



**St Edmund Arrowsmith
Catholic High School**

Prepare the way of the Lord

**Year 6 Introduction Day
Thursday 7 July 2022**

Name: _____

Form: _____ Form Tutor: _____

**Guidance for
Parents and Carers**



**St Edmund Arrowsmith
Catholic High School**

Prepare the way of the Lord

Introduction Day Y7: 2022 - 2023

How can your child be prepared for school?

Be prepared for the school day by getting the school bag ready the night before; check on school books, equipment such as stationary (pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, calculator), and PE kit if needed.

Pupils can purchase a locker for the duration of their time with us; the cost is £10. £5 of this is a deposit that the pupil will get back in year 11 if they still have the key and there is no damage to the locker (this will be organised in the first week of school).

Pupils should have their journal every day which will be completed with homework entries and signed by parents weekly. Homework set can also be checked on the Portal.

Parent/Carer notes from Introduction Session:

Thank you for attending the Introduction Day.

Please feel assured that we will answer any questions that you have within the next week. We look forward to your son/daughter starting their secondary school journey with us in September.

Welcome to Parents and Carers

For families of year 6 pupils, the summer holidays can seem like a long run-up to that great mountain of mystery and fear that is 'big school'. Some children will be starting a new school that is 10 times larger than their primary school, so we understand that moving up to year 7 is a big step.

There are things we can do together to make things easier, and things you can think about now that will help your child adjust and settle in quickly:

- Listen to their fears - Your child is possibly anxious and also afraid, their concerns may appear trivial, for instance, if they become lost in the maze of corridors, what should they do? They could make their way to the school office, ask a Prefect on the corridor, find a teacher to direct them; there is always someone to help. Two prefects will be linked to each form class and will walk pupils from one lesson to another to ensure they have plenty of time to get into a routine before they are left to try it for themselves.
- Remember that every pupil in their class is in the same boat; new school, new teachers, new routines. Remind your child that being a good friend, especially to shy and quiet children, is one way to make friends. Everyone will be feeling nervous for the first few days so everyone will want to make friends!
- Have a further trial run of the route to school, especially if they walk or cycle. The six-week holidays can seem a long time from their induction days, so fears of the journey may resurface. If they miss a school bus home you need to talk through what they will do, especially if you are working and can't pick them up straight away. The school office is well equipped to deal with such emergencies and ensure you are contacted if this occurs.
- The uniform code ensures that your child feels more comfortable from day one. We do have a strict uniform policy and therefore it is good to start with a positive routine; top button closed, shirt tucked in, blazer on. The personal presentation and uniform expectations are outlined in the New Intake Booklet that will be provided to you.
- Encourage your child to join lunchtime or after-school clubs, they are a great way to make friends and learn new skills.
- If your child will be bringing their mobile phone to school, it should be switched off and completely out of sight throughout the entire school day unless they are instructed to use it by a teacher. Please do not contact their mobile phone during the school day, as this may result in their phone being confiscated until the end of the week. If you need to get a message to your child, please contact the school office and we will be able to pass on any information.
- We are always here as a point of contact if you or your son/daughter has any concerns or worries. You can call the school phone number 01942 728651 and speak to their form tutor. We may be teaching when you call, but we will contact you as soon as we are next available.

