



### READY, STEADY, GO!

### **Welcome to the Hartshill School**

Hello and welcome to Hartshill School. We are looking forward to meeting you all in September. I am sure we have met some of you already on our Year 5 day last year, at our open evening and our Year 5 evening so hopefully you have had a chance to see Hartshill school at some point already but do not worry if you haven't. We will be doing a tour of the school and introducing you to some members of staff and students over the next few weeks and months so keep an eye out for your invitation to have a virtual tour around Hartshill School. The purpose of this newsletter is to answer some questions you may have and there is opportunity for you to ask some other questions at the end of this newsletter if you wish.

### Key people who will help me when I start at Hartshill School

Mrs Brown – Head of Year 7.

Mrs Brown has a dog and she also likes chocolate

Mrs Green - Pastoral Manager.

Mrs Green has a dog called Ralph and her favourite fruit is strawberries.

Mrs Smith - Assistant Headteacher.

Mrs Smith has a dog and 2 cats and her favourite fruit is raspberries.



Mrs Brown



**Mrs Green** 



**Mrs Smith** 

# What will happen on your first day?

We have not decided yet exactly what your first day will look like but it will be something like this.

You will say goodbye to your parents if they bring you to the school gate and you will all come in and meet in a specific area. We will make sure you know where to go. This is usually a big room such as our gym. You will meet Mrs Brown and she will tell you what form group you will be in. You will then come to assembly with your new form tutor and the rest of your form. You will meet our Principal at assembly who is also new - it will be her first day too so I hope she doesn't get lost!

After assembly you will go to your new form room with your form tutor and the rest of your form. You will be given your 'Ready to Learn' pack, your planner and your timetable. Your form tutor will go through some important information with you and you will have chance to ask questions. Your first day will not be the same as the rest of the days at school as you will spend quite a lot of time sorting things out with your form tutor. You will have break and lunchtime at the normal times and you will also get chance to go to your first lessons following your timetable. You will always finish every day with your form tutor and this will always be in your form room.

### What do I need to bring with me on my first day?

Yourself! That is the most important thing. You should come to school in your new school uniform.

Bring a school bag which must be big enough to carry your 'Ready to Learn' pack in it plus some books so please make sure it is a suitable size. It is a good idea to bring a bottle of water or a drink and a snack if you wish. Our lunchtime is much later than at your primary school.

Make sure your parents have put money on your account if you are going to buy lunch or bring some money so you can top up your account. Or bring a packed lunch. You do not need to bring a PE kit on the first day.

Please do not bring valuables with you. Hartshill is a big school with lots of children.

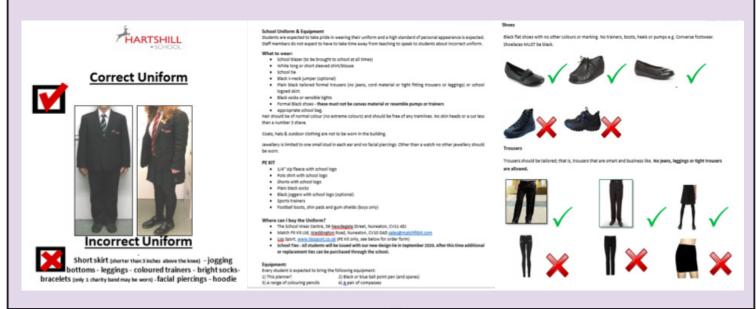




### What about school uniform?

You will have received a pack of forms for your parents to read through and return. In this pack there is information on what uniform you will need. At the moment with shops being shut it is difficult to get this but do not worry. Local uniform suppliers tell us they hope to open in plenty of time and also they have plenty of uniform for everyone.

Make sure you follow the uniform guides, do not buy trousers of shoes that do not follow these guidelines as we are strict on our uniform and want every pupil to be smart and wear the same. It is part of our discipline and also we like everyone who sees you in our local community to see the high standards we have in place. (Full sized pages are in transition pack and on the school website)



### What are the times of the school day?

The school canteen is open from 8.00am for students who want to have breakfast at school.

