BOYS FOOTBALL TEAMS

INTER FORM COMPETITIONS
including bench ball and dodgeball

ART COMPETITIONS

GAMES CLUB

The school drama performance which has included Grease and Mary Poppins in the last few years.

We also run a reward trip every year for those students with an outstanding attendance and behaviour record. In the last few years this has been to Drayton Manor theme park.

We also look to our students to take responsibility to join in with the student council and eco council as well as many other opportunities.

Joining high school might feel like a daunting prospect, but if you involve yourself in the wider things taking place in school, it can be amazing.

After reading this short introduction, I hope you are now excited about joining us soon.

Mr Sprintall

FORM TUTOR AND STUDENTS' THOUGHTS

At Leasowes High School we understand and appreciate the importance of good relationships between our form tutors and their tutees. In a Non-COVID environment it has always been important to get to know individual year 7 students quickly, help them settle into 'Leasowes life' and ensure they have a smooth transition. During this current pandemic this has become more important than ever before.

As a form tutor I have focused a lot more on how students are coping with their current situations, both within school and at home. In my form group we have talked a lot this year about compassion and how we can best support one another, as well as being reflective about situations that have occurred this year.

During the school lockdown we were able to continue this through our virtual learning platform and students were invited to attend on-line form time sessions twice a week with myself and their Head of Year. This allowed us all to keep in touch and continue to be supportive - It also gave some shyer students an opportunity to be involved through typing in the group chat boxes. At Leasowes we establish good relationships so that all else will follow.



"Coming to secondary school is not as scary as you think. You've just got to be yourself. There is always someone there to support you and the teachers are kind if you don't understand something."

JAÍDA



NAGEEBA

"At Leasowes you feel free you be as unique as you want."



"There is the chance to get to do lots of new subjects and activities, like Trampolining and Drama. The lessons are not too difficult and you can ask a teacher for help if you need to. Lots of the teachers work hard to make the lessons fun and interesting."

ISAAC



CHLOE

"I've really enjoyed doing Drama because it's something new and interactive. You get to think about what it is like to be lots of different types of people."



HEAD OF YEAR 7 LEASOWES

In June 2020, the school created a transition video of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and the Head of Year so they could see our faces, voices and create familiarity and a lot of students have commented subsequently that they'd seen it. In September 2020, we organised the first two whole days together within their form, so the students all had time to build up important bonds with others including their form tutor. This contained lots of activities of a mental health and wellbeing emphasis and they completed a project plus virtual assemblies were also completed whilst in lockdown.

Our year 7 students have started Leasowes in a very positive manner and behaviour is very good. The engagement in lessons has been excellent

and motivation is superb, importantly, they are glad to be back in school. We do however have a very small number who have struggled with returning and naturally there are little pockets of anxiety after having such a long time out of the educational setting. We have made sure though that there is lots of support in place from the four pastoral managers, nurse, Head of Year and numerous form tutors and teaching assistants.

Since the start of lockdown Year 7 have been in form bubbles in all lessons, except for some practical or specialist subjects such as ICT, Technology, Arts or PE, this means they have got to spend a lot more time together which has led to building better, stronger relationships and improved the form groups dynamic overall.

Additionally, the students had an assembly on resilience, received some certificates (Christmas Achievement Certificate and Easter Excellent



Attendance Certificate). Finally, there has been the exciting new addition of the Student of the Week awards.

Now restrictions are starting to lift the PE department has offered opportunities for extracurricular activity after school every Wednesday which has included Football, Trampolining, Badminton and Basketball as well as extra Year 7 sessions during the Easter holidays. Over 100 different Year 7 students who have already taken part in extracurricular.





What a year this has been for all of us! With the start of the new year in January we know that we all hoped that 2021 would be a better year and then suddenly we were launched straight into another lockdown which saw us off school for another three months, just when we thought we were beginning to catch up the work we had missed.

This has certainly not been the year we as prefects had been expecting, we were very much looking forward to supporting both staff and students and working on a number of exciting projects but sadly this has not been possible. In these last couple of months the student leadership team will now be immersed in assessments and providing evidence for our GCSE awards.

