



Thursday 5th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to formally introduce myself to you as the Head of Year 7. Mrs Taylor, our dedicated Year 7 Student Manager, and I are here to ensure your child settles into their new school community and can find the space and support to grow and thrive, both academically and personally.

I am also pleased to report that Year 7 had a highly successful first day on Tuesday. Despite any nervousness, the students behaved excellently, listening intently and striving to deliver the outstanding first impression that Mr Harrington and I spoke to them about in their morning assembly. After an extended induction morning yesterday with their Form Tutor, their first subject lessons have begun with great excitement.

At Wilmington Grammar School for Boys we have high expectations and standards of all our students, and this is something that I, amongst all other staff, will uphold. Alongside our PRIDE values (Personal Excellence, Respect & Friendship, Innovation & Creativity, Determination and Equality for All), I will also be actively promoting an attitude of resilience to the Year 7 cohort. I hope to encourage students to think more independently about how they might be able to solve issues they come across and how to approach teachers with potential solutions, not just problems.

I am also writing to make you aware of two important diary updates for this month:

Saturday Morning Sports Programme and Games Kit reminder

The Year 7 Saturday Morning Sports programme begins this weekend, on Saturday 7th September. We apologise for the change in start date; however, this is a fantastic opportunity for the students to bond outside of the classroom and the students will benefit most from this in the early part of this term. This programme will run for 6 weeks until Saturday 19th October (excluding Saturday 14th September) and culminates in an Inter-House Rugby Tournament.

Parents/carers are welcome to come and watch and there will be parking available on-site. The sessions will start promptly at 9am and finish at 10:30am. Students should arrive in their full Games kit (tracksuit bottoms, reversible rugby top, training top and rugby socks, trainers, rugby / football astro turf boots in a separate bag and water bottle).

A reminder also that every Friday, all Year 7 students should be attending school dressed in their full Games kit, rather than school uniform. This is to ensure a faster transition into their Games lessons, which take place during the last two periods of the day for the entire year group. Students should wear trainers and bring their rugby / football boots and shorts in a separate bag. Gum shields are needed for Term 1 Rugby, which begins next Friday 13th September.

Tomorrow's Games lesson will focus on Football and the Year 7 Football Team trials will run at the same time. All Year 7 students have been informed of this in advance and the Football Team trials are not mandatory.



Welcome Evening – 5.00pm to 6.30pm on Thursday 12th September

We are also writing to invite you and your child to attend a Year 7 Welcome Evening which will take place in the Main School Hall next Thursday. We feel that it is very important to build a close working relationship between parents and the school, as it undoubtedly has a positive impact in supporting the students.

The event will consist of a welcome and address from our Headteacher, Mr Harrington, and myself. In addition, there will be a brief opportunity to be introduced to your child's Form Tutor, as you enjoy some refreshments provided by our PTA. The Headteacher's address will begin promptly at 5.00pm and we expect all students to be in school uniform for the event. We would encourage all Year 7 parents or carers to attend this evening.

A full pastoral update on your child's individual progress will follow later in the year.

I hope this provides you an insight into my intentions and responsibilities as your child's Head of Year. I very much look forward to leading the collaboration between staff, parents and students that will ensure Year 7 has a successful first year at Wilmington Grammar School for Boys.

I look forward to meeting you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Sweeney
Head of Year 7 & 8 and Teacher of English