### Arrive at school by 8.40

Period 1	8.45-9.45
Period 2	9.45-10.45
Break	10.45-11.05
Period 3	11.05-12.05
Period 4	12.05-13.05
Lunch	13.05-13.45
Period 5	13.45-14.45
Prep time	14.45-15.10
End of school day	15.10

### What happens about changing into PE kit at Hartshill School?

The first lesson you will have of PE will be an introductory talk. You do NOT need your PE kit for this. In your lesson you will meet the PE department staff who will explain what you will be doing and the opportunities available to you.

We have 2 changing areas one for boys and one for girls. PE staff are always nearby.

You can hand any valuables such as watches to your PE teacher and they will keep them safe during your lesson.

You are expected to bring your PE kit every time you have a PE lesson. If you forget anything you must tell your PE teacher and they will arrange for you to use spare kit.





#### What does a Year 7 timetable look like?

This is an example of a Year 7 timetable – it looks quite complicated at first but you will soon get the hang of things. On Monday the first lesson is 7a/Hi2 – this means Year 7 and Hi2 stands for History group 2. It then says E14 8.45-9.45 MWH – This means E14 is the classroom which is in E block, 1st floor and room 4, the time of the lesson is

8.45 – 9.45am and then the MWH is the teacher's initials. In this example MWH, this is Mr Whitehouse who is an amazing history teacher and some of you may have met him before on Open Evening or Year 5 Evening.

If you get confused do not worry, show somebody your timetable and they will be able to help you find the right class and the right room.

		This is just an example	e of a timetable and is not y	our timetable.		
Timelin	ne 27/04/20 - 01/05/	20			€	d.
_	Mon, 27 Apr 2020	Tue, 28 Apr 2020	Wed, 29 Apr 2020	Thu, 30 Apr 2020	Fri, 01 May 2020	^
08 <sup>30</sup> 09 <sup>00</sup> 30	7a/Hi2 E14 08:45 - 09:45 MWH	7ab/Ma1H1408:45 -09:45 ACO	7a/Mu2 EG2 08:45 - 09:45 JSH	7ab/Ma1 H14 08:45 - 09:45 ACO	7a/Re2 GG3 08:45 - 09:45 DKU	
1000	7ab/Pe3 09:45 - 10:45 SNE	7ab/M1 D15 09:45 - 10:45 KWH	7a/Sc2 E21 09:45 - 10:45 AJY	7ab/M1 D15 09:45 - 10:45 KWH	7a/Cs2 C11 09:45 - 10:45 LWA	
1100	7ab/En1 GG2 11:05 - 12:05 AWA	7ab/En1 GG2 11:05 - 12:05 AWA	7a/Dt1 C12 11:05 - 12:05 SGR	7a/Sc2 E21 11:05 - 12:05 AJY	7ab/Ma1H1411:05 - 12:05 ACO	=
1200	7a/Sc2 E21 12:05 - 13:05 AJY	7a/Ar2 RG2 12:05 - 13:05 TWE	7a/Hi2 E14 12:05 - 13:05 MWH	7ab/Pe3 12:05 - 13:05 SNE	7a/Ps2 D14 12:05 - 13:05 SBR	
1300						
14 <sup>00</sup>	7a/Ge2 DG2 13:45 - 14:45 CBA	7a/Ge2 DG2 13:45 - 14:45 CBA	7a/Dr2 DSTU 13:45 - 14:45 NRO	7a/Dt1 RG5 13:45 - 14:45 PBO	7ab/En1 GG2 13:45 - 14:45 AWA	
1500	78/Ps RG3 14:45 -	7B/Ps RG3 14:45 -	78/Ps RG3 14:45 -	78/Ps RG3 14:45 -	7B/Ps RG3 14:45 -	-

### What about homework in Year 7?

To help you remember key facts from your lessons, all of the subjects at Hartshill School will give you a knowledge organiser. This contains all of the key facts about the topic you are learning. You will be expected to do 20 minutes every day learning about the topics on your knowledge organiser.