Extra-Curricular Activities 2022-2023

Activity	Information		
Chaplaincy Group	<p>The Chaplaincy host a number of clubs for Y7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Morning Prayer (all year groups) every day at 8:25am ▪ Faith in Action Group (all year groups) Monday breaktime (10:55-11:10) ▪ Charity group – lunch time once a month ▪ Liturgy volunteers – help to read at Masses and Services throughout the year. ▪ Craft club (in the library) alongside Mrs Bowen-Read the School Librarian, every Wednesday after school. 		
Drama Club	<p>We run a lunchtime Drama Club for Year 7 that starts after October half term (when we have finished the whole school production). The Y7 Drama Club involves drama games, improvisations and working on short scripts to build on the essential performance skills needed in preparation for further involvement in our larger scale school productions from Y8 onwards. The Drama Club will lead to a small-scale performance for parents at Christmas time. The performance will require some after school rehearsals which will be scheduled in advance. It is a lovely way to celebrate Y7's first term and their dedication to extra-curricular Drama.</p>		
History Club	<p>A lunchtime club for pupils who have an interest in History. Activities will include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ making a historical model. ▪ creating a wall display on an individual or historical event. ▪ creating a presentation, again, on an individual or historical event. ▪ designing board games <p>Over the last few years, the History group have been involved in creating the school's memorial to mark the centenary of the First World War, creating a display on the history of the school which was presented at the Manchester History Fair, visited the Museum of Wigan Life on a school trip to research the role of local soldiers in the Boer War and delivered a presentation to staff from Lancaster University</p>		
Year 7 Choir	<p>There are two lunchtime choir rehearsals each week. It is open to all boys and girls in year 7. The choir will perform at concerts and masses throughout the year.</p>		
Concert Band	<p>Takes place after school. It is an optional group for anyone who is learning to play an instrument. To join Concert Band, you do not have to learn an instrument at school, but you do have to be able to play. Beginners are welcome.</p>		
Keyboard Club	<p>This runs from Easter to the summer holidays of year 7. Pupils have the opportunity to develop their keyboard skills further and learn extra pieces of music on keyboard beyond those studies within the Y7 curriculum.</p>		
Music Practice Rooms	<p>The Music Department is open before school, at break times and lunchtimes. Pupils can apply for a music pass and can then book practice rooms or resources in order to develop their musical ability. All pupils will be informed how to obtain a music pass in music lessons.</p>		
Sports Clubs and Teams <i>(If you have a particular talent in a sporting activity, make sure you let the PE staff know)</i>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football (Boys & Girls) ▪ Rugby (Boys) ▪ Hockey (Girls) ▪ Netball (Girls) ▪ Volleyball (Boys & Girls) ▪ Cross Country (Boys & Girls) ▪ Rounders (Girls) </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Athletics (Boys & Girls) ▪ Triathlon (Boys & Girls) ▪ Badminton (Boys & Girls) ▪ Dance (Boys & Girls) ▪ Basketball (Boys) </td> </tr> </table> <p>The sports clubs are open to pupils of any sporting ability. Training and trials will be held regularly throughout the year. Training & fixtures will be held at lunchtimes and after school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football (Boys & Girls) ▪ Rugby (Boys) ▪ Hockey (Girls) ▪ Netball (Girls) ▪ Volleyball (Boys & Girls) ▪ Cross Country (Boys & Girls) ▪ Rounders (Girls) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Athletics (Boys & Girls) ▪ Triathlon (Boys & Girls) ▪ Badminton (Boys & Girls) ▪ Dance (Boys & Girls) ▪ Basketball (Boys)
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Spelling Bee	<p>Represent your house and improve your spelling by taking part in the Y7 Spelling Bee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>How?</u> Knock out rounds will be held during form time. Brush up your spelling by practising at home and in your English lessons. ▪ <u>When?</u> Term 2 or 3 in form time - The final will be watched by the whole of Y7 in the school hall - no pressure! ▪ <u>What does it involve?</u> Knock out rounds are held in form team to select the best spellers for each house. Practise goes on at home, in form and in English lessons. The semi-finals and final are held in front of an audience. If you can't spell, be there to cheer on your form!
Year 7 Performance Poetry Competition	<p>Don't just learn a poem, PERFORM a poem in our inter-class knock-out competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>How?</u> Everyone will join a group from their class and learn a poem. This will be done in lesson time and at home. ▪ <u>When?</u> At the end of term 3 your English teachers will introduce you to this exciting competition and help you to prepare. The finals will be held in July in the school hall with special guest judges! ▪ <u>What does it involve?</u> Every class and every pupil will be involved in learning and performing a part of a poem. Once you have learned the words off-by-heart, then the hard work begins when you have to plan and prepare your delivery to keep your audience entertained. The winning group from each class will then be asked to the finals in the school hall to perform for our panel of judges to see who will be crowned the overall winners!
Science Reading Club	<p>A lunchtime club giving pupils the opportunity to read magazines and books related to the subject of science. Pupils can find out more about themselves and the world around them through their reading and share and discuss what they learn with their friends.</p>
Coding Club	<p>This starts after October half term as an extra-curricular activity. This usually runs for one hour per week after school. The focus of the club is to develop pupils creative computing skills. Pupils often have a choice to design and develop a computer game or mobile app.</p>
Numeracy Club	<p>Test your Numeracy skills with our weekly Numeracy quizzes!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>How?</u> Quizzes held every Friday lunchtime in Maths 3. Awards given out at the end of each half term ▪ <u>When?</u> This will be up and running in the second half term! ▪ <u>What does it involve?</u> Hosted in the Maths Department - you're challenged to answer a series of numeracy questions with the help of our Year 10 Maths Mentors and challenge yourself to win a Bronze Award, Silver Award or Gold Award.
Rubiks Cube Club	<p>Another club run by the Maths department for any pupils with an interest in solving Rubiks cubes. Pupils are taught algorithms to solve Rubiks cubes faster! A fun a friendly atmosphere for all problems, why not bring along your own Rubiks cube and learn from others. Don't have your own Rubiks cube? No problem! We have a stock of Rubiks cubes available for pupils to use.</p>
Technology Club	<p>Half termly competitions linked to festivities and calendared events in school. There is the opportunity to work on these in the department gaining new skills and equipment in the department to promote creativity. Clubs run throughout the year with a focus on different material areas.</p>