I'm sure whatever school year you are in this has not been the year you were expecting either but you've made it! You've coped with the trials and tribulations of working from home and logging into virtual lessons, in some cases having to share laptops with parents, brothers and sisters, doing Maths whilst your younger siblings are singing the alphabet song or copying Mr Tumble's actions or the dog barking to go out for a walk, but you've done it!

You've coped with not seeing your bestie every day and with the lock down hair do's, being confined to the house but things are looking brighter now and all the opportunities you missed out on are waiting for you.

Make the most of these school days, we as prefects know only too well that you can literally blink and miss them, it feels like no time at all since we were year 7s trying to find our way around the school and make new friends and now we're preparing to leave! As restrictions ease further and after school clubs and activities

resume make the most of it all! Sign up for trips, get involved in extra curricular activities, join student council, take part in school productions whether acting, singing, dancing, designing the set, working on costumes, lighting, or back stage, get involved. Broaden your horizons even further by signing up to cross trust activities, try things you've never tried before. If this last twelve months has taught us anything it is that we need to live in the now and throw ourselves into this crazy journey called life; don't be a spectator be a participant!



WELCOME TO PEDMORE HIGH SCHOOL

The school is currently going through a lot of exciting new developments and you will be joining a friendly and welcoming school with a great team of tutors and teachers.

We have made some changes to the school day and, from September, Year 7 will have their own lunchtimes to give you more space to play in the playground and shorter queues in the Dining Hall.

Many of you will have already been involved in some of our activities, such as the Science magic show and French language lessons. If your school hasn't been involved yet, don't worry, we will be doing a lot more of these events over the next few months. We also hope to be able to re-start visits into Pedmore and for our staff to come out to see you all in your schools as soon as possible.

We have a very wide range of activities and clubs to join. Mr Bowles has explained in his article about all the Invictus Activities that Pedmore students can take part in, such as mountain biking, sailing and the FI Challenge, but we also offer additional activities just for Pedmore students. These include a Police Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, overseas trips to Iceland, Skiing and Paris; Music and Drama residential at Ingestre Hall. You will also have the opportunity



Headteacher
Mr Lloyd

to work with your friends to set up and run your own Business. You will work with some of the older students to begin with, but by year 9 you will be able to take a lead role in this Enterprise project, leading to entering local and national competitions.

We are also doing a lot of work on the school building to make the learning environment even better. Over the summer we will be doing some major improvements to the Maths corridor and we are having bright vibrant displays installed across the school.

We welcome visitors into Pedmore throughout the year. If you would like to visit, please contact the school directly to arrange a tour.

TRANSITION LEADER



**Pedmore
High School**

Aspire, Persevere, Succeed

As head of Year 7 and Transition lead starting the process of transition during a global pandemic seems like a big challenge. Hearing about our new students and the high number of places taken in the school already is very encouraging from primary schools and I am looking forward to welcoming our new students during the transition week in June. During transition week at Pedmore, primary students will get an early taste of secondary school life (Covid secure of course). The students will get an overall insight into life at Pedmore which will help them to realise

school life at Pedmore is an exciting prospect. Just like our current year 7 students who started nervously in September. Fast forward to today and the current year 7 students are flourishing. Their resilience during a pandemic to continue to come to school and achieve 97% attendance is amazing. The behaviour and attitude are also exceptional as we would expect of all our students. We have students who have achieved awards for resilience, contribution to school life, and attendance with the majority of students still on 100% attendance for the year

which is a fantastic achievement. It is exciting to see where they will go in the future when this pandemic has passed. I am now looking forward to challenging our upcoming students to do the same and excel beyond these achievements in a nurturing environment where every day, in every way, the students come first. I look forward to seeing our new students in the coming months.

Mr McGlade

HEAD OF YEAR 7 AND
TRANSITION/SUBJECT LEADER OF PE

Head of Year 7 and Transition
Mr McGlade



Hi, I'm a Year 7 student at Pedmore High School. Pedmore High School can be a scary place at first, with new rooms and different blocks. You also have different teachers for different subjects. You are also sorted into different tutor groups. The subjects you study in Yr7, Yr8 and Yr9 are: English, Maths, History, Geography, Art, RE, PE and much more. You also get a chance to cook for the first time in DT (Design Technology). I have enjoyed History because we are always productive and looking at different people's perspectives about topics like: Henry VIII, The War of the Roses and Edward the Conqueror. I also like Geography, because in Primary School you might have learnt just about maps and countries. In Secondary school, we learn about plastic pollution, climate change and how most people think pessimistically about this topic.