Your teachers will tell you what they want you to learn. You may also get some other homework that is relevant to your lessons or that helps you to prepare for a future lesson. Your teachers will explain what the homework is and you will record it in your planner so you don't forget.

We have a homework club for you to do homework in school if you want some extra help or if you prefer working at school instead of at home.

### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are a part of our everyday lives and we accept a lot of pupils may have their own phone. If brought onto school premises they are the sole responsibility of the pupil and once on site all phones must be switched off all day. This includes break and lunchtimes. If a phone is seen (switched on or off) it will be confiscated and a parent/carer will be asked to come into school to collect it. This policy is in place to ensure that everyone remains focused on learning, and enjoys social times without distraction. It is also important that in the technology filled lives we all now have pupils have a break from this.

### How will I make new friends?

Mrs Brown Head of Year 7 has spoken to your Year 6 teacher so she knows who your friends are from primary school. Coming to Hartshill is a really great opportunity to make new friends, so if you are coming from a school on your own or none of your friends are coming to Hartshill please do not worry, there is plenty of chance to make new friends.

You will be in a form group with other Year 7's and you will have a form tutor who you will see every day. There are always lots of competitions between the Year 7 forms especially on things like merits and attendance.

You will have lots of opportunities to make friends with pupils in your form, in the rest of Year 7 and with older students across the school. We have lots of after school clubs which you can join to meet other pupils as well.



### What do you do at lunchtime?

At lunchtime you can buy your lunch from the main school hall. Year 7 and Year 8 all eat in the main hall together, even if you have a packed lunch. The older students in Year 9-11 eat in the canteen so there is always plenty of room for you to sit down and eat with your friends in the school hall. Lunch time is only 30 minutes, so nowhere near as long as it is in your primary school that will be something that you will need to get used to. You do have time to meet up with your friends and spend time outside if you wish. We have a cashless system for buying food. Your parents have had information about this already. They will put money onto your account and then you use your fingerprint to access your account and pay for your food. It is really quick and saves you from having to carry money at school. You can bring money in to add to your account if you want to, that is something to discuss with your parents/carers about which way is easier to manage your account. If you have free school meals you will still use your fingerprint the same as everyone else and this just takes money off your daily allowance.

Here is an example of the menu:

WE	EKLYE	REAK 8	LUNG	H MEN	Week
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Break	Bagels Hash Browns Potato Dogs Sweet Waffles	Bagels Hash Browns Bacon Cobs Pancakes	Bagels Smiley Faces Cheese & Bean Wraps Sausage Rolls	Bagels Hash Browns Sausage Cobs Sweet Waffles	Bagels Chicken Burgers Pancakes
Main	Meatball Pasta	Southern Fried Chicken Burgers	Chicken Tikka & Rice	Lasagne	Fish Finger Cob
Vegetarian	Quorn Ball & Tomato Panini	Veggie Burgers	Onion Bhaji Wrap	Cheese & Tomato Pasta	Cheese & Onion Slice
Potato Products Vegetables & Sides		Corn on the Cob	Naan Bread	Garlic Bread	Chips
Grab 'n' Go	Toasties Baguettes Paninis	Toasties Baguettes Paninis	Toasties Baguettes Paninis	Toasties Baguettes Paninis	Baguettes
Dessert	Fruit Pots Chocolate Sponge & Custard Fresh Fruit	Fruit Pots Dessert of the Day Fresh Fruit	Fruit Pots Dessert of the Day Fresh Fruit	Fruit Pots Sponge & Custard Fresh Fruit	Fruit Pots Fresh Fruit