Year 7: 2022/23 – Subject Details and Assessment

ART	
How is it taught?	Teaching Group
First Assessment	October
Homework	One independent project per term. This will include artist research, drawing and creative design.
Equipment	3 x HB Pencils, a ruler, an eraser & a compass. A 2B and a 4B pencil would be useful, as well as a set of quality colouring pencils although these are not essential.
Extra Information	
COMPUTING	
How is it taught?	Form Groups
First Assessment	October
Homework	Tasks focus on building pupil's practical skills with tasks set relating to the topic being studied. Where pupils do not have access to an electronic device to complete this from home, homework club is available every lunch time
Equipment	Headphones (inexpensive, in-ear headphones are fine). Air pods do not work with the school network.
Extra Information	All pupils are provided with a username and password for the school network. This will enable them to access the office365 suite from their personal devices. Pupils will be trained on how to use this.
DRAMA	
How is it taught?	Form Groups
First Assessment	October - Pupils create and perform a short scene based on "The Pied Piper".
Homework	Occasional tasks related to work being done in class (Research, learning lines, bringing in a prop.)
Equipment	Pupils may bring pumps or clean trainers to wear as no shoes are allowed in class
Extra Information	We try to arrange a visit to the Theatre for interested pupils at some point during Y7.
ENGLISH	
How is it taught?	Teaching group for first half term. Students who need support are taught in a small group from the start of the year. Put into sets after half term.
First Assessment	Assessment is on-going throughout the year. Homework and classwork is considered when putting levels onto the tracker.
Homework	Spelling and one other piece of homework fortnightly. 'Other' homework might be a research-based task reading, writing or learning task.
Equipment	Black/blue pen (and a spare), Pencil, Rubber, Ruler
Extra Information	Read as much as possible at home. Will visit the school library once a fortnight and will be allowed to bring a reading book home
GEOGRAPHY	
How is it taught?	Teaching groups
First Assessment	October. Used as baseline. "Local Settlements."
Homework	More homework around assessments. Usually, research and assignment work.
Equipment	No special equipment but colours would be useful.
Extra Information	An atlas at home is always useful.

