

WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS!

It's always a privilege to welcome a new cohort of young people to join our school community

Year 7

Today, our newsletter is celebrating our new Year 7's and all that they have achieved over the last few weeks.

For many of us, it can be difficult to remember our own first term of Secondary School and the challenges that those new experiences brought. Change, starting something new, striding out on your own for the first time will certainly evoke the feelings of worry or dread that can sometimes stop us from pushing out of our own comfort zone. Those feelings are not only experienced by our young people, taking those first tentative steps to 'big school', but also are felt amongst the parents left behind watching them move into the next phase of their life. We have been very impressed by how our new Year 7's seem to have settled in. Alongside offering a full day of Transition in July and a week of Summer School, we have endeavoured to fully welcome them and immerse them into our Abbey community.

In their first week of term, we made sure that Year 7 were able to spend two full days in the school without Year 8,9,10 or 11. This gave them the chance to fully explore the school without a lot of students around. Alongside that, we made sure that they had a special set of induction sessions which gave them a chance to experience the 'Abbey Lesson' and to meet some of



their new and brilliant teachers. See the pictures above of students totally engaged in their learning.

It has been noted that many of the Year 7's have shown great kindness to one another, especially in form time where they can share how they are feeling and can reach out for support if they are overwhelmed. There have been some excellent conversations about supporting each other through a period of change and we have felt great pride in the mature thoughts and ideas brought to those discussions. Furthermore, the team effort and support -especially when using the canteen, playing on the playground and finding their way to their next lesson has been brilliant and really goes alongside the strong values and ethos that underpin our school.

All students are looking very smart in their uniform, especially during line-up, and seem to be proud to be making a good first impression on both their peers and the teachers. The bright greeting every morning as they move up to their form rooms also shows that they are trying their best to be confident and stride into the day of learning.

Dr Speller said, 'It was lovely to see you all looking so smart in your uniforms since the beginning of term. I have had lots of positive comments from your teachers about the brilliant work that you have been completing in your lessons. Keep up the great work!'



CATs and Sponsored Walk



CATs

CATs—I know what you are thinking— but we are not referring to the West End musical or the feline companion that many of us have curled up on our sofa. No, CATs or Cognitive Ability Tests, are utilised by us and many local secondary schools for a range of reasons. For example: to test general intelligence and to stream overall or set for certain subjects. They are also designed to assess a pupil’s ability in three different areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers); and non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space).

On Friday 9th September, our new cohort of year 7 students spent most of the morning undertaking their CATs and their results will take several weeks to come in. For many years, we have used CATs as they give us a snapshot of a child's potential, what they could achieve and how they learn best. The results can help teachers to set the right learning pace for each child, monitor their progress and identify areas where they might need extra support. Sometimes this will mean a year 7 student will be moved around and into a different class to the one they joined at the beginning of September but it is to ensure that they can best access their learning and can leave here the best version of themselves.

THE SPONSORED WALK

The sponsored walk was a great way to raise money, have fun, get some exercise and socialise with friends and peers whilst walking through the superb local countryside. If you didn’t know, the Sponsored Walk is an annual event for our new year 7 cohort and this year, after a challenging couple of 'Covid years' , we wanted to raise the bar and do something slightly different. Students commented that the balloon arch finish line really made them feel special and the yummy ice cream too.



We'll let you know in the next few weeks the total amount raised.



In this special 'Year 7' edition of the newsletter, it gives us great pleasure to highlight this week's highest amount of house points collected—well done to all these hard-working year 7s:

Amelie Bradshaw-Batt	Pioneer	23
Hunter Evans	Endeavour	12
Lucas Hope	Endeavour	12
Lois Ramsden	Endeavour	12
Sullivan King	Voyager	16
Max Hogbin	Discovery	28

Upcoming Key Dates

School Photographs Y7 & Y10	Monday 26th
6th Form Leadership Team interviews	Monday 26th
Swale Youth Forum Day	Wednesday 28th
Open Evening	Wednesday 28th

Please note: School will close at 1.30pm on Open Evening day

School Council Student Interviews	Friday 30th
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October

CCCU University Presentation	Tuesday 4th
EKST Workshop (Theatre group) Y7 & 8	Wednesday 5th
EKST Big Design Challenge—5 x Y9s	Wednesday 5th
Year 7 Parent-Tutor Consultation Evening	Wednesday 5th
House Council Workshop and meeting	Friday 7th
Covid Vaccination Boosters	Thursday 13th
Covid Vaccination Boosters	Friday 14th
KS4 Dance Workshop	Friday 14th
Last day of term	Friday 14th

Return to school for Term 2 **Monday 31st**

Y11 & Y13 Mock Exam Week w/c Monday 31st

STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES

TERM 1 WEEK 4

Monday	3.10pm	Year 8
Tuesday	3.15pm	Year 7
Friday	3.20pm	Year 11
	3.25pm	Year 10
	3.30pm	Year 9/ 12 / 13
Thursday	2.10pm	Year 8
	2.15pm	Year 7
	2.20pm	Year 11
	2.25pm	Year 10
	2.30pm	Year 9/ 12 / 13