



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to Year 7

This letter aims to provide you with an overview of year 7 in order for you to have an understanding of the curriculum, pastoral work and key dates for the year. You will be provided with further details of any specific events nearer to the time.

Pastoral overview

This year there will be a focus on outstanding attitude to learning as well as students working towards the school's motto 'Work Hard, Be Kind'. There will be a range of active tutoring sessions and assemblies that will support this focus and encourage kindness around school.

We are also focusing on students' Attitude to Learning (ATL) in lessons. We have five descriptors which are 'willing to learn, reflective, determined, resilient and self-motivated'. Students can demonstrate outstanding attitudes in class by being focused, paying attention at all times, producing high quality written work, setting themselves goals to achieve, not giving up and reflecting upon their work and actions in the classroom. As a year group, our focus this term is about being self-motivated and learning to be independent with the many skills required for moving to secondary school.

In addition to this, we are also focusing on employability skills. Students are learning to demonstrate key skills that will enable them to be successful in the workplace after full time education. This term will be about introducing students to the world of work and learning about the skills employers will be looking for, for example, self-motivation, aspiration and accountability.

Key staff and contact details

Below is a list of the year 7 pastoral team. For day to day queries or concerns related to welfare and progress please make contact with your child's tutor, if they are unable to assist they will pass your query on to the head of year. For any general or attendance queries please continue to use the contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk email or phone the main school reception. Our office hours are Monday and Tuesday 7.30am – 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 7.30am – 4pm and Friday 7.30 – 3pm.

Mrs K. Gray is the senior leader who oversees all pastoral work and Mrs R Farnie is the senior leader linked to the curriculum and achievement of this year group.

Role	Name	Contact details
Head of Year	Miss L Wilson	Lwilson@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk
Tutor of 7.1	Mr J. Stewardson	jstewardson@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk
Tutor of 7.2	Mr R. Payan Sanchez	rpayansanchez@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk
Tutor of 7.3	Mr J. Downer	jdowner@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk
Tutor of 7.4	Miss E. Furlong	efurlong@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Overview of tutor weekly activities

Monday – Assembly

Tuesday – Planner/Equipment/Uniform Check – Attendance, Positives and Negative points.

Wednesday – Active Tutoring

Thursday – Numeracy Ninjas

Friday – Quiz/Current Affairs/Literacy and Tune of the Week.

Through the active tutoring programme your child will develop an understanding of the following:

- *Appropriate language*
- *Black History Month*
- *National Poetry Day*
- *Careers*
- *Student Council*
- *Attitude to Learning*
- *Online Safety*
- *Anti-Bullying Week*
- *Equality*
- *Mental Health*
- *Reading*
- *Safer Internet Day Children's Mental Health Week*
- *Employability*
- *World Book Day*
- *World Maths Day*
- *British Values*
- *How to be a good citizen*

Everyday requirements

Students need to ensure they arrive at school promptly, well equipped and prepared for the day ahead. Please ensure your child has the following every day:

- School bag, pencil case and equipment - pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, sharpener, green pen etc.
- Planner
- Correct uniform - black formal shoes, black trousers or skirt, white shirt, jumper, blazer and tie.
- No jewellery (except one pair of stud earrings if required.) No accessories or nail varnish.
- The correct books for lessons
- KO (Knowledge Organiser) booklet and workbook

- Water bottle/flask
- Packed lunch/snack/money for school dinners
- Dark coloured outdoor jacket for bad weather
- Reading book

Curriculum

When students move to secondary school the change in structure of the school day can be overwhelming. Students will no longer be based in one classroom, instead they are moving between classrooms to each of the subjects they will study in a day. We pride ourselves on our sense of community, therefore students will find there is lots of help around school as they adapt to this change.

Students will study a broad and balanced curriculum throughout year 7. This academic curriculum is then complimented by enrichment and study sessions. Please refer to the attached year overview for a more detailed summary of the year 7 curriculum. During study sessions, and at home, students will learn the essential knowledge needed for their subjects from department knowledge organisers which are provided in a booklet each half term for students. Please see the school website for more information.

For year 7 students are placed in to sets for their English, maths, science, humanities, Spanish and ICT, with all other subjects being taught in tutor groups. Students will be in the same set for English/Spanish/Humanities, based on their English SATs score and then maths/science/ICT based on their maths SATs score. We regularly review the sets students are placed in and reserve the right to move students groups as and when required through the school year. This is done using formal and informal assessment data as well as our knowledge of their classwork.

Key Dates

The table below shows the key dates for this year group. All key dates can be seen on the school website under the information tab and further events may be added during the course of the year.

Date	Event
Thursday 5 December 2019	Year 7 Parents Evening
Tuesday 10 December 2019	School Panto Trip
Wednesday 12 February 2020	Tutor Review Day
Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 March 2020	Year 7 Residential Trip - Walesby
Monday 27 April – Friday 1 May 2020	Year 7 Assessment Week
Thursday 30 April 2020	Junior Maths Challenge
Monday 29 June 2020	Year 7 Science and Geography Trip
Wednesday 8 July 2020	Sports Day

We hope that you find this information useful and please do refer to the school website for further general information, the email address contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk to contact the school office or your child's tutor for individual queries.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Brown
Head of School

Mrs K. Gray
Senior leader – pastoral

Mrs R. Farnie
Senior leader

Miss L. Wilson
Head of Year