AAMINA HUSSAIN



I'm going to be telling you about my experience at Pedmore High School. I was scared and nervous, but excited to come to a new school.

I only had two of my friends going here so I knew I had to try and fit in by making a good impression. So I joined clubs and started to see and meet new people and I brought in a football so myself and my friends can play and others can join in.

There is one thing you need to remember: be confident.

BEN ROBERTS



Hi I am a Year 7 student at Pedmore High School. I have come from Rufford Primary School. When I came to Pedmore, I was interested in a lot of things, like Design and Technology, Physical Education and History. This year, I have also joined after school clubs. I have taken part in netball and football, but soon I want to join more when I have the opportunity. I like the clubs because they are interesting and are really fun. So far this year, I have learnt things that I never knew before. This school has been great and I have had so much fun. Even in virtual school, the lessons were still great to attend and it was so much fun. I got to do a lot more things than I did at Primary School, and I honestly cannot wait to continue being who I am and being able to continue my school life here!

BROOKE PREECE



Hello my name is Daisy,

I've come to Pedmore High School from Ham Dingle Primary School and I really enjoy being a student at this school. I have made tonnes of friends here and have got to know the school really well. I've got to know the teachers well and have loved joining in with the after-school activities. Pedmore originally wasn't my first choice to come to from Year 6 and not too long ago I was offered a place at another school. Even though it was my original first choice, I turned the place down. I've really settled in here and I didn't want to leave my friends or my teacher that I had got to know here. I can't wait to join in more after school clubs as soon as they open up and be part of loads more extra curriculum activities. I've loved being at Pedmore and can't wait to continue my school life here.

DAISY INSULL





**Pedmore
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WHAT TO EXPECT IN YEAR 7

Hi, I am a Year 7 student at Pedmore High School and 6th Form. I was anxious at first coming to high school it was all new to me (as it is for all students). However, after the first couple of weeks I felt at ease. The teachers were kind and helpful in everything from lessons to showing you around the school. Focusing on lessons is a key part to success. We learn all types of things, from Tudor Times in History to Cooking in DT (Design and Technology) to Fractions in Maths! This is one of the better schools to choose from. I am not just saying it: it's true! Virtual lessons also allow you to join in at home. If you fall ill, your teacher will make virtual lessons for you to join so you don't miss anything.

ERIN POULTON



When I first came to Pedmore High School, I was super nervous and very anxious about joining a new school. When I first walked through the doors I was welcomed with open arms. When I first met all of my teachers, they were so kind and they understood how we were feeling and how worried we were all were. Sadly, because we weren't free of Covid-19, we had to social distance from all the teachers to keep them and ourselves safe around the school. Another thing I was nervous for was to meet my form tutor, I didn't know what she was going to be like, and I had never met her in person only on a video. I am so grateful to have a super kind form tutor like Mrs Collett and she is so supportive and so friendly to talk to.

SIENNA CARTWRIGHT-JONES



When I first came to Pedmore High School I was very nervous and scared but my family supported me, and when I walked in the doors everyone was caring and welcoming.

At first, when there was no one I knew, I was a little shy and confused but soon enough on the first day I made lots of friends and I had a loving form tutor called Mrs Collett and I made a best friend called Phoebe and I have an amazing Head of Year called Mr McGlade.

He made me feel so much calmer and more welcomed, and my form are so nice too. They make us all feel happy even though we are going through tough times; the school is still a loving and friendly place.

