



6 October 2022

Dear parents, guardians, carers of our new Year 7 students,

Welcome evening Thursday 13 October 2022 at 5.30pm – Venue: theatre

We look forward to welcoming you next Thursday. You will hear about the highlights of students' first few weeks at Poole High School. The evening will also provide an opportunity to share the ways in which we support your child to make great progress. Mr Gray, Mrs Scott-Brown and Ms Wheadon look forward to further enlisting your support at this early stage in their seven-year journey with us.

We hope that your child has enjoyed their first few weeks at Poole High School. We have been impressed by the year group's enthusiasm and willingness to adapt to all of the challenges and opportunities that our school has to offer. As a year team, we have been delighted to see how much they report enjoying the academic challenges that we have put before them and have enjoyed watching them develop confidence in navigating their way around the school site. The year group have been encouraged to work as a team to ensure that the learning environment is excellent and that all of our students feel safe. They have certainly risen to this challenge. As a cohort, they received a total of over 1400 achievement points in the first week and a half. Please do look out for the SIMs Parent App notifications which allow you to monitor your child's achievements.

Uniform and Equipment

Thank you for your support in purchasing all of the correct uniform and equipment which allows us to focus on learning and recognition of their achievements. Hopefully your child has not misplaced any of this over the first few weeks; labelling items clearly does help us to return any lost items to your child. Items not clearly labelled are sent to lost property, opposite the Year 7 office, which can be accessed at breaktimes.

Homework

You will have seen that your child is receiving regular homework which is aimed at supporting their learning in the classroom. It is important that they get into good habits of completing work each night. We have the facility of a homework club in the library every day from 3-4.15pm to support if needed. All students in Year 7 follow the same homework timetable:

		Self-Quizzing 30 min	Reading 30 min	Other 30 min
Week 1	Monday	English	Reading	
	Tuesday	Maths		Brainscape French
	Wednesday	Science	Reading	Sparks
	Thursday	Geography	Reading	
	Friday	RS	Reading	
	Weekend		Reading	Sparks
Week 2	Monday	English	Reading	
	Tuesday	Maths		Brainscape French
	Wednesday	Science	Reading	Sparks
	Thursday	History	Reading	
	Friday	French	Reading	
	Weekend		Reading	Sparks

Students will be expected to self-quiz on the subject that is assigned for the day but are likely to have been told what aspect they need to learn ahead of the day that the homework should be completed.

If they are not directed to a particular area of the knowledge organiser, they have been told to select a section of their own choice from the subject. If your child does not finish the entire section set within the 30 minutes that is fine. The important aspect is that they are self-quizzing effectively (look, cover, write, check, correct). Your child's tutor will spend a lot of time supporting them to improve their skills.

We are a reading school and recognise the positive impact that good literacy skills will have on your child's academic enjoyment and achievement. As such we have a dedicated, structured reading lesson for every class in the library once a fortnight. We also expect every child to read for 30 minutes five times a week as part of the homework schedule. This should be recorded in the diary.

Sparx and Brainscape homework are now fully set up for your child to access. Sparx is a mathematics programme which learns from your child. We predetermine the areas of the curriculum that will be assessed each week, it will then also re-introduce questions on topics that your child has found difficult in order to help to improve their understanding and will also recall topics previously studied to help improve memory. The package has video facilities to help completion. Brainscape is a flip card app which allows students to check their recall of knowledge organiser facts that they are or will be learning in class. We are introducing it for French in Year 7 and will then extend its use across more subjects as your child moves to Year 8.

Dates for your diary this term:

Welcome evening for all of Year 7: Thursday 13 October 2022 at 5.30pm

Track point 1: A report will be made available on SIMs Parent App within a few weeks after half-term. The first 100 score will be generated.

Year 7 Disco in aid of Children in Need: Monday 14 November 2022

Year 7 London museums trip: Friday 18 November 2022

Year 7 Christmas carol service: Monday 12 December 2022

Year 7 Pantomime trip: Thursday 15 December 2022

Parental coffee morning; invitation from the Deputy Headteacher: Information and date to be confirmed.

We really do hope that your child has enjoyed the start of the seven-year journey at Poole High School. As a staff, we really do strive to ensure that your child is happy and makes the most of the opportunities that are available. We look forward to seeing you again at the welcome evening.

Yours sincerely



Tanya Scott-Brown
Progress Leader



Jess Wheadon
Head of Year 7