HISTORY	
How is it taught?	Pupils are taught in form groups. They remain in this group throughout the year and are taught by the same teacher all year. Attitude in class and level of attainment are then used to put pupils into sets in year 8.
First Assessment	A short baseline assessment for which they can't revise or prepare in one of their early History lessons.
Homework	Most tasks take between 15 and 30 minutes with some craft based tasks (including making weapons for the mock Battle of Hastings) taking longer if the pupil wishes to spend more time on them.
Equipment	No special equipment.
Extra Information	
MATHEMATICS	
How is it taught?	Initially set on standardised scores from KS2 tests. Taught across the whole year, with 10 sets. Pupils who need support are taught in smaller groups from the start.
First Assessment	Assessments is ongoing throughout the year with a combination if in class assessments and Homeworks. Pupils will sit 3 assessments in classes throughout the year and a final end of Year assessment in the hall. First assessment takes place in October following the first 3 topics being taught.
Homework	A combination of written and online Homeworks. The department benefits from having access to Mathswatch and other websites.
Equipment	All pupils should purchase a scientific calculator (preferably a casio calculator sold within the department for a discounted price £8.50). It is important that pupils have their own calculator so they can be taught how to use their model correctly. All pupils should be equipped with a pen, pencil, and ruler for every maths lesson. Additional equipment such as a protractor and a pair of compasses is useful.
Extra Information	Pupils will receive personal logins for MathsWatch. There are a range of interventions and support sessions available to all pupils. We have a drop in Maths clinic every lunchtime in Maths 5. Numeracy Club is open to all Y7 pupils where Bronze, Silver and Gold awards can be won.
MFL	
How is it taught?	ALL pupils will study French and Spanish in mixed ability classes during the first half term. Pupils are set according to ability after October half-term and will have the opportunity to study either French or Spanish throughout the remainder of year 7.
First Assessment	The first assessments take place in the week before October half-term. Pupils are given a short reading and writing test.
Homework	Homework is set on a weekly basis. This involves learning vocabulary to show recognition of the words studied in class as well as being able to spell the words learned.
Equipment	Pupils should bring an A4 document wallet (either plastic or card)
Extra Information	Some pupils have studied French/Spanish at primary school, but pupils should not worry if they have no previous knowledge of a language.
MUSIC	
How is it taught?	Form Groups
First Assessment	Throughout the first half term pupils will undertake a series of practical exercises including performing, singing, composing and listening. All of these will be assessed in order to establish a baseline level for each pupil.
Homework	Homework will be set once per half term and may involve learning key terminology, researching a composer, researching wider context of a topic or focussed listening of a piece of music.
Equipment	Pupils who play a musical instrument are encouraged to bring their instrument to class where appropriate.
Extra Information	

RE	
How is it taught?	In Forms
First Assessment	Assessed on 'Creation' and is completed at the end of September.
Homework	Once a fortnight.
Equipment	No special equipment
Extra Information	Away Day with Form group in second and first weeks in September.
PE	
How is it taught?	Classes are split into three cohorts, then pupils organised into sets.
First Assessment	Introduction to PE on induction days. Activities will explore various skills related to our 'Head, Heart and Hands Curriculum'. Pupils will have baseline activities in their first term
Homework	Pupils encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities.
Equipment	The PE kit is embroidered with the school badge. Additional kit will be football/ rugby boots, shin pads & gumshields
Extra Information	Extra-curricular opportunities will change each half term and will compliment our curriculum offer
SCIENCE	
How is it taught?	Pupils will be taught in form groups initially, and then placed into sets based on their assessment scores in science
First Assessment	Pupils will be taught a unit of work during the first half term. Their first assessment will be a test based on this unit of work and will take place at the end of October.
Homework	One to two pieces each fortnight. Pupils will be given their own username and password for the educake website (www.educake.co.uk) Pupils will be expected to complete set quizzes on the website as part of their homework in science.
Equipment	Pupils should have a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator for their science lessons. Pupils should also have a purple pen to self-assess their work. (Pens, pencils, 15cm rulers, erasers and purple pens can be purchased from the science prep. room shop for ten pence each.)
Extra Information	Pupils will work in booklets in their science lessons. As part of each lesson there is a retrieval quiz, and we would encourage parents to regularly test their children on these quizzes at home, to help support them to learn the key content of the subject.
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY / FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION	
How is it taught?	Pupils will be taught in mixed ability classes of 20 – 25. They will rotate every 8 weeks to a new material area with a different member of staff.
First Assessment	Pupils will complete a mini baseline that will run in the first 8 weeks of them starting school. This will give pupils a introduction to all areas of Design and Technology.
Homework	Every three lessons.
Equipment	A4 plastic pocket wallet with press stud to store work booklets in. Basic stationery and 300mm ruler, coloured pencils, black fine liner, and glue stick. Craft apron for workshop. In Food Preparation: apron, and a large container to take home practicals.
Extra Information	Booklets to be maintained to a high standard with precision and care with presentation and layout.