### What do I do if I don't know where to go for my lesson?

You will be given a timetable on your first day at Hartshill. That timetable tells you what subject you have, what room and what teacher. Your timetable will be put into your planner so you know where it is. Lots of pupils worry about getting lost in their first few days and weeks. Once you have been at school for a few days you will know where all your classrooms are. If you get lost — ask. Don't forget that there will 215 new Year 7 pupils plus there will be some new staff too and they will perhaps be worried about getting lost too so you are not on your own. There are lots of pupils and staff who can help you find your way if you don't know where to go. We also have 'Student Services' which is where you can go if you can't find anyone else to help you. They are based near the school reception.

# What do I do if I need the toilet and I'm in a lesson?

We realise that coming to secondary school involves lots of changes and we do things differently to primary school because we are a much bigger school.

Pupils should not really be going out of lesson to use the toilets, although we do realise at the start of Year 7 this is something you will have to get used to.

If you have a medical issue it is important that Mrs Brown, your Head of Year 7 knows this and she will make arrangements for you to be able to use the toilets at any time.

We have lots of toilets at Hartshill and they are all open for you to use before school, break, lunchtime and after school.

### What do you do at break time?

Breaktime is 10.45 – 11.05am. You can buy food and drink from the canteen and eat it in there. You can also spend time outside, meeting up with friends, talking or playing football or other games.

# Can I get rewards for working and behaving well?

Yes there are lots of rewards to gain. You can get rewards for your behaviour and for your work. There are achievement points and merits to collect, certificates and badges and also prizes, so lots of great things to work towards achieving. You will find out more about all of these when you come to Hartshill School.



### What is the behaviour system and how does it work?

All of your teachers and staff at Hartshill School have very high expectations. If you don't meet these in lesson or around school staff will remind you how you should behave. This gives you the chance to do better.

If however, you choose to not follow the rules again you may be sent out of lesson to a different room so that you can calm down. This gives you a chance to reflect on your behaviour and the chance to reset yourself and start afresh.

# Who can I go to in school if I am worried about something?

If you are worried about anything at school you can talk to any member of staff.

You will have your own form tutor so some students prefer to talk to them as they will see you every day.

You can also talk to your head of year, Mrs Brown.

We also have several members of staff you can go to who are part of our safeguarding team.

Hartshill maybe a much bigger school than you are used to but there are lots of people you can go to if you are worried about anything.



### I've still got some questions not answered.

If you still have a question please email *newparentsHHS@welearn365.com* and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



# COMPETITIONS

### Have a go at the competitions we have set you on the postcards you have received.

We have been asking you to have a go at a variety of tasks you can enter into competitions. The Competition Postcards are on our school website and also have been emailed to you. Try and do your best and enter them. This will help you get to know people better when you arrive in your new form group and in your year group. There are prizes for every competition so it is worth having a go.





#### BBC Bitesize...

### https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zh4wy9q/starting-secondary-school/1

There are some really helpful videos on here you can watch which will help you see that moving from Primary to Secondary school isn't as scary as you think it might be.

#### https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teacher-resources-for-students-transitioning-to-secondary-school/zb68y9q

Look at this website and show your mum and dad as there are some useful videos and ideas that will help you realise what you don't need to worry about joining your new school



#### Making new friends

How to make lasting friendships at your new school.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



#### The size of the school

Get used to the size of your new school and find your way around.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



### Favourite thing about secondary school

Some of the new and exciting opportunities to look forward to when you start secondary school.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



#### Year 7: A day in the life

Follow Alfie through a typical day in Year 7.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



#### Braydon vs Mr Burton: the truth about starting secondary school

YouTuber, Braydon Bent challenges head teacher, Mr Burton about the realities of starting secondary school.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



### Will I lose my old friends?

How to keep in touch and make new friends.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



#### Coping with classwork

Getting used to new lessons, new teachers and avoiding detention!

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