DESTINY MILLS



VIRTUAL TUTORING IS OKAY NO REPLACEMENT FOR CLASSROOM TUTORING

I think we can all agree that the virtual learning provision across the trust has been second to none and as a year 7 tutor myself, I used our virtual learning platform to deliver online tutor sessions and assemblies to my year 7 tutees. It enabled the pastoral team to see our lovely students and hear about their lockdown experiences which often brightened up my day and I hope it did theirs too. Not only this, but it allowed our pastoral team to troubleshoot any issues students may have had with technology (let's face it, lockdown has made many of us switch broadband providers and consider buying a new laptop) and flag any safeguarding issues that our students needed support with. Providing virtual tutoring sessions meant the we, as tutors, could still provide that all important pastoral care that our students need to assist with the most important element of school – learning.

However, as we come out of lockdown and school has reopened, it is clear to see that even virtual tutoring cannot replace classroom tutoring. As a tutor, it is so lovely to see my students back in school: happy, healthy and thriving.

Miss Thompson

TEACHER OF ENGLISH AND YEAR 7 TUTOR



COVID AND YOUR (FUTURE) CAREER CALLING ALL YEAR 7s

The difficult period in which we find ourselves can sometimes make us feel apprehensive over the future, but never fear, us Year 11s are here to provide some reassurance. Here are the tips we would have shared with our Year 7 selves:

Online education rocks. After months of virtual lessons, you have gained such valuable independent learning skills that both employers and further education institutions adore.

You are adaptable. Upon joining secondary school, you were confined to one or two classrooms with teachers changing every hour; nobody else has ever had to do this. Employers will highly value this!

Support is right here, right now. There's no need to panic if you've missed a lesson or two. Ask your teachers for extra resources, websites, and workbooks – they don't judge!

Above all, remember that you are incredibly strong, and wherever you go in life, you have already learnt skills far beyond your years.

For now, remember Covid hasn't closed any doors, it has in fact wedged them open for you.

Amy Parry & Regan Hickman

HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL





Pedmore
High School
Aspire, Persevere, Succeed

IN EVERY WAY OUR STUDENTS WILL ALWAYS COME FIRST

At Pedmore High School we strive to ensure that every day, in every way our students will always come first! We find it important to recognise and celebrate that every child is different and unique in their own special way, and it is essential that our lessons are adapted to suit the individual, placing every pupils needs at the centre of our lessons. During lessons we try to make learning accessible to all but still challenge pupils to improve, creating an environment where students can meet their full potential. During our PE lessons young people have the opportunity to work both as an individual and in a team environment with the aims to improve communication, leadership and teamwork skills and embedding key life values such as respect, trust, responsibility, and resilience.

We have started a leadership award to inspire and support pupils learning and introduce other roles within PE such as coaching and officiating. Across the year we try and create new opportunities for pupils, allowing them to experience a range of activities including 9 different topics within their lessons, and even more being offered for extra curriculum, including swimming, outdoor adventurous activity, trampolining, athletics, table tennis and a range of team sports. Unique opportunities are also offered with the chance to try out golf, mountain biking, sailing and many more. Including the exciting launch of the Duke of Edinburgh award and police cadets.

Miss Dolan

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR



Headteacher
Dr Smith

As Headteacher of Wombourne High School it gives me great pleasure to have worked with you this academic year. It has been a different year due to the Covid restrictions, but that hasn't stopped you making a great transition to secondary school, you have made fabulous progress and embodied our key values of hard work, positivity and kindness.

Year 7 took the lead in attendance to virtual lessons in January, February and March. You have shown enthusiasm on the Sports field as

extracurricular lessons have re-started in the summer term and you have relished opportunities for practical work in Science, DT, Food, Performing Arts and a range of other subjects.

As we look to the future it will be great for you to leave your bubble in the practical block and have lessons in the new 10 classroom block that opened in September 2020. We also look forward to using more of the leisure centre facilities, such as the pool, and to have a greater variety of practical work in our Science venues. We are so very excited by the news released in February 2021 that the entire practical block is going to be re-built.

In addition to extracurricular lessons re-starting, we are looking forward to trips and visits

taking place again. For example, the Invictus competitions provide a great opportunity for you to show-case your skills and demonstrate your leadership and competitive attributes.

Year 7, you have made an excellent start to secondary school. You are all unique, but whatever your passions are, grab the opportunities on offer to you going forward. In a happy environment, centred on kindness, I want you to continue to shine. To find and further develop your talent. We'll support you all the way.

For all Year 6 students reading this, we can't wait to meet you too. Welcome to Wombourne High School.



YEAR 6 STUDENTS

As the beginning of March beckons, our excitement increases with the knowledge that our new cohort of year 6 students will be soon finding out that they will be joining us in September and that is an incredibly exciting and proud moment.

Term 2 and 3 in Secondary school become a very busy time for our Pastoral team as we look to visit and meet every child who will be joining us in September, it always proves to be one of my favourite activities throughout the process. Over the coming months we will visit schools, meet teachers and speak to students, with the aim of gathering as much

information about each individual that will enable us to support their transition into High school. We also want to introduce ourselves and answer any questions, but most importantly to put each individual worry to rest.

Moving from Primary school up to High school is a big change, some students are ready and excited, some are shy and apprehensive, some are moving in large cohorts with many friends and other students may be moving alone. We are here for every child and aim to support every situation along their journey through High School.

Miss Thornthwaite

HEAD OF YEAR 7

OLIVIA

STUDENT

ARTICLE



MY YEAR 7 TRANSITION

My transition from primary school to secondary school was a lot less scary than I thought it was going to be! At first, I had lots of worries, like getting lost, making friends and if I would be good at my subjects, but after the first few days, I realised that I didn't need to have any worries at all. The first week was a little bit nerve-racking, but we spent the whole of the first day in tutor, getting to know each other. The teachers also settled us in really well and made us feel really comfortable. It was a whole new experience however it soon became exciting and I was looking forward to starting my High School journey at Wombourne High! :)

TUTORS

If you ever have any worries, your tutor will always be there to help! :)

My tutors are Miss Perry and Mr Walsh. If I ever need anything, I know I can go to either of them for help or support and I can talk to them about anything. They made me feel very calm on the first day and I'm grateful that I have tutor to look forward to every day. Tutor is a fun 15 minutes where you can talk about your day or your weekend and have fun before lunch time!

TEACHERS AND LESSONS

All of the teachers are really nice at Wombourne High School and they all help you to progress and move forward in your subjects. If you don't understand something, or are a little bit stuck with anything, you can always put your hand up and the teachers will explain again. Lessons are always really fun, because although we do lots of great work, we also have lots of fun with the teachers too. We get to do end of term/ half term quizzes, games, posters, competitions and learn new subjects! New subjects that we do are Drama, Food, Computer Science, PRE (philosophy, religion and ethics), Forensic Reading and both Spanish and French instead of just one language. All of these lessons I have loved doing and learning new subjects is always great to do. My favourite lesson is

Drama, because it helps me to build my confidence when performing and the teachers always encourage and reassure me that it's okay to be nervous, as you will soon learn that you can face your fears. You can also go to any of your teachers with any worries you may have, as they are always there to help and listen. There are also specific teachers you can go to for support, if you ever need it! :)

FRIENDS

I was nervous to make friends, because I wasn't sure if people would like me, or want to talk to me, but I soon realised that everyone is going through exactly the same thing and felt just like me! I soon had the courage to talk to new people and get to know them. Now, I have so many new friends and I wonder why I ever doubted that I would make friends. After a few days, you get to know everyone in your tutor, set and different groups and you begin to become less nervous around them.

A SCHOOL DAY

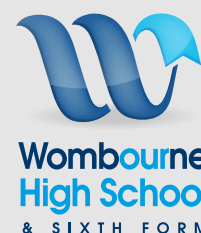
A normal school day for me consists of four periods, break time, tutor time and lunch time. Period one and two last for 1 hour and 20 minutes, and periods three and four last for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Period one starts at 8:40am and it lasts until break time at 10:00am. Break time lasts for 15 minutes, until 10:15am, then we have Period two until Tutor time at 11:35am. Tutor then lasts until lunch time at 11:50am. Lunch time finishes at 12:20pm, when period three starts. Period three ends at 13:30, as period four begins. Period 4 ends at 14:40 and that is the end of a school day! :)

Overall, my first year at Wombourne High School so far has been amazing and I have loved it. I feel so comfortable in lessons now and the teachers and people are really nice and supportive. I wouldn't change it for the world :)

Olivia Skidmore, Year 7,

WOMBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL :)

HARRIET STUDENT ARTICLE



I was excited about starting Wombourne High School, making new friends, meeting new teachers and learning new subjects. I was nervous about getting lost and finding my way around such a big school.

On my first day I felt nervous but also excited. When I arrived, I was taken to my Tutor room where I met my Tutor and the rest of my Tutor group. We all talked about how we were feeling and were given a booklet to fill in about ourselves

and any worries we had. We spent a couple of days in our Tutor group getting to know each other and by the end of the week I had made lots of new friends.

I have four lessons a day with a morning break and a lunch break. At 11:35am I meet with my Tutor group where we can talk to our Tutor if we have any worries or concerns, we can also talk to our friends and sometimes we watch Newsround.

My favourite subjects are Maths and Geography. I really enjoy maths because it's one of my strongest subjects and the teacher makes the lessons interesting. I really like Geography as I find the topics interesting and my teacher makes the lessons fun! However, I do enjoy all my lessons. The teachers are very kind and supportive and are always there if you need any help.

Also, here at Wombourne High School there are many competitions to get involved in with lots of prizes to win such as the Run, Walk, Cycle challenge which you can get involved in during the holidays and D&T competitions.

I'm very happy to go to school every day, I have lots of nice teachers which make my school day fun, I enjoy learning new things and have made lots of new friends. I am house captain for Endeavour (yellow house) and was very happy to be chosen. There is also a reward system which is house points and WOW works. The four houses, Endeavour, Aspire, Enterprise and Hope compete with each other to get the most points.

Harriet Tyne Yr7

WOMBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL



NEW EXPERIENCES



Staff and students have gone through new experiences, alone and as a community, demonstrating resilience in abundance. We have been amazed at the adaptability of the Year 7's in the ever-changing situation.

We had just settled to being at school, when lockdown meant that we were back at home with virtual lessons. Students were thrown in at the deep end and coped wonderfully, we are so proud of them all.

We went from a daily form session to just two a week. I was thrilled with how many of my tutees attended. Students were sitting at their screens for hours a day, so form became far less structured. It was a time for us to be together. Some students craved camaraderie, others wanted to share news and a few had worries that we worked through together. It was lovely to see quieter members of our form having the confidence to be involved. We continued to celebrate birthdays and lockdown achievements. This was done with me on my microphone and students typing back.

I will cherish memories of form and proudly remember how Year 7's continued to build relationships with their teachers and peers in the most difficult and unexpected of times.

Mrs Tomlinson

YR 7 TUTOR OF 7KTO





**Wombourne
High School**
& SIXTH FORM

PREEYA STUDENT ARTICLE

Dear new Wombourne High Students,

When I started at Wombourne High School, I was nervous about meeting new teachers, being with different people at break and having different types of subjects. As well as being really excited I was still really scared, and nothing would change that. However, on my first day I realised how much time I wasted being nervous and worried because my teachers were so kind, and I did not feel the need to be shy if I wasn't understanding any work as they would help me. I also made lots of kind friends before our first morning break!

On the first day, we did not do as much work, it was really relaxed as our teachers talked about what Wombourne High was like, e.g., expectations and rules. We also were talking to

our new friends in our tutor and finding out things about them! It was not scary at all as we were just getting used to the school and settling in.

After about 1 to 2 weeks, I felt a lot more comfortable at school and was getting more used to my timetable and routine and what a typical day at Wombourne High school was like. A normal day is quite different to primary school as you are doing new and different subjects. And it is completely okay to not understand at first because as you continue to try, you will become more confident in your subjects and notice yourself improve and make progress as you go along.

My favourite subject is Maths (yours may be different) because I have always enjoyed solving things, however in Secondary school I can take

my Maths knowledge to the next level with my teacher's support along the way, and work to become the best I can be.

At Primary school, you are not given much independence and developing this at secondary school is not something to be afraid of, because at secondary school you can show off your true ability and become the best you can be as well in your own individual way too.

Overall, my point is to look forward to joining a secondary school and not to be afraid! It is a big step, but if you work hard and give everything your best, then there is nothing stopping you from being amazing!

By Preeya